

## BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm held at the Village Hall

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Parish Cllrs: John Bauer, Matthew Hawthorne, Ian Heading, Peter Keast, Mrs. Susan Watson, Ed Wyer (Chair).

Suffolk County Councillor: Mrs. Joanna Spicer and West Suffolk District Councillor: Andrew Smith (both partly).

Clerk: Mrs. Caroline Dowson

Member of the Public: Mr. J. Blackburn

1. **Apologies**/request for approval for absence were received from Cllr. Merrifield, this was approved.

2. **Declaration of interests**/dispensations – none.

3. **Minutes of the previous meetings**: Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Annual Meeting and Parish Meeting. These were unanimously agreed.

#### 4. Matters Arising:

- **Footpaths at Euston** - A response has been received from Euston Estate ref. the possibility of footpaths being opened around the village. Unfortunately, this is not possible for various reasons. (Copy of email from A. Blenkinson forwarded to councillors).
- **Keep Britain Tidy Posters** – the District Council doesn't have any posters as such, but has sent the clerk four posters from previous campaigns. These will be placed by the traffic lights and a suitable spot on the C633.

Action: EW/clerk

#### 5. Public forum followed by reports regarding:

##### a. Suffolk County Council (County Cllr Spicer)

- **Indigo Waste/CountryStyle Recycling SCC/0014/20SE/VOC** – Suffolk County Council. This application has been withdrawn (not deferred) and will be re-submitted at a later date. Concern was expressed that the company is still operating on this site although there are planning items that need clarification. The parish council will write to Cllr. Spicer in the hope that she will be able to visit the site to assess the situation. It would be good to ascertain if the company is still processing paper and what the operating times are.
- **Broadband/Internet Speed** – parish councillors have been sent a copy of Mr. Martin Belsham/Cllr. Joanna Spicer's email correspondence. He is asking if improvements to the broadband provision might be negotiated when the proposed East Farm is developed. Cllr. Joanna Spicer clarified that this sort of query isn't dealt with parish councils as such, but by the county council. During the discussion it became clear that for Barnham many residents experience quite good provision (even while working from home), but some residents experience intermittent provision. The clerk will write to Mr. Belsham to ask him to forward his address/telephone number to Cllr. Spicer. Cllrs. Keast and Watson are also happy to forward on their details so that the county council can investigate with BT the quality of the broadband reception in Barnham.
- **C633 Resurfacing** – Cllr. Spicer has enquired with Highways regarding re-surfacing works, but hasn't received a reply. Cllr. Wyer confirmed that some temporary patching has been completed at the side of the roads and pot holes at the traffic lights have been filled in (although not to a very good standard).

##### b. West Suffolk Borough Council (Borough Cllr Smith)

- **NRG Oil – retrospective planning permission.** The review by the Development Committee has been provisionally scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Cllr. Smith will have the opportunity to speak to the planners to put forward the parish council's concerns before this date.
- **Storage Facility road** – C633 industrial estate. Cllr. Smith has requested information about the widening of the road, but hasn't received a response yet – he is still expecting this to happen.

##### c. Village Hall – nothing to report.

##### d. RAF Honington (Cllr Heading) – nothing to report.

##### e. Play Park (Cllr Watson).

- The self-closing gate is too fierce, Cllr. Hawthorn has kindly agreed to deal with this.

Action: MH

- Cllr. Watson is obtaining a quote for the replacement safety matting under the swings (from the original installation company Abacus). She is also looking into the possibility (and any safety issues) of using a path matting/mesh (either a patch or the whole area) with the District Council inspector's department as this will be a cheaper option.

- f. Speedwatch Update (Cllr. Bauer). Sadly, there are not many volunteers for the speedwatch initiative (only 6/7 volunteers at the moment and 10/12 people are needed to organise a rota successfully). Good news though that the posts for the VAS signs have been erected. It was unanimously agreed to allocate £2000 from reserves so that Cllr. Bauer can get a quote for a higher specification of VAS sign which would provide downloadable data. There is also £500 from Cllr. Smith, (District Council (already received) and Cllr. Spicer agreed to offer £500 (County Council).

Action: JB

- g. Lorry Watch Update (Cllr. Wyer) – nothing to report

## 6. Planning Matters

### a. Applications

- After consultation with parish councillors, two “no comment” responses were submitted as the consultation expiry date fell before the July meeting:  
**DC/21/0949/HH.** Bungalow, Thetford Road, Mr and Mrs Roy Taylor. Single storey side extension.  
**DC/21/0812/HH.** The Bellows, Blacksmith Lane. Detached garden shed.
- **Indigo Waste / CountryStyle Recycling SCC/0014/20SE/VOC** – Suffolk County Council. This application has been withdrawn (not deferred) and will be re-submitted at a later date. (See point 5.a. above).

- b. **Appeals** – nothing to report.

- c. **Enforcement.** An Enforcement Section acknowledgement has been received from the District Council ref. EN/21.0179. Mobile home – no planning permission. Honeysuckle Farm, Thetford Road

## 7. Financial Matters

- a. **Clerk's report** – this was forwarded to councillors before the meeting and was noted. A couple of points were clarified by the clerk:

- **Church clock** – the Parish Council still has no written evidence that the church clock belongs to the village, however, it seems generally accepted that it is a village clock. If the church does ask the parish council for financial help with maintenance/repairs ownership will need to be clarified.
- **Grass cutting** – the grass cutting contract will need to be reviewed and re-appointed for next year. It has come to light that the parish council is not allowed to pay for grass cutting at the church (the clerk has checked this with SALC). Therefore, the church yard grass cutting cannot be included which will significantly reduce the contract size for 2022. (Should the parish council still wish to offer some financial support to offset the grass cutting costs this needs to be clarified with SALC as the regulations are complicated – for example a contribution towards electricity costs might be appropriate). The clerk will gather further information from SALC.

Action: clerk

- b. **Cheques for signature** Mr. D. Thrower (grass cutting May/June) £570. Mrs. C. Dowson (clerk June/July) £478.91, Direct Debit Information Commissioner ref. data protection £35.  
 c. **Bank Balances:** Current account (28.5.21) £21,699.98. Savings account (11.6.21) £4,923.28).

## 8. Correspondence

- a. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – lighting of beacon June, 2022. It was unanimously agreed that the beacon should be lit. The clerk will register this intention and also send details about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to the Rev'd S. Nutt for information.

Action: Clerk

- b. **Defibrillator for the village** – J. Blackburn explained that the cost for defibrillators has significantly decreased since this was last discussed in 2019 and they can run on a battery with very low maintenance. Also, it is understood that this could be sited at the village hall. Mr. Blackburn will collect more information and this will be sent to parish councillors so that a decision can be made at the next parish council meeting.

- c. **Poor broadband speeds in the village** – email from Dr. M. Belsham (See point 5.a. above).

9. **Any Other Business** – none.

10. **Date of Next Council Meeting** – Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at the Village Hall