

**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2018 – VILLAGE HALL – 7.30PM
MINUTES (Draft until approved at the January meeting)**

Present: Parish Cllrs. J. Bauer, I. Heading, P. Keast, C. Merrifield, Mrs. S. Watson and E. Wyer (Chair).

Borough Cllr. A. Smith, County Cllr. Mrs. J. Spicer. Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson (reporting).

Two members of the public (Mr. Watson and Ms. Thorpe).

1. **Apologies** and requests for approval of absence – Cllr. M. Hawthorne, approved.
2. **Declarations of interest** and to consider requests for dispensations – none.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**, 11th September 2018, were approved and signed. No matters arising.
4. **Progress reports for information**
 - a. **Suffolk County Council – Cllr. J. Spicer**
 - i. New traffic regulation order in St. Edmundsbury. The clerk will confirm that there is no objection to the 24 hour clearway that runs along the A134, between the boundary with Norfolk and the A143.

Action: Clerk
 - ii. Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Appropriate Assessment. A further consultation (due to additional information being submitted) is now taking place. Cllr. Spicer confirmed that there is no need to re-submit previous comments (this has been checked with Mr. Gunby).
 - iii. Average speed indicators on the A134 are definitely coming (they are looking at the electricity source at the moment). Noted that a reduced 30mph limit isn't being looked at.
 - iv. Enforcement - C633 (Station Road). The Chair would like to organise a speed watch for lorries that are damaging the verges. (The Chair has been liaising with Trading Standards as they would carry out any prosecutions and they run the lorry watch scheme). Cllr. Spicer is willing to help with the cost for a sign, should one be required. It was noted that the verges should be monitored by Norfolk Nature Reserve, but no one knows the details. Cllr. Spicer will try to organise a meeting and find out more information. Cllr. Wyer will forward details of the information he has found to Cllr. Spicer.

Action: EW
 - v. New sign for Barnham Heath. Mr. Williams (Barnham Heath Community Association) has written to the clerk and suggested a signpost on the left hand side of the main road approaching the Euston direction. However, Cllr. Spicer feels this wouldn't be clear enough and suggested a finger post would be needed (both directions), or a sign when you enter Barnham Heath, perhaps listing the roads. The county council wouldn't pay for this signage, but it was agreed that this is important and something everyone should contribute towards (Cllr. Spicer, Parish Council and Community Association). Cllr. Spicer is happy to meet with Mr Williams on site. The Clerk will write to Mr. Williams to seek clarification.

Action: Clerk
 - vi. Remembrance Day. Cllr. Spicer offered her congratulations to Barnham for their remembrance day displays.
 - vii. School Transport – Options for school transport should be available for parents in March 2019.
 - viii. Footpath between church and Barnham Heath. Despite the county council's email saying that permission cannot be given for work on this path by a parish council contractor, Cllr. Spicer noted that it would be OK to do the clearance work as the

county is encouraging parish councils to carry out maintenance work. Cllr. Spicer is happy to help with the cost for this (£500 from her locality budget) and it was unanimously agreed to allocate £300 from the parish council budget. The clerk will organise another a quote for this.

- ix. Cllr. Spicer and Smith wishes the parish council and residents a very Happy Christmas!

b. Bury St. Edmunds Borough Council – Cllr. A. Smith

- i. West Suffolk Housing Strategy Consultation. This has been circulated to parish councillors and Cllr. Smith noted it is easier to send individual responses.
- ii. The final recommendations of Local Boundary Commission document has been circulated. The outcome is good for Barnham.
- c. **Village Hall** – Cllr. P. Keast reported that the car park has been resurfaced and that the recent fete made £3,500 profit. (The school has given their third to the village hall for the car park). The Village Hall AGM is on Monday, 19th November.
- d. **RAF Honington** – Cllr. Heading noted there was nothing to report.
- e. **Play Park** – Cllr. Watson noted that the last inspection report highlighted problems which have been fixed. Also, someone has taken off the spikes on the swings' frame to prevent children climbing on the frame. Cllr. Merrifield has some spikes, but he will check Health and Safety regulations before he reinstates these.

Action: CM

- f. **Speed Watch update** - Cllr. Bauer reported that there is a new rota in place and a meeting planned for December (there are possibly 4 new members). It was unanimously agreed to purchase a VAS system (£1830 plus VAT which includes a tripod). £500 has been received towards this by Cllr. Smith's locality budget and £700 is also available from the donation from the cricket club. Cllr. Bauer will liaise with Highways and place the order.

Action: JB

5. **Public participation session** – nothing to report.

6. **To consider planning matters:**

- a. **Applications** – one application was received and a “no comment” response was submitted as the consultation period ended between meetings: Application no. DC/18/1857/HH, 3 Grafton Barns, IP24 2PA, applicant: Lisa Thompson. Proposal: single storey side and rear extension, replace 2 no. doors with windows to east elevation.
- b. **Appeals** – nothing to report.
- c. **Response** - Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (see minute 4.a.iii above). No response needed.
- d. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr. Merrifield gave an update: following a meeting between the Parish Council planning committee and St Edmundsbury Council it was explained that Barnham had very little scope for sustainable development (one of the requirements of a Neighbourhood Plan). After a very comprehensive presentation from their Ecology Officer, explaining the importance of the many SPA's and SSI's that Barnham enjoys, it became clear that the opportunities for any development in the future were extremely limited. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that in view of the general lack of interest from village residents as a whole and the time and cost involved in preparing a plan, no further action would be taken at the present time.

Action: CM

7. **Safeguarding Policy** – Cllr. Keast has reviewed this on behalf of the parish council and the policy was unanimously adopted.

8. **Grass cutting contract for 2019/2020**. The Chair suggested that this should go out to tender for next year as this hasn't been done recently. Barnham Heath not happy with grass cutting contractor organised by Prime. Cllr. Merrifield suggested that Barnham Heath be included within the parish council work although it would be paid for separately by Prime – this was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Merrifield will help the clerk to draw up tender documents so that a decision about the contractor can be made at the January meeting. Mr. Thrower (our current contractor), Ian Austin (who lives in the village) will be approached and it will also be advertised on the notice board and website.

Action: CM and Clerk

9. **Budget preparation for 2019/2020.** As the budget/precept application will be presented at the January meeting, the Chair raised whether a contingency fund should be set up for village hall projects and it was unanimously agreed to allocate £1000 per year in the budget. Regarding donations to charities (S.137 payments), it was unanimously agreed to remain with a £60 donation to support the church's village newsletter, "The Link", and a £50 donation to the Royal British Legion. No other donations to charities will be offered.

10. **Insurance Renewal.** It was unanimously agreed to continue with Community Action Suffolk as the insurance provider and it was agreed to sign up for a five year commitment as this offers reduced premium costs.

11. **Payments.** The following cheques were approved and signed:

Mr. D. Thrower - grass cutting Aug/Sep (incl. Village Hall)	£570.00
Community Action Suffolk - website hosting	£60.00
Mrs. C. Dowson - Clerk/salary expenses	£353.78
Community Action Suffolk - insurance	£594.15

12. **Clerk's report.** This had been distributed to parish councillors before the meeting and was accepted.

13. Correspondence

- a. Request from the charity "Headway" for a donation. It was agreed that the parish council will not offer grants to charities (See note 9 above).

14. Items for report from Parish Councillors.

- a. Cllr. Ian Heading asked that "litter pick" be on the next agenda.

15. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.