

BARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2011 at 7:35pm in Barningham Village Hall.

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

1. **Apologies for absence** PCSO Jonny Burke
2. **Declaration of Interest** None
3. **Minutes.** Minutes of the meeting of 7th September 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**

Cllr Spicer reported that Knettishall Park "closed" on 30th September. This is to say that all the SCC equipment was removed. Access to the park remains as before but it is no longer being managed by SCC. There is a colour coded map at the site showing open access areas and footpaths. The Suffolk Wildlife's bid to the Heritage Lottery fund is going well and we will wait to hear the outcome. SCC today started a formal consultation in the Thurston area starts this will run until 9 December. There are currently two systems of school organisation in Suffolk, the two-tier system and the three-tier system. The preferred model for Barningham CEVCP School would be to extend its age range to include Year 5 and Year 6. This would mean the school would be responsible for all of Key Stage 2 and would keep the pupils at their local primary school for two more years. SCC architects have told us that it is possible to develop the school to meet the needs of additional pupils. Any building work needed would be planned in partnership with the Head teacher and other stakeholders. Pupils who have started Year 4 and above in September 2011 would transfer to middle school at the end of Year 4, as they would have done if there was no change. Pupils in Year 3 and below in September 2011 would continue at Barningham CEVCP School until the end of Year 6, when they would transfer to a secondary school. Pupils living in the Barningham CEVCP School catchment area would be in the catchment area for Thurston Community College. There is however a possibility of a 'Free School' being built at either Ixworth or Stanton that would offer an alternative to Thurston. These proposals are in the early stages and Cllr Spicer will provide the Clerk with contact details for the group organising this so that she may be able to obtain further information and possibly set up a meeting. There is a meeting to discuss the School Organisation Review - Thurston Consultation at Hopton School on Wednesday 2nd November from 6.30 until 8pm. Cllrs Gilbert and Hammond will attend this and come on to the parish council meeting afterwards as they are being held on the same night.

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

Cllr Ray reported that speeding in Barningham is to be included in the police priority list following the recent SNT meeting.

7. **Report of Community Police Officer**

Unfortunately, due to confusion over email addresses, the report from the police arrived too late to be included in the meeting.

Meeting reconvened

8. **Progress reports.** For information, from:

- 8.1 **Chairman:** 8.1.1 SEBC Budget proposals focus group.

Cllr Last attended this event and the questionnaire is to be circulated.

- 8.1.2 Damaged tree, Millfields.

Simon Collins, from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, said that we should not do anything to the damaged tree. If painted over with some preparation it is likely to trap infection. It was agreed to take no further action.

8.1.3 Play area gate and signage.

It was suggested by Simon Collin, SEBC, to leave the gate where it is but make some alterations. Firstly have the gate re-hung so that it opens inwards, towards the play area, rather than out on to the road. The slope will then need to be redesigned, both to accommodate the gate and to comply with DDA rules. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange to get a quote for this work. The signage should still go up as previously discussed.

Action Clerk

8.2 Clerk: 8.2.2 Footbridge and steps, permissive path.

The clerk still hasn't heard from the landowner, she will write again.

Action Clerk

8.2.4. Vehicle Activated sign B1111.

The Clerk has made contact with Simon Curl at SCC and a meeting is arranged for Friday 21st October.

8.2.7 Clerks report on urgent decisions since last meeting. None

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

Steve Wilson	£426.37
Vicki Gay	£549.93
H M Revenue & Customs Only	£106.80
Vicki Gay	£39.19
Mark Bleay, Old Cemetery hedge	£80.00
SALC, Training	£12.00
BDO External audit.	£162.00

9.1 **Confirmation of completion of external audit.**

The Clerk has received confirmation that the external audit has been approved.

10. **Budget. To consider budget for 2012/13. To include report from Internal Accounts Working Party.**

Review of Budget Monitoring: The report for September was reviewed and the process the clerk uses to produce the report from the income and expenditure records was explained in detail. It was suggested that a budget to date column be added to clarify when non regular expenditure was anticipated, e.g. Insurance which was a single payment in July.

Draft Budget for 2012-13. The first draft of the budget was discussed including the calculation of salaries for the clerk and caretaker. It was agreed to propose the increase in the clerk's pay by one scale point in accordance with the national Local government grade but not to allow for any inflation increase. It was suggested that any inflation increase for the caretaker be discussed at the PC meeting following research with neighbouring PC's on their view of inflation increases. The basis of the charge for cutting the playing field grass was discussed. It was agreed to ask the clerk to check whether it was based on a set number of cuts or not and when the bill for this year was likely to be received. On comparison with the final figure for 2010-11 it may not be necessary to increase the budget further for next year. Unless any other unknown costs become apparent before the meeting it was agreed to propose no increase in the precept for next year and to find any monies required for the Diamond Jubilee from reserves. This would require a maximum to be set for any such expenditure.

Fixed Assets. The basis of the figure for fixed assets in the final accounts was discussed and it was agreed that it needed both clarifying and updating for replacement values of equipment. It was proposed to show the figures in 3 areas; property at historical cost, insured equipment at insured values and non insured equipment at estimated replacement value. The current asset register and the insurance schedule need to be considered together to produce the fixed asset list for this year and the clerk will be asked to prepare this.

It was proposed that Steve Wilson should be given a 2.5% pay rise, increasing his hourly rate from £7.69 per hour to £7.88 per hour. All in favour. It was suggested that the vat was claimed on a more regular basis, the Clerk will attend to this. The Clerk confirmed that the chare for cutting the playing field was based on the number of cuts and that the bill is normally received in December.

11. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

11.1 **Cllr Childs, Community Affairs.** To include suggestions for Queens Jubilee Celebrations

The Clerk has spoken to the school and it was suggested that a village celebration could be held on 29th May 2012. The School would do their Maypole dancing and Green man celebrations. It was noted that this was on a Tuesday and therefore it was felt that it would be difficult to make this work as a village event. The Clerk will go back to the school to discuss the possibility of holding the event on a week end.

11.2 **Cllr Cummings. Transport / Highways.**

The Clerk has been advised that there will be changes to bus times. New timetables are being printed.

11.3 **Cllr Gilbert. Communications.**

Cllr Gilbert had no report to make.

11.4 **Cllr Hammond, Cemetery.**

Cllr Hammond gave the following report following her seminar with Fulchers funeral Directors.

Dispelling the Myths – The role of the Funeral Director

FULCHER and CLUTTERHAM – Bury St Edmunds 3/10/11

Eight of us boarded the minibus at Ram Meadow last Tuesday with, no doubt, varying expectations of this day. A theme that some would find daunting but the one thing we all had in common was that, one day it would be our turn to leave 'this mortal coil.' So, what was involved –we were all curious!

What did the carers and I, the parish councillor, discover about some of those who help families plan and cope with the loss of a loved one? The whole day was conducted with care, courtesy and respect and was as fascinating as it was illuminating. It certainly dispelled any myths! Not that I personally had any!!! The day was certainly not dull!

We had a talk on the role of the firm (*with 3 branches in Bury, 1 in Stowmarket, 1 in Sudbury*) and how at the heart of it all were 'the family wishes'. We heard the terminologies used in the profession and those used with the families. There are three options open after death:

- burial
- cremation
- promission (*Swedish idea-body frozen in liquid nitrogen /shattered to a bio-degradable powder*)

It was interesting and at times amusing, to see the variety of coffins available (*crazycoffin.com*) e.g. willow, bamboo caskets and ways to 'scatter ashes' e.g. in a firework, in a shell container at sea, to name two! For £10,000 your loved one can be preserved as an amber or blue 4 ct diamond!

We met the mortician, a gentle man who used to be a nurse who and decided that the dead needed caring about too. The process of post-death care was sensitively explained as was embalming and preparing the deceased for viewing. Boots No7 was a popular make-up!

One of the men in the town base is a florist who did a lovely vase display for us with a few hints to make it easy. We later each received a single white rose, symbol of love and peace, as one of the gifts from the day.

We then visited Culford Woodlands Burial site, where the idea is there are eco-burials in a place which will gradually revert to woodland as the years pass. There the loved one has a broad leaf tree planted beside them. No coffins are used but a special shroud. An option for both religious, as well as non-religious people.

Following a delicious fresh sandwich lunch, we went to the crematorium and met the manager, Royna. There are 6 staff here, 3 in the office, 2 gardeners and one in the crematorium. They have conducted nearly 38,000 services since they opened. The service time is usually 25-30 minutes.

The behind the scenes talk there was very interesting, including the beautiful hand-crafted decorated walls of the four seasons behind the door where the coffin goes from the chapel area. What we learned there, made it absolutely clear that what is received in the coffin is what one receives in the ashes container. The person is tracked and monitored faithfully by computer and a clear labelling system from the service to their ashes in the chosen receptacle. One is reduced to within 3 ounces of your birth weight unless you were premature. There is only room for one coffin at a time and the process generally takes about 1 hour and 25 mins.

Sometimes there are left behind, titanium replacement joints which are recycled to third world countries (*in the past they were buried!*).

The cremators cost £40,000 each – there are two - and strict environmental health rules are followed to avoid pollution. Objects put into a coffin by relatives are not always suitable and can cause extra combustion and temperature problems e.g. a bottle of whisky!!

We then toured the gardens and remembrance chapel with its record book for the days of the year. It is lovely site with a calm atmosphere.

In conclusion, having been teased all day that we would be tested on what we had learned – we finished at the Bury office, with another drinks break and did a questionnaire for feedback and received a certificate, the rose and a pack about the firm and its services.

All in all a worthwhile day and a useful insight into a very important profession in society!

11.5 Cllr Martineau, Administration.

Cllr Martineau reported that he will speak Hayward Horological about the clock and will see what he can find out about its history. It is believed to have been purchased to commemorate the 1877 Golden Jubilee.

11.6 Cllr Sier, Environment

Cllr Sier had no report to make.

12. Caretakers report

Mowing and strimming has continued at a steady pace but slowly enough to allow me to have a day's holiday. Tripp Batt has quoted a price of £189 ex VAT for a replacement mower.

Other vegetation has continued to spread leading to me hand-logging shrubs at the Play Area entrance, the pavement adjacent to the Mill and along the elevated footpath opposite the Spar shop. There has also been an explosion of bramble growth at Aggies's Piece. I have run the trimmer over the rear hedge at the Old Cemetery as well as strimming the rear row of graves. A resident of St Andrew's Close has expressed concern about ivy growing through her fence from the cemetery and I will try to keep on top of it. The war memorial is in need of weeding before Remembrance Day.

I used the last of my replacement anti-wrap bearings on the Play Area swings; an effort which lasted one week before it, too, was shattered. Since the bearing was on a cradle seat, and largely intact, I immobilised it with tape until a replacement could be obtained.

13. Church Clock. Update on application for funding

The Clerk has been in contact with the school and they are very keen to be involved with the project. The Clerk will continue to take this project forward.

14. Mill Road to consider options for traffic calming

See under item 8.2.4

15. Possible purchase of Village Hall land. Approach by SEBC for Parish Council to purchase land. St Edmundsbury Borough Council owns the land that the village hall is built on. The Parish council lease that land are currently about half way through a 99 year lease. SEBC has approached the Parish Council to see if we are interested in purchasing this land, freehold, for a sum of £2000. They are however asking for conditions which will restrict the future use and sale of the land. The problem with this is that it may be necessary in the future to sell the land to raise funds for a new village hall and the conditions they want to impose would mean this would not be possible. The Clerk will write to SEBC to express our concerns.

Action Clerk

16. Cricket meadow development. Options for future use. Update on meeting with Simon Collins/SMP

Cricket Meadow. There was a useful meeting with the representative from SMP and Simon Collins. SMP do a 'half pipe ramp' but of steel construction with an underlying concrete base. This will be cheaper than all concrete but noisier, so this will need looking at. The Clerk was asked to get in touch with Stanton Parish Clerk and find out how much they had to pay for the one in their recreation ground, when it was done and who by? On other equipment it was felt that equipment from the SMP NRG range might suit us best along with perhaps the basket ball net and football net combination. The Councillors will look at the catalogue and online at the options. The clerk should have received some plans and prices from SMP by the next meeting.

17. School gate. Increase in security measures, Primary School.

As part of their whole school review on safeguarding/ child protection the primary school has been looking at site security. This has resulted in the school locking our gates from 9:00 to 3:10. They would also like to add a wire mesh to cover the gate from the school grounds. The Parish Council had no objections to these measures being taken.

18. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted. Applications Granted by SEBC SE/11/0914 Willowtrees, Bardwell Road. SE/11/0892 Bullrushes, Bardwell Road.

19. **Correspondence for information** to note the items listed below which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting. To include:
Stanton Rides leaflet.
NALC introduction to data protection responsibilities.
SALC courses & AGM
No action to be taken at this time.
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, this is scheduled for 2nd November 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.