

BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday, 9th March 2021 at 7.00pm using “zoom”
MINUTES

Present: Parish Cllrs: John Bauer, Matthew Hawthorne, Ian Heading (partly), 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

Members of the Public: Mr. J. Blackburn and Mr. M. Trautman

1. **Apologies** and approval for absence received for Cllr. Merrifield.
2. **Declaration of interests** and requests for dispensations. None received.
3. **Minutes** of the previous meetings: parish council meeting on 12th January 2021 and planning committee meeting on 15th February 2021 were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising** from those minutes – none

5. **Reports/updates**

a. **Public forum**

Mr. Blackburn explained that it is very difficult to access walks in the countryside/woods for residents of the village without walking on a main road. It would be good if footpaths could be created to link up with bridleways. There are several areas which would be suitable, but these are on the Euston Estate. Mr. Blackburn will send a plan of such possibilities so that the parish council can take up with the Euston Estate the possibility to create better access from the village to footpaths.

Action:clerk

b. **Suffolk County Council** (County Cllr. Spicer).

- i. **VAS Sign** – Cllr. Spicer advised that Cllr. Bauer should submit a new request for approval and positioning of the VAS Sign as for unknown reasons (probably changing of staff) this does not seem to be moving forward despite lots of enquiries and follow-up. Cllr. Spicer will send the contact details of the officer at Suffolk County Council that can help with this.

Action: JB

- ii. **North Farm Quarry Site** planning application - Cllr. Spicer has submitted her support of the Barnham Parish Council response and has objected to this planning application. Cllr. Spicer will be asking this application to go to committee (next one probably in June) and that a site visit takes place.

c. **West Suffolk District Council** (District Cllr. Smith)

NRG Oil Depot retrospective planning application. The requested information from the Agent has now been received, but the response needed from the Environment Agency could take up to 21 days. It is hoped that this will now go to development control committee at the next available date, although this may be June as there is no meeting in May.

- d. **Village Hall** – is still closed. It is understood that it may be opening around 17th May following government guidelines. The clerk will enquire if elections will be taking place in May.

- e. **RAF Honington** (Cllr. Heading not present)

f. **Play Area**

- i. **Play area repairs/maintenance.** Payment of invoice from Goddards Builders. Cllrs. Hawthorne and Watson met Paul Dunning (from Goddards) concerning items still raised as needing attention from the Inspector's report. Mr. Dunning agreed to carry out the necessary remedial works: top up topsoil on side gate matting; adjust the safe stop on the main gate; lay a concrete pad in the gateway and tighten up the bolts on the climbing frame. When these have been checked, their original invoice dated January 2021 (£611 plus vat) can be paid. Cllr. Hawthorne will spray the area for weeds.

Action: MH/SW/Clerk

An area of safety matting under the swings also needs attention – the clerk will try to find when this was installed and let Cllr. Watson have the details.

Action: SW/Clerk

- ii. SLA for playarea inspections from West Suffolk District Council for 2021/2022. This has been reviewed by Cllrs. Watson and Merrifield. There is no cost to the parish council for 2021/2022. The clerk will sign the document and return it.
- g. **Speed watch** – Cllr. Bauer reported that it is hoped that this can restart after 29th March if Covid regulations allow. There are a couple of people interested in joining the volunteer team and Cllr. Bauer will organise training for them.
- h. **Lorry watch** – Cllr. Wyer reported that this is still happening although clarification regarding the planning application conditions, in particular the direction that lorries can enter and leave the Indigo Site using the C633 is still awaited from Suffolk County Council.

Action: JB

6. Planning Matters

a. **Applications** received for comment since January meeting:

- i. DC/21/0015/FUL. Single storey rear extension and associated drainage and resurfacing. 84 Gorse Industrial Estate, IP24 2PH. Applicant: Mr. Keith Eldred. A “No comment response” has been submitted prior to the meeting.
- ii. DC/21/0017/FUL. Installation of two ambient vaporiser units, silencer skid, concrete plinth and ancillary infrastructure. Location: Cryoserve, Air Products Plc, Station Road. Applicant: Air Products Plc. An objection response has been submitted (unanimously agreed at Planning Meeting of 15th February): “The parish council would like assurance that noise levels will not increase and that there will be no visual impact in the vicinity”:
- iii. SCC/0095/20SE. Extraction of sand and gravel and subsequent importation of inert waste material to achieve a beneficial restoration of the site back to heathland on land at North Farm, Elveden Road. IP24 2PH. Objection (unanimously agreed at Planning Meeting of 15th February). The proposed “objection” response document (previously forwarded to parish councillors) was unanimously agreed. This will now be submitted to Suffolk County Council (Mr. G. Gunby). It will also be posted on the parish council website.
- iv. Application no: DC/21/0259/HH. Single storey side and rear extensions (following demolition of existing conservatory). 11 Portal Close, Barnham. IP24 2NP. Applicant: Mr. Geoff Philips. It was unanimously agreed to submit a “no comment” response.

Action: Clerk

- b. **Enforcement issues** – Gypsy site, Station Road. Cllr. Wyer reported that it is very quiet on the site at the moment, but there is an injunction now in place.

7. Financial Matters

- a. **Cheques for signature**: Mrs. C. Dowson (clerk Jan/Feb) - £447.95. This was agreed.
- b. **Clerk’s report** (previously distributed to councillors) was noted. Bank Balances – Statement dated 29th January 2021. Current Account: £15,342.75 and Savings Account: £4,923.04.

8. Any Other Business

- a. **Correspondence**: Citizens Advice Bureau and Fresh Start New Beginnings have requested funding. It was agreed not to allocate any funding.
- b. **Church clock** (Cllr. Wyer). A quotation for works to the church clock has been received: restoration of clock dial = £7,492 + VAT – overhaul mechanical clock = £3,947 + VAT. It was noted that the parish council is not able to allocate any funds for ecclesiastical buildings. Cllr. Keast has written to the Euston Archivist to try to find out who the clock belongs to. It is believed that the clock was given to “Barnham Village” which would mean that it should then be listed as a parish council asset.
- c. **Items from Parish Councillors** – none.

- 9. **Date of Next Meeting** – proposed: 4th May 2021 via zoom at 7pm (note one week earlier than the normal second Tuesday of the month). To include Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting (these meetings were cancelled May 2020 due to Covid restrictions).