

## BARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 at 7:35pm in Barningham Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: Cllrs: B Last, K Cummings, A Childs, E Sier, W. Martineau PCSO Jonny Burke & B Cllr D Ray

Cllr L Gilbert arrived at 8.10pm and C Hammond shortly after, after attending a meeting at Hopton to discuss SCC school organisation review.

1. **Apologies for absence** C.Cllr Spicer
2. **Declaration of Interest** None
3. **Minutes.** Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 signed and approved as a correct record.

### Meeting Adjourned

#### 4. **Meeting open to the public**

None present.

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

Due to conflicting meetings Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Cllr Ray reminded the Councillors that the next Countryside forum will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 4.00 pm in the Conference Room, West Suffolk House, Western Way. Cllr Sier and Cllr Cummings husband, Gary Cummins, are both hoping to attend.

#### 7. **Report of Community Police Officer**

There have been no crimes reported since the last meeting.

##### **SNT Speeding in Rural Villages Priority:**

This priority, which is still on going, has seen a major amount of speed checks completed by Police in the St Edmundsbury Rural North area including help from Neighbourhood Response teams and Bury Roads Traffic Police. To date we have issued 114 Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices, 165 verbal warnings, 8 people have been reported for summons, 4 people have been issued with tickets for not wearing a seat belt and 1 vehicle seized for no insurance. One male was found guilty a court for doing 79mph in Mill Road, Gt Barton (30mph zone) and charged with careless driving.

##### **Hare Coursing:**

Last weekend saw a few calls to Police in the Bardwell and Ixworth area of Hare Coursing on farmland. Officers did catch up with suspects said to be involved with this crime however there was not enough evidence to prosecute the offenders. The driver of the vehicle stopped was reported for summons for no insurance on his vehicle. We would remind people that we take Hare coursing extremely seriously and would encourage members of the public to report such incidents to the Police.

It was asked how many notices were issued in Barningham during the recent speed checks. PCSO Burke will find this information out and forward it to the Clerk. Cllr Sier said he would head up a Speedwatch group. PCSO Burke will send Cllr Sier the relevant paperwork. **Action Clerk**

Meeting reconvened

#### 8.1 **Chairman:** 8.1.1 Report from meeting with Guy Smith, SCC, re Mill Road and Vehicle activated sign (VAS)

SCC will need to carry out another traffic count in Mill Road and on the B1111 before we look further at any actions to be taken. It was acknowledged that a VAS cannot be installed within 200m of the speed limit sign, this means that such a sign would have to be situated on the Hopton side of the shop cross roads. It was questioned how useful this would be.

### 8.1.2 Quarterly newsletter.

After discussion it was decided to send out the shorter version of the newsletter and include a piece about the 'Free School' meeting (once a date is confirmed, see under item17) and the origins of the hand bells held by the school. See under item 8.1.3

### 8.1.3 Report on meeting with school to discuss Jubilee celebration.

The Chairman and the Clerk met with the Head Teacher, Mrs Frances, at the primary school where it was suggested that, rather than host our own Jubilee fete, the Parish Council would set up an exhibition in the village hall looking at how things have changed since the Coronation. The school would arrange a visit to the exhibition as part of their 'share day'. This exhibition would run from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The School fete will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012. The Councillors resolved to go ahead with this idea. An article will be put in the magazine asking for any information/ contributions that could be used in the exhibition.

The hand bells were also discussed. These are not used by the school and it seemed a shame that they were sitting idle. The Parish Council will consider options for their future.

The School have agreed to be involved in the project to mechanise the church clock. Mrs Frances will arrange for part of the children's 'Local history' module to focus on the church clock. Studying the subject of time through the ages it is also hoped that we can somehow link the school clock in to this project leading to possibly having a modern sundial clock in the playground. The clerk will continue to liaise with the school to take the project forward.

**Action Clerk**

### 8.1.4 Update on cemetery

The Chairman, Clerk and Steve Wilson met to discuss the final arrangements for the cemetery. In addition to agreeing which graves need to be levelled and have markers it was agreed to place any items left at the grave sides (for example vases and water canisters) in a box which will be kept under the bench at the side of the cemetery. The Chairman will put a piece in the parish news on the website and in the cemetery to advertise that this will be happening in the New Year, Also all old wooden grave markers are to be removed. Relatives can either remove them before the New Year or collect them from the chairman who will hold them for a short period before disposing of them. The clerk will contact local Landscape contractors to get prices for the works to be carried out.

**Action Chairman/Clerk.**

### 8.2 **Clerk:** 8.2.1 Footbridge and steps, permissive path.

The Clerk has written again to the land owner but still has had no response. She will write again informing the landowner of our intention to remove our property.

**Action Clerk**

### 8.2.2 Learning Event,

The Clerk attended a training event entitled 'How to influence Planning application' hosted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council which she found to be extremely helpful. There is another event planned for next year, looking at the localism bill which the Clerk hopes to attend.

### 8.2.3 Litter picking equipment. Free from St Eds.

There is an offer of free litter picking equipment for parishes wishing to hold a litter picking event. We felt that at this time there was no need for such an event in the village but we would be happy to store the equipment for either future use of for other local parishes.

### 8.2.4 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	£34.59
S Wilson, fuel	£5.00
Playdale, spares	£44.93
Royal British Legion, Wreath donation	£30.00

10. **SEBC** Request for Parish Councils estimates 2012-2013

Following discussions at last months meeting concerning the budget it was **Resolved** to Precept for £22000. The Chairman and the Clerk will submit the relevant paperwork. **Action Chairman/Clerk**

## 11. **Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

### 11.6 **Cllr Sier, Environment**

Cllr Sier reported that the water tank in the meadow, with the footpath across it between Coney Weston Road and Aggies Piece, has a hole in it and is constantly losing water; the area is becoming quite flooded. The Clerk will report this to the land owner when she writes to inform him of our intention to remove our steps etc. See under item 8.2.1.

### 12. **Caretakers report**

Mowing has now slowed to a trickle and is being replaced by leaf sweeping. Leaves are not the problem they once were in the village, however. I have been able to take some of my holiday hours recently and there seems no likelihood of overtime being necessary this year.

I have attempted to take back the brambles in Aggies to keep the footpaths clear; I will probably cut further back during the winter. There has been fly-tipping in Aggies recently which I dragged to a place which made it convenient for the Borough to collect it.

My first attempt at replacing the anti-wrap bearing on the Play Area swing was thwarted by Playdale supplying the wrong size of bolt. The bearing is now fitted and I am mildly optimistic about the durability of the newly-designed bearing. The climbing frame has been in need of a little tightening recently and a lost bolt cover has been replaced.

The war memorial has been weeded and I have attended a meeting in the New Cemetery regarding my future actions there.

### 13. **Church Clock.** Update on application for funding

Cllr Martineau confirmed that we would need a faculty and that this was in hand. He also informed the council that he is meeting with Hayward Horological to look at what work needs to be carried out. See also under item 8.1.3.

### 14. **Mill Road** to consider options for traffic calming

See under item 8.1.1

### 15. **Possible purchase of Village Hall land.**

The Parish Council can see no advantage in purchasing the land the village hall is situated on when bound by the conditions being imposed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Clerk will write to inform the Borough Council of this. **Action Clerk**

### 16. **Cricket meadow development.** Options for future use.

The Clerk has been trying to find out where the concrete ramp at Stanton came from but so far has had no luck. She will continue to look into this. It was suggested that she contact Walsham Le Willows as it is understood that they also have a concrete ramp. **Action Clerk**

### 16. **School Organisation Review - Thurston Consultation**

Cllr Hammond attended a meeting for parents, Parish Council leads, Borough & County Councillor's re-Thurston Pyramid and its future. Cllr Spicer gave the following introduction: 4 years ago, SCC decided to go back to 2 tier schools all over the county but phased it. Now 40%= two tier and 60%=3 tier. Bury/Thurston/Stowmarket is in the last phase. A consultation is being led by SCC re-the Thurston Partnership which includes 17 schools and Thurston Community College. Cllr Spicer reported that proposals that primaries will go to 11 years is good news, money for the building is there. There is no proposal for a second secondary school at Stanton or Ixworth for 11-16 as there is no money. To serve the northern end of the pyramid, Cllr Spicer supports an annexe for Thurston to be at Ixworth or Stanton. This is not favoured by SCC which is proposing an annexe at Beyton. The current consultation on the change to two tier, including a question relating to alternative provision, closes on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Gerald Brown, Chairman of Ixworth Middle School Governors gave the following report: Following the failure of the application for Academy status the governors are now in favour of a FREE school. A FREE School would be DfE funded with no SCC control. Services can be bought from anywhere. SCC supports this as it does not threaten the Thurston plans. The vision is a local free school at either Stanton or Ixworth for 700 pupils including a Sixth Form with traditional education aiming for excellence in staff, expectations and results. There is an urgent need for Middle school parents to be aware and informed. A Meeting to this end is to be held on 11 November. Steve Larder, a representative of the

FREE School Group gave the following report. The Group was set up on 29 September. of 6 people To be a success, parental demand is essential. 20 villages were represented at a meeting with 200 people coming over two nights' with 142 schoolchildren being involved. There was a questionnaire of which 70 were returned from this it was shown: 85% want two tier system. : 87% support the idea of a 'free school'. : Would you send your child to a free school? 30% YES 44% - likely to. (this has been updated since these figure)The group is aiming for 2013 opening date; they do not want to take as long as Clare Middle (now a 'free school) as they lost a lot of pupils. Their application must be in by spring 2012. 6 members of the original Steering Group, is now, at the end of November, 20 and more parents are needed. Fund-raising is essential, there is a website to be set up. Parish Councils have been approached to ask to consider the possibility of a request for funding in the future. The following considerations were raised in the discussion: Is the 'free school' a threat to other schools? How can we help the parents move forward? Borough Councillor John Griffiths gave the following response. The Beyton Annexe is a very big issue. A school is infra structure The proposed free school is NOT a threat to Thurston or Beyton. There are more houses planned for Ixworth, so why take away the school? He is aware the Heads of Ixworth and Blackbourne are liaising. Land is pencilled in at Ixworth for educational use. Ixworth The Blackbourne Middle School site is less well-placed as a site but is still part of the plan. There is an ambition to relocate the primary school at Stanton. Parental and community support is needed if the FREE SCHOOL is to go ahead.

#### 17. **Free School proposal**

A letter setting out the Free School proposals and a request to consider a possible future request for funding has been received, as this is such an important issue it was decided to host a public meeting and invite the Free School Group. A note advertising the date will be included in the newsletter and posters will be produced once a date has been agreed.

**Action Chairman/Clerk**

#### 18. **Planning Matters**

St Edmundsbury Borough council granted the following application. SE/11/0809 1 Hepworth Road. Under condition 3 the following restriction was applied: The development hereby permitted shall be used only for purposes incidental to the occupation and enjoyment of the dwelling house as such and shall not be used for any business, commercial or industrial purpose whatsoever.

19. **Correspondence for information** The following items will be circulated with no further action at this time

19.1 Havebury.- information about new 'Neighbourhood structure' Circulated

19.2 SCC – Preparations for the coming winter. Circulated

19.3 SALC LAIS and The Local Councillor. Circulated

19.4 Suffolk Wildlife Trust magazine. Circulated

19.5 Request to cut back/remove tree, Old Cemetery.

This request was considered and agreed. The homeowner will cover the cost of any works.

**Action Clerk**

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

21. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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.