**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Tuesday, 9th July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**MINUTES (Draft to be approved at the September meeting)**

**Present**: Parish Councillors: M. Hawthorne, I. Heading, P. Keast, Mrs. S. Watson, E. Wyer (Chair). West Suffolk District Councillor: A. Smith (partly). Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson

1. **APOLOGIES** received from C. Merrifield and J. Bauer - these were approved. Apologies also received from County Councillor J. Spicer.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** and requests for dispensations – none.
3. **MINUTES** of the previous meeting – Tuesday, 21st May 2019 (also the Parish Minutes of that date). Agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** from those minutes. The clerk clarified that there is no need for a data protection liaison officer for parish councils. The clerk’s name is listed with the Information Commissioner’s Office.
5. **CONFIRMATION OF THIRD BANK SIGNATORY**. It was agreed that this should continue to be Cllr. P. Keast
6. **PUBLIC FORUM FOLLOWED BY REPORTS**. No members of public present.
   * + 1. **Suffolk County Council** – County Cllr. Spicer was not present.
       2. **West Suffolk Borough Council** - District Cllr. Smith had submitted his report before the meeting. He highlighted the new initiative (Exhaust Emissions outside Schools) and gave a quick update on the West Suffolk Rural Task force.
       3. **Village Hall**. The village hall chair has requested help from the parish council to purchase some new windows to replace some that are misted up. The cost of this is £522 plus VAT. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council will fund this (and will be able to claim back the VAT).
       4. **RAF Honington**. Cllr. Heading attended a meeting last week (the first in eighteen months) and summarised activities. It is noted that the RAF Barnham closure has been put back by two years – 2021 at the earliest, although it could be later. The next meeting will be prior to Christmas. It is noted that the RAF Benevolent Fund are seeking people to help. (The Family Day this year is an invitation for the parish council and other local organisations, rather than the local public).
       5. **Play park**. Cllr. Watson again reported that the photos are not updated on the regular inspection reports which is misleading. The clerk will let West Suffolk District Council know about this. Cllr. Heading noted that some spikes are missing above the swings.
       6. **Speedwatch update and lorry watch scheme**.
     1. **Speedwatch update** - Cllr. Bauer was not present, but he has passed on the message that the pole for the VAS sign is coming soon and it will be situated near the church.
     2. **Lorry watch** – Cllr. Wyer reported that there will be a briefing on 17th July in the Village Hall by the Trading Standards people. There will be a sign needed for the A134. County Cllr. Spicer had previously agreed to help fund this. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council allocate £500 towards this cost (cost not known at present). It has been reported that HGVs from Star Platforms, who are based on Station Road, have been driving through the village. Cllr. Wyer will ask if this can be monitored within the lorry watch scheme.

Action: EW

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
   1. **Applications** - none
   2. **Appeals** - none
   3. **Enforcement**
      1. Noted that the gypsies are back on the Station Road site. West Suffolk District Council are aware of this.
      2. **NRG – Oil, Station Yard site** – noise and light pollution/late deliveries. Investigation about whether they have approval to operate there. District Cllr. Smith noted that a Planning Contravention Notice is being served (to obtain information).
      3. **Indigo Waste Services** – Use and conditions. Ref. poor state of by-way. Lorry traffic on the by-way has caused severe damage and even the postman is now unable to deliver. District Cllr. Smith noted that this is a very complicated case. In addition to the District Council, Suffolk Highways, By-ways and their legal department are involved to try and resolve who is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the by-way. A Planning Contravention Notice is being served (to obtain information).
      4. **New Storage unit**, Station Road – Breach of condition. Ref. planting of trees as screen hasn’t been complied with. The enforcement officer is aware of this, but at the moment this isn’t a priority (bearing in mind points ii and iii above).
   4. **Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan**. Cllr. Wyer and County Councillor Spicer attended the Hearing on 20th June. It is very concerning that there is a last minute proposal from Mick George Ltd. to re-direct the traffic from the site onto the C663 and A134 which will mean a significant increase in traffic. The parish council will need to be prepared with a response against this proposal. It was agreed that each parish councillor should contact organisations that have already made a response to the Local Plan:

Natural England – Ian Heading

Historic England – Susan Watson

Suffolk Wildlife Trust – Peter Keast

Environment Agency – Matthew Hawthorne

RSPB – John Bauer

It was unanimously agreed that it is important to try and get support against this proposal and also try to get some advice from the various organisations. Ultimately, the hope is that Barnham will not be included within the Local Plan.

Action: All

* 1. **Pre-application for a proposed telecoms installation, Barnham Road**. The clerk has asked for a meeting to consider an alternative site, but Clarke Telecom have yet to respond. The chair suggested, that should we hear from this company again Cllr. Merrifield act as the liaison person.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
   1. The following cheques were signed: Information Commissioner’s Office (data protection fee) £40; Mrs. D. Dunning (internal audit) £50; Mr. D. Thrower (June grass cutting); Mrs. C. Dowson (clerk – June, July) £419.79.
   2. Clerk’s report – this was distributed before the meeting. Bank balances (31st May 2019): current account £18052.25 and savings account £4911.84.
2. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. **Bench at Mill Lane**. Cllr. Merrifield has noted the very poor condition of the bench. It was unanimously agreed to allocate £250 for a replacement. Cllr. Keast noted that the church would be willing to help with the cost and he has details of a good supplier which he will pass on to the clerk.

Action: PK/CM/clerk

* 1. **Defibrillator in the village**. It was noted that the school has a defibrillator. Cllr. Hawthorne will liaise with them to see if it can be moved to a suitable location so that the village could have access to it.

Action: MH

1. **ITEMS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**
   1. Cllr. Watsonasked when the verge towards Barnham Heath will be cut again. The clerk clarified that the newly cleared verge will only be cut twice per year – in the Spring and Autumn.
   2. Cllr. Watson also raised concern about the visibility at the traffic lights due to overgrown hedges. It is noted that the county council doesn’t cut any hedges during the summer (for bird conservation).
2. **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Tuesday, 10th September 2019 at 7.30pm