

**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: J. Bauer, M. Hawthorne, I. Heading, P. Keast, C. Merrifield, Mrs. S. Watson, E. Wyer (Chair). Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson – clerk. One member of the public: Mr. Watson  
 Partly: County Councillor: Mrs. J. Spicer and West Suffolk District Councillor: A. Smith.

1. **Apologies** – none received.
2. **To declare any interests** and request any dispensations – none.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019. These were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising** from those minutes – none.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Suffolk County Council (County Cllr Spicer):**
    - i. **Broadband at West Farm** – Piers Hart is now leading on this and it's still possible to get grants.
    - ii. **Average Speed Limit Cameras** are now in place on the A134 – starting north of Ingham and ending just before the Barnham traffic lights. Cllr. Spicer will query when signage will be in place and when they will be up and running. The Chair reminded Cllr. Spicer that enforcement of the 40mph speed limit through the traffic lights will still be a problem. It was acknowledged that it is very unlikely that a 30mph speed limit will be possible. However, if the Parish Council decides to pursue a further speed restriction then Cllr Spicer agreed to look into the matter. In the meantime, the Chair will sound out opinions in preparation for the next meeting.
 

Action: EW
    - iii. **New “Barnham Heath” finger post sign.** Cllr. Spicer reported that this is still outstanding as it may be a safety hazard.
    - iv. **Pot hole outside 31 St. Martin’s Lane.** Cllr. Merrifield explained that this relates to a sink hole that suddenly appeared and has been very badly repaired. Cllr. Spicer has been told that a utility company has reported that this repair was carried out satisfactorily. This will now be followed up by an inspector.
    - v. **Lorries using the C634 – through Barnham village. Lorries using the C633 – Station Road to Elveden.** Cllr. Bauer has written an extensive report outlining the problems with the C633 and the associated industrial sites. His report includes traffic problems and other issues which are being considered by the District Council's Enforcement Department (see enforcement point below). It was agreed that Cllr's Spicer, Smith, Wyer and Bauer would work together to assess the report and prepare suitable letters for forwarding to various council departments for consideration and action. It was suggested that historic highway information and responses to original planning applications regarding access should be included.
 

Action: EW/JB
    - vi. **Lorries using the C633 – Station Road to Elveden.** Cllr. Bauer has written an extensive report outlining the lorry problems on the C633. His report also includes other issues (see enforcement point below). It was agreed that Cllr's Spicer, Smith, Wyer and Bauer will work together to format the report to make it as up to date as possible. It was suggested that historic highway information and responses to original planning applications regarding access should be included. This can then be forwarded to the various council departments.
 

Action: EW, JB
  - b. **West Suffolk Borough Council (Borough Cllr Smith)**  
**Update on enforcement issues:**
    - i. **NRG Oil, Station Yard site.** Noise and light pollutions/late deliveries. Cllr. Smith has been working with the enforcement officer (Sarah Rampley). A retrospective planning application is expected at the end of September. Cllr. Bauer has forwarded the District Council a “noise log”.
    - ii. **Indigo Waste Services – Use and conditions. Poor state of the by-way.** Cllr. Smith also reported that Sarah Rampley is researching the Indigo site including the tenancy agreements and whether any buildings have been erected. Cllr. Spicer reported that there is also a dialogue with the Elveden Estate and the County Council (By-ways) regarding the very poor condition of the access road.
    - iii. **New Storage Unit, Station Road Warehouse. Planting of trees as a screen.** Cllr. Smith reported that the planting will happen. The Chair asked if Cllr. Smith could get clarification about the background to the Condition that requires them to widen the road.
    - iv. **Star Platforms, Station Road** – extended cherry pickers, siren noise and floodlighting. This is now an enforcement case.

**Rural Task Force.** Cllr. Smith explained the rural research exercise to establish rural priorities. There is a survey and public meetings. The clerk will help advertise this in the village (poster, facebook, website and "The Link").

Action: Clerk

- c. **Village Hall.** The new windows have been fitted and as agreed previously the parish council will pay for this so that the VAT can be claimed back (£522 including VAT).
- d. **RAF Honington.** Cllr. Heading briefly outlined the proposed flying schedules affecting Barnham.
- e. **Play park.** Cllr. Merrifield has enrolled for a playground course organised by SALC.

Action: CM

f. **Speedwatch update and lorry watch scheme.**

- Speedwatch: Cllr. Bauer reported that the Speedwatch is still up and running. He is still liaising with Highways regarding the VAS sign (the new drive way opposite the proposed position of the sign just needs clarifying).

Action: JB

- Lorry watch: Cllr. Wyr reported that the lorry watch is up and running though it is quite difficult to note the lorry details unless the reporter is positioned at the side of the road. However, several vehicles have been reported to Trading Standards and there will be a report feedback after 3 months. It is hoped that the Lorry Watch Signage, when erected, will act as an additional deterrent.

## 6. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. **Applications.** Three planning applications received (As these were received between meetings, after consultation with parish councillors, no extra public meeting was convened – so a "no comment/objection" response submitted).
  - DC/19/1343/TCA – Trees in conservation area – The Old Parsonage, Church Lane. Mrs. Elizabeth Holland.
  - DC/19/1534/TCA – Trees in conservation area – White Gables and Panfields, Mill Lane.
  - DC/19/1604/FUL – Change of use of joinery manufacturing workshop to dwelling, Walnut Tree Cottage, 4 Thetford Road.

b. **Appeals.** None.

c. **Enforcement** – see comments above (5b).

- NRG – Oil, Station Yard site – noise and light pollution/late deliveries
- Indigo Waste Services – Use and conditions. Ref. poor state of by-way.
- New Storage unit, Station Road – Breach of condition. Ref. planting of trees as screen
- Star Platforms, Station Road – extended cherry pickers, siren noise and floodlighting

d. **Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

- i. SCC Scoping Opinion – Alternative Highways Access and 12 month extraction period. It was agreed to make no comment on this scoping as the Parish Council is not actually consultee. The clerk will inform the SCC that comments/objections have already been made about this planning application and they still stand.

Action: Clerk

- ii. Update from councillors who contacted respective agencies (Ref. minute 7.d. of the July minutes) - to lobby support and request information:

Cllr. Watson – Historic England did object to the planning application and support the parish council with its objection.

Cllr. Heading - Natural England. Stone curlews are still an issue for them.

Cllr. Keast – Suffolk Wildlife Trust – was not able to get any further information.

Cllr. Bauer – RSPB. The original contact, Mike Jones, no longer works for them. Cllr. Bauer has left details for the team, but not heard anything – he will contact them again. Noted that it would be good to know what the RSPB said with the original application.

Cllr. Hawthorne – Environment Agency – again the person who has been dealing with this has moved on – he is waiting for a reply from the new person.

The chair thanked councillors for their efforts and asked that everyone keeps trying to find out more information so that the Parish Council can be prepared when the new planning application is submitted.

Action: All

## 7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. **Cheques were approved for signature:**

14.8.19	101087	D. Thrower Grass cutting July	£285.00
10.9.19	101088	D. Thrower Grass cutting August	£285.00
10.9.19	101089	Mrs. C. Dowson - Clerk - Aug/Sep.	£430.11
10.9.19	101090	Community Action Suffolk – Insurance premium (3 years commitment = reduced price)	£456.19
10.9.19	101091	C2C Cambridge – replacement windows for Village Hall	£522.00

- b. **The Clerk's report** was received (previously distributed to councillors):  
Bank Balances at 31st July 2019: Business Current Account - £16,810.58 (All cheques before 31st July have been cashed). Business Savings Account - £4,914.29
- c. **Six month budget review** (budget = £8,545.00). Ref. cash sheet prepared for September meeting: 42% spent to the end of September (six months) = £3,586.06. No unexpected expenditure to date.
- d. **Annual insurance renewal premium/policy.** Community Action Suffolk have negotiated a new insurance policy designed for parish councils. It was unanimously agreed to adopt this new policy with Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group for three years (2019/2020 premium = £456.19). There are no changes to the asset register.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Replacement of bench at Mill Lane. It was unanimously agreed to increase the allocation to £500 for the purchase of a replacement bench. Cllr. Merrifield will organise this and look into the possibility of moving the bench to the village green so that it can be used more.  
Action: CM
- b. **Defibrillator in the village.** Cllr. Hawthorn explained that it will be too difficult to make the school defibrillator available 24/7 to the village. The chair asked everyone to consider whether a defibrillator is needed. Noted that a location would need to be found and that there is a cost involved and maintenance issues.  
Action: All
- c. **Pre-application consultation** - proposed telecoms installation. Despite several emails from the clerk and Cllr. Merrifield objecting to the proposed site and requesting further information about alternative sites, no response from the consultants has been received. It was agreed not to follow this up further.
- d. **Items from Parish Councillors**  
**Planters.** Cllr. Merrifield apologised that he hasn't been able to make the proposed planters. Therefore, this is something to be considered for next year. Concerns were raised about who will water these and whether artificial flowers might be appropriate. Other suggestions included daffodil planting as you enter the village and perhaps finding out the cost for water retaining planters.  
Action: CM (for next Spring)

**9. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm**