

BARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2012 at 7:35pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Cllrs: B Last, K Cummings, C Hammond, Cllr L Gilbert, A Childs, E Sier, W. Martineau, C.Cllr Spicer & B Cllr D Ray

1. **Apologies for absence** None
2. **Declaration of Interest** None
3. **Minutes.** Minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2011 signed and approved as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

4. **Meeting open to the public**

Concerns were raised about the erosion of highway verges and the damage to adjacent property. Cllr Spicer will liaise with the residents raising these concerns.

5. **Report by County Councillor: J Spicer**

Cllr Spicer reported that SCC was taking very seriously the recent spate of incidents involving items being dropped from bridges over the A14. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust is appealing for £100,000. To complete their purchase of land at Knettishall Heath (see also under item14). At the time of the meeting it was understood that they had raised £60,000 of this. Cllr Spicer has given £1000 from her Locality Budget. St Edmundsbury Borough Council has given £7500. The Schools Organisation Review consultation has now finished and a report should be out within the next week. The overall responses seemed to show 2/3 of respondents supported the Free School proposal. There were only 16 responses from Barningham. There is another meeting of the Free School Group on Friday with Mathew Hancock. Cllr Spicer said that she would chase up the meeting with Suffolk County Council to discuss highway matters in the village.

6. **Report by Borough Councillor: D Ray**

Cllr Ray reported that the next Parish Conference will be held on the 23rd April at Gt Barton, details to follow. St Edmundsbury Community Learning and Skills Development (CLSD) have put together a comprehensive package to help rural community and voluntary groups.

7. **Report of Community Police Officer**

PCSO Pardoe was unable to attend the meeting but reported that there have been no crimes in Barningham since the last meeting.

Meeting reconvened

8.1 **Chairman.**

8.1.1 The newsletter is almost complete and will be ready for distribution in February.

8.2 **Clerk:** 8.2.1. Date for meeting to discuss Highway matters.

Guy Smith asked that we fix a date and he would make sure someone would attend. It was agreed to ask for a meeting on Thursday 26th January. The clerk will communicate this back to SCC. **Action Clerk**

8.2.2 Date to discuss options for Cricket meadow.

Wendy Davies, from 'Bendcrete' is arranging a meeting for the following week. The Clerk will let everyone know the time and date once this is finalised. **Action Clerk**

8.2.3 The Clerk would like to attend a 'Smarter Working for Councils' two day training course. All in favour.

8.2.4 Signs Play area

The Clerk presented the art work for the signs for approval. This was agreed and the Clerk will now ask for them to be made up. Elite fencing have said they can weld the gate, for £20, so that it can open inward. It was agreed to try this before going to the expense of having the gate moved. **Action Clerk**

8.2.5 Clerks report on urgent decisions since last meeting. None

9. **Accounts.** 9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Steve Wilson | £426.57 |
| Vicki Gay | £549.93 |
| H M Revenue & Customs Only | £106.60 |
| Vicki Gay | £22.88 |
| Playdale, spares | £62.93 |

9.2 Budget monitoring report

This was discussed and found to be in order.

10. **Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

Cllr Gilbert reported that she would be happy to take over the newsletter from February.

Cllr Cummins completed a questionnaire from SALC about rural transport.

Cllr Sier, Brian Lodge and Mike Millet will move the seat on the old permissive path and store it in Cllr Last's garden until a new site can be decided upon. This will go on a future agenda for discussion.

Action Clerk

Cllr Sier reported that there are 17 bird feeders at Aggies and their position is identified by a small piece of binder twine tied to a branch close by.

There does not appear to be a suitable place for the free Oak tree from St Edmundsbury as it requires a 20m space to be planted in.

11. **Caretakers report**

The mowing mentioned in my last report turned out to be unnecessary despite my own lawn needing a cut on Boxing Day. I worked out my allocated hours for the year exactly with no overtime being required. I did have to start my usual January job, of edging the footpath in Sandy Lane, early in order to achieve this.

I tackled several small jobs to end the year. The school holiday allowed me to scrape and sweep the soil and leaves from the lay-by and seat opposite the Royal George. I replaced the elastic around the war memorial with some of a more suitable colour. There has been a lot of raking of leaves and picking up of fallen branches and the elevated path opposite the Spar shop has been weeded.

I have removed items from behind the headstones in the New Cemetery and placed them in a basket behind one of the seats; I was also asked to do a closer inspection of some of the memorials after reports that they were leaning. There have been two more clean-ups necessary at the beet pad at Aggies's Piece as well as some fly-tipping there. All my tools and the mower have been cleaned and sharpened.

Ixworth Village Hall has agreed to acquire a mower in the near future and I will take that opportunity to buy one for Barningham. As of 1 January I am booking my hours out month by month.

12. **Church Clock.** Update from Cllr Martineau

Cllr Martineau provided the Council will some photos of the existing church clock. In order to be given a faculty the Diocese need a copy of the grant offer letter. They meet monthly and the Clerk will work with the school to get the application completed as soon as possible in order that the new mechanism should be in place prior to the 2012 Jubilee celebrations if at all possible.

13. **Cemetery** to include policy for unauthorised memorials/burials. Quotations for groundwork's.

Another unauthorised burial has been carried out in the cemetery. The undertaker in question has written to apologise. It was agreed that the Clerk will write, again, to all the local undertakers and stonemasons to remind them of obligation to seek permission from the council before they undertake any works in the cemetery. A piece will also be put in the newsletter.

Two quotes have been received from Contractors regarding the required ground works for the cemetery. They are both very similar and it was proposed that we should use the contractor located in the village due to the sensitive nature of the work.

The Clerk has received a quote for the flat stone markers of £80 each including names and numbers. It was proposed to proceed with this. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements. **Action Clerk**

14. **Knettishall Heath.** Request for funding

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has secured agreement to buy Knettishall Heath as a nature reserve – thanks to a grant of £720,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The new nature reserve will include adjoining areas of woodland, and so will be much bigger than the former country park. This will enable them to create 5 miles of new nature trails for local people to enjoy. The lottery grant and a generous gift in the Will of William and Mary McAtamney have put the purchase of Knettishall Heath within their reach. They now have to raise £100,000 by the end of January to complete the purchase of Knettishall Heath –and have asked for our help. Buying Knettishall Heath will safeguard it for ever – so wildlife can thrive and everyone can continue to use and enjoy it. Thanks to the funding they have already secured, every £1 we give will help us to buy £10 of habitat at Knettishall Heath. It was resolved to make a £100 donation.

15. **Localism Act.** Update on adopted Act.

This is a lengthy document and a hard copy will be sent round for consideration

16. **Planning Matters** to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

16.1 Granted Applications

SE/11/1332 Coach house, Bardwell Road.

SE/11/1379 Site adjacent to Greensleaves, Hepworth Road.

17. **Correspondence for information** to note the items listed below which have been circulated with action listed or no action to be taken at this time:

17.1.SALC LAIS.

17.2 SCC A New Heritage organisation for Suffolk, public consultation

17.3 SEBC Rural 2031 Drop in invitation, Informal beefing prior to the LDF document is formally published on 23 January, to be held 18th Jan between 6pm and 8pm.

17.4 SEBC/Forest Heath short guide to shared services.

17.5 SCC Better Broadband for Suffolk

20. **Playing Field (Cricket Meadow)** Legal date 2nd February 2014 to 1st February 2015

21. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next meeting as 1st February 2012

22. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:** .22.1 Personnel Issues. 22.2 Legal Issues.

No further business meeting closed.