**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, 10th March 2020 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Cllrs. J. Bauer, M. Hawthorne, P. Keast, E. Wyer (Chair), S. Watson. West Suffolk District Cllr. A. Smith. Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson.

Mr. S. Bainbridge – agent for NRG Oil.

1. **Apologies** received from Cllrs. I. Heading and C. Merrifield and approval for absence was given. Also, County Councillor J. Spicer has submitted her apologies.
2. **Declaration of interests** and requests for dispensations – none.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – Tuesday, 14th January 2020. These were agreed. Point 5.b.iii. should refer to the Highways Engineer (not the Highways department as such).
4. **Matters Arising from those minutes** – none.
5. **Public forum**:
	1. **NRG Oil**. (noted that Cllr. Smith did not join in the conversation).

The chair welcomed Mr. Bainbridge – the planning consultant/agent for NRG Oil.

in the hope that the concerns of the parish council could be discussed and some solutions negotiated. Unfortunately, this proved very unsatisfactory and Mr. Bainbridge made it clear that he was unwilling to comment on any of the parish council’s concerns. He was not prepared to negotiate any of the points raised.

Mr. Bainbridge noted that his role was to obtain a planning permission with controls that might be workable within planning law – not necessarily taking into account the concerns of local residents. He highlighted that the site was within the Gorse Industrial Estate and not within the village conservation area. The Parish Council would like to argue this point as the site is not within the fenced boundary of the Gorse Industrial Estate and has never been referred to as such.

The Parish Council asked many questions. For example about lighting, noise mitigation fencing, traffic on the C633. Mr. Bainbridge was unwilling to comment on any of these points. NRG Oil will only be taking into account submissions from consultees. The site is recognised (by the planning authority, he said) for this type of industrial use.

After Mr. Bainbridge left the meeting it was agreed that the clerk would send Cllr. Smith a summary of this discussion and their suggested conditions for this retrospective planning permission (based on the parish council’s responses already submitted). Cllr. Smith will be meeting the planning officer shortly regarding this application.

Action: Clerk

* 1. **Suffolk County Council** (County Cllr Spicer not present)
* Boundary Committee for England will begin their consultation on new divisions for Suffolk County Council in early May. It is hoped that Barnham will remain in the Blackbourn Division.
* The clerk has received the grass cutting schedule from the county council. It is hoped that the A134 verges will be cut w/c 1st May and 2nd July (two cuts) and Barnham village w/c 25th May.

* 1. **West Suffolk District Council.** District Cllr. Smith’s report was accepted (distributed prior to the meeting).
	2. **Village Hall** – nothing to report.
	3. **RAF Honington**. Cllr. Heading not present, but he has reported that it is hoped there will be a meeting in April.
	4. **Play park.** Cllrs. Merrifield and Watson met with Tim McGee, the inspector from the District Council, and he was very helpful. It is much clearer what is expected.
	5. **Speedwatch update** (Cllr. Bauer). The group is a little thin on the ground which means it is difficult to run the surveys. The clerk will ask for volunteers in “The Link”.

Action: Clerk/JB

* 1. **VAS sign update** (Cllr. Bauer). It’s proving very difficult to contact Highways about this, despite emails and phone requests. We are still awaiting confirmation about when the poles will be erected before the VAS sign is purchased. Clerk will write to Suffolk County Council (copying in County Cllr. Spicer) and also Cllr. Bauer will chase this.

Action: Clerk/JB

* 1. **Lorrywatch update** (Cllr. Wyer). No action as such. Waiting to see if the TRO will be changed.

**6. PLANNING MATTERS**

* 1. **Applications** - no new applications received for consideration since the last meeting
	2. **Appeals** – nothing to report.
	3. **Enforcement issues**
	4. **Update - problems for residents on Station Road**. A valuable meeting was held with David Collinson, Asst. Director Planning and Regulatory Services, on 17th January at West Suffolk House (the county council were also present). Mr. Collinson has sent an update on progress which was distributed prior to the meeting.
* Indigo Waste Services – Use and conditions and poor state of by-way.
* New Storage unit, Station Road – Breach of condition. Ref. planting of trees as screen
* Star Platforms – Extended “cherry pickers”, siren noise and flood lighting. Cllr. Bauer will email Paul Speakerman regarding the re-alignment of floodlighting. At the moment it only partially alleviates the problem
	+ - Action: JB
* Highway – Station Road. Extensive damage caused by lorries using this route. Cllr. Spicer is following up on this as there appears to be no action taken on this (noted that Highways were not present at the meeting on 17th January
1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
	1. The request from the village hall to fund the cost for a new fire door for the village hall - £930 (incl. £155 VAT) - was unanimously agreed.
	2. The following cheques were approved and signed: Mrs. C. Dowson - clerk £419.79, Barnham Village Hall – room rental £60.
	3. The Clerk’s report was accepted (distributed before the meeting).
* Bank balances: current account £13083.30 and savings account £4919.19. It was noted that recycle credits have been received: £231.00 (Apr to Oct 2019).
* A quote (£180) has been received from Mr. P. Woollard to re-furbish the two benches in the village (the cost for this will be allocated from the general village maintenance budget). This was unanimously approved and the clerk will ask for the work to be carried out.

Action: Clerk

* Appointment of Auditor. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Mrs. D. Dunning to confirm if she will act as auditor again for 2019/2020.

Action: Clerk

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
	1. **Litter pick (March/April)**. Cllr. Heading will be asked to consider organising this in April.

Action: IH

* 1. **Items from Parish Councillors:**

**Cllr. Merrifield s**ubmitted a brief report in his absence which was discussed:

* Cllr. Merrifield reported that the Euston Estate might make some planters – but there is concern about who would maintain these.  Cllr. Merrifield is wondering if the Highways Department might be contacted to help with planting at the entrances to the village to make them more appealing. It was agreed that help from the county council is not very probable.   Therefore, it is suggested that Cllr. Merrifield investigate this further when he is feeling better.
* Cllrs. Merrifield and Hawthorne have met regarding the replacement VJ bench in St. Martin’s Lane.  Rev’d Sue Nutt has asked if the bench might be placed on the central grass area in front of the memorial so that more people can use it.   Cllr. Merrifield suggests that the commemoration plaque be for all those who served during the war to celebrate both VE and VJ day (rather than just VJ day).  Cllr. Hawthorne showed examples of benches from which one was agreed and chosen.   Rev’d Sue Nutt will be asked to investigate the placement of the bench further and Cllr. Merrifield’s suggestion about the plaque was unanimously agreed.   Thanks to both the Euston Estate and Rev’d Sue Nutt for their help.

Action: Clerk/CM/MH

* Cllr. Merrifield has been approached by a resident of Water Lane to see if the road can be swept.   It isn’t being swept at the moment, although it used to be swept by the Borough Council.  Cllr. Hawthorne kindly volunteered the Euston Estate to carry out this work.   The clerk will publish a date in “The Link” – a Saturday in April - to carry out this work so that local residents can be asked not to park on the road on that day.

Action: Clerk/MH

**Cllr. Watson** expressed concern about the condition of the entrance to East Farm (probably caused by lorries turning. It was felt that the parish council couldn’t influence this.

1. **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Tuesday, 12th May 2020 at 7.00pm. This will be the Annual Meeting and Parish Meeting.