

**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 – VILLAGE HALL – 7.30PM**  
**MINUTES (Draft until approved at the March meeting)**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs. J. Bauer, M. Hawthorne, I. Heading, P. Keast, Mrs. S. Watson and E. Wyer (Chair).  
Borough Cllr. A. Smith, County Cllr. Mrs. J. Spicer. Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson (reporting). No members of public.

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllr. Charles Merrifield and these were approved.
2. **Declarations of interest** and requests for dispensations. None.
3. **Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 meeting** were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Progress reports for information:**
  - a. **Suffolk County Council** – Cllr. J. Spicer
    - i. **Enforcement - C633 (Station Road) – lorry traffic and damage to verges.** Cllr. Wyer is still waiting to meet with Highways regarding an on-site inspection. No verges on the Elveden Road have been repaired, but pot holes at the traffic lights have been filled. It's not known if anyone is monitoring the verges (perhaps English Nature or similar) – the clerk will check with the previous Chair to see if there is any historical information. Cllr. Bauer noted that his wife has recently had an accident because she had to go onto the verge due to the lorry traffic and other residents have also had similar experiences. He has contacted Highways and he's been told that the situation is being monitored, but it isn't deemed dangerous.

**Action:** EW/clerk
    - ii. **New sign for Barnham Heath.** The clerk and Cllr. Merrifield met with Mr. R. Williams (chair of the Barnham Heath Community Association). A finger direction post is requested and Cllr. Spicer will ask for the Highways permission for this and a quote. (It is noted that it is unlikely that Suffolk County Councils will pay for this). Cllr. Spicer may be able to help with the cost of this. SCC will have to ascertain who owns the land. It is also requested that the Salmond Drive sign should include "leading to" the other roads at Barnham Heath. This information was on the old signs, but the new sign recently fitted doesn't have this. The clerk will contact the Borough Council regarding this.

**Action:** JS/clerk
    - iii. **Road Safety – average speed signage – A134.** There have been some delays installing this due to electricity issues, but the contract has been awarded. This should be operational by June 2019. No 30mph speed limit at Barnham is planned at the moment.
    - iv. **Minerals Extraction.** Nothing to report on this at the moment.
    - v. **School Transport.** Nothing to report at the moment, everything should be known by March 2019.
    - vi. **Night time noise and deliveries at the NLG Oil Depot – Station Road.** Cllr. Wyer noted this depot is very noisy at night. Cllr. Bauer has recorded the noise level and he will pass this on to Borough Cllr. A. Smith who will contact the Enforcement Officer to ensure that delivery restrictions are adhered to. Cllr. Wyer will prepare a letter from the Parish Council to NLG explaining the situation.

**Action:** JB/EW/AS
    - vii. **Condition of road – Indigo Waste.** This is a Suffolk County Council public footpath and there is now substantial damage being caused by Indigo lorries accessing their site which is leased from the Elveden Estate. County Councillor Spicer will take a look at the damage.

**Action:** JS
  - b. **Bury St. Edmunds Borough Council** – Cllr. A. Smith
    - i. **Broadband – Rymer Point/West Farm.** No news has been received regarding progress with BT. Clerk will ask for an update from Mr. Howarth at West Farm.

**Action:** Clerk
    - ii. **VAS Sign.** The Parish Council is in receipt of a £500 payment from Cllr. Smith's locality budget and the purchase of a VAS sign is going ahead (see below – 4.e).
  - c. **Village Hall.** Cllr. P. Keast reported that the car park re-surfacing is finished. The Village Hall contacted lots of local businesses to ask for financial support, but only the Shadwell Estate contributed. The committee is keen to set up a website.
  - d. **Play Park.** Cllr. Watson noted that the photos included in the regular inspection reports never seem to be updated by the inspector. Thanks to Cllr. Merrifield for fitting new spikes on top of the swings. The clerk will write to the Village Hall Committee regarding the gate re-alignment which is continuously noted as an action point in the inspection report.

**Action:** Clerk

- e. **Speed Watch/VAS sign update.** Cllr. Bauer reported that the speed watches are ongoing with a couple taking place since Christmas. The completion of the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) documentation is almost finished. The placement will be outside of the church on the Euston Road. Two poles will be needed (each side of the road) and these will be supplied by the County Council free of charge if approval is given. Letters of support from local residents are needed and Cllr. Bauer will organise these. As soon as approval is given from the county council the unit will be purchased.

**Action:** JB

- 5. **Public participation session.** No members of the public present.

- 6. **Planning matters.** No items for consideration.

- a. **Grass cutting contractor for 2019 to 2020.** Three contractors were invited to tender for a three year contract: CMG from Downham Market £1746; Mr. Thrower from Honington (present contractor) £2000; Mr. I. Austin (local resident) £2450. A vote was taken and it was agreed to appoint Mr. Thrower (with the exception of Cllr. Watson who voted for CMG). Mr. Thrower is known to the Parish Council and has done a good job each year. The clerk will confirm with Mr. Thrower the areas included and will ask that a cut of the play park hedge, once per year, be included in his price.

**Action:** Clerk

- b. **Verge work.** Cllr. Merrifield has organised for Mr. Thrower to carry out the verge work from just past the church to Barnham Heath – this should happen at the end of January. Mr. Thrower quoted for this work last year. (This will be funded: £500 from Cllr. Spicer and £300 allocated from the parish council budget).

**Action:** CM

- 7. **Village Tidy Up - Spring 2019.** Cllr. I. Heading will contact Graham Norris who will hopefully organise this on behalf of the village. The date of **24<sup>th</sup> March** starting at 11am was agreed. Clerk will contact groups in the village to ask for support and write something for The Link.

**Action:** Clerk

- 8. **Precept Application and Budget for 2019/2020.** The precept application and budget for 2019/2020 was unanimously agreed at £8545. This represents a 12.28% increase (mainly due to a contingency figure of £1000 for the village hall and the one-off grass verge costs). Proposed: Cllr. Heading and seconded: P. Keast.

- 9. **Asset Register** (for insurance and audit purposes). This was unanimously agreed, the only amendment is the addition of the beacon: £350.

- 10. **Payments** to be made were approved: Euston Farms (beacon) £420.00; C. Merrifield (spikes for swings): £19.52, Mrs. C. Dowson (clerk Dec. Jan and website administration): £706.59. The clerk's salary details for 2019/2020 was unanimously agreed (as per the NALC pay scales): £2071.68 (4 hours per week). The clerk will continue to maintain the website which will be paid separately (2 hours per month).

- 11. **Clerk's report.** It is noted that the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct will be reviewed in May 2019.

- 12. **Correspondence.** None.

- 13. **Items for report from Parish Councillors.** Cllr. Merrifield suggested the possibility of planters in the village. This will be an agenda item for March.

- 14. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. (Meeting ended at 8.40pm).