

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THAT WAS HELD AT BARHAM CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2020, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Darren Milward, Cllr Frances Milward & Cllr Jeremy Lea.

Also present: 3 members of the public and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman introduced Mr Darren Debenham the operations manager for DK9 Security. They currently hold training sessions at the picnic site and have also managed to stop anti-social behaviour at the site. Mr Debenham explained that he lives in Barham and wants to look after the area. DK9 works closely with Essex police and in addition offer a service to carry out patrols with a mobile unit and with the security dogs, which deters anti-social behaviour, group, graffiti, drugs etc. The dogs are trained to search for drugs and knives. He can offer Barham a visible deterrent, the public would be given a contact number to call which goes through to a central control room to report any security issues or to report anything suspicious. DK9 can be at the scene within 5 minutes, much less time than a police presence. They can also alert the police and send them any video evidence (APR camera) so that the police can prosecute. The DK9 officers have a very good relationship with the police and they are also first aid trained. They wear stab proof and bullet proof vests and can also carry out search and rescue operations. They train twice a week to keep the dogs up to date. The security service which they are offering to Barham would cost the Parish Council £11.50 per hour plus VAT, (DK9 are fully insured), 6pm to 12pm, 7 days a week and would provide a security guard, dog and a patrol car. This would work out at £483.00 plus VAT a week.

The Chairman thanked Mr Debenham for offering the service which would be a benefit to Barham. He suggests a trial period from now until March 2021 and then to review after this.

Cllr Lea outlined the problems which had previously happened at the picnic site and how DK9 has helped to stop. A PCSO would be far more expensive than the DK9 service.

The above information to be added to the Barham website and In-Touch magazine.

Reports have been received from SCC John Field and MSDC Tim Passmore/John Whitehead which the Clerk has forward to all.

1.12 APOLOGIES

a. Apologies for absence. Cllr Neil Cooper, Mrs Brenda Mitchell, MSDC Tim Passmore & John Whitehead, SCC John Field.

b. Consent/non consent to absence. Consent was granted to the above councillors, Cllr Cooper, Passmore & Whitehead were not happy to attend. Mrs Mitchell is recovering from a recent operation.

2.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST APPROPRIATE TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations given.

3.12 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS (see attached)

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2020. The minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr Lea seconded Cllr Milward.

4.12 TO CO-OPT 3 NEW MEMBERS ONTO THE PARISH COUNCIL

3 applications have been received, Mr Andrew Akhurst, Mr Casy Wooltorton & Mrs Brenda Mitchell which have been considered by the councillors. It was agreed by all to co-opt all 3 applicants which will mean a full compliment of 8 Parish Councillors. Proposed Cllr Lea seconded Cllr Milward.

Declaration of interest forms to sign and the Clerk will inform MSDC of the new Councillors.

5.12 WORKPLAN & PLANNING LIST – see attached

a. Workplan: - The Chairman informed that he is still awaiting confirmation back from SCC John Field regarding speed limit roundels along the Norwich Road. Also still awaiting the installation of the 2 SID devices along Coopers Way and Sandy Lane.

The order has been placed with Westcotec for the 2nd VAS speed sign to be installed on Norwich Road by De Surez Drive. Order also placed with Leiston Press for the 2nd Barham Village Sign.

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Hold on street lighting until the outcome of the proposed Norwich Road development is known. Chair to speak to SCC John Field regarding this.

Barebuck and Frink Woods – Kiln House Sandy Lane, Cllr Cooper has informed that a Removal of Implied Right of Access has been posted at the site. The Clerk to contact MSDC Enforcement to alert them to this.

b. Review of Planning List

DC/20/03415 - The Low House, Norwich Road, Barham. Granted by MSDC.

DC/20/05153 - 27 Old Rectory Close, Barham. No objection by Barham Parish Council.

DC/20/05172 - Land Off, Norwich Road, Barham. No objection by Barham Parish Council.

6.12 REPORTS. No reports received.

7.12 FINANCE

a. Monthly Payments – to agree the payments for September, October & November.

The Council approved the payment schedules, September payments £1,432.53, receipts £14,054.35.

October payments £6508.68 receipts £537.34. November payments £7,532.49 receipts £566.80.

Proposed Cllr Lea seconded Cllr Milward.

b. Monthly reconciliation – to approve September to November bank reconciliation.

The Council approved the bank reconciliation to date as at 30th November 2020, Business Premium Account £34,648.91, Current Account £30,877.57 one cheque outstanding £315.00, total £30,562.47.

Proposed Cllr Lea seconded Cllr Milward.

c. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (Play area Kirby Rise)? The Clerk has created a spreadsheet to show the income & expenditure of CIL's, a legal requirement and advised of the monies received so far. £537.34 CIL which needs to be spent within 5 years of receipt from MSDC, if not it has to be returned. It was agreed that this amount will be put towards the 2nd VAS. Section 106 money £22,122.80 is available to Barham and can be spent towards new play/sports equipment. The Chairman suggests there is an area of land near Kirby Rise which is close to the 50 homes that would benefit from having a small play area for the families and children. Barham does not currently have its own play area in the village. Cllr Woollorton informed that there is possibly other funds or match funding available. The Parish Council needs to find out who owns the land, Cllr Lea to do so. A survey to be created and sent to the residents of Kirby Rise to see if they are in agreement to have a play area. Idea can also be put on the March agenda ready for May bid.

d. Conclusion of the External Audit April 2019 – March 2020. The Clerk advised that this has now been successfully completed by PKF Littlejohn and that the notice of Conclusion of Audit has been posted on the village noticeboard and website.

e. To Approve the Budget for April 2021 to March 2022 (To consider also including a budget for security/DK9). The Clerk had forwarded the draft budget to all. It was agreed by all that £5000 should be included in the budget for DK9 Security, rather than towards a PCSO as Cllr Lea advised that it is very unlikely that Barham will get a PCSO. Cllrs Field & Whitehead both support the DK9 security idea. They will be trialled until March 2021, 6pm to 12pm, 7 days a week for a security guard, dog and a patrol car, £483.00 plus VAT a week.

It was agreed by all that the precept budget for April 2021 to March 2022 will be increased by £10 to £27,300, proposed Cllr Woollorton, seconded Cllr Akhurst. Earmarked reserves are for one-year expenditure in case the government withdraws its funding and also to put towards recreation space for children.

f. To Consider a Donation to the Claydon & Barham Good Neighbour Scheme. A request has been received from the treasure of the Claydon & Barham Good Neighbour Scheme, they are short of funding to carry out much needed DBS checks on its 12 members. It was agreed by all to give a donation of £144.00 to cover the cost of the DBS checks. Proposed Cllr Akhurst seconded Cllr Woollorton.

g. Thank You Letter Received from the River Gipping Trust. For the recent donation of £50 which Barham has given. The Parish Council agreed what a good job the trust is doing and the Chairman proposed a further £50, seconded Cllr Lea.

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h. Consider a donation to the volunteer street cleaners. The Chairman reported what a good job the volunteer street cleaners are doing along the stretch of Norwich Road up to the Sorrell Horse. They have been doing this for many years. He suggests a donation could be made to them for Christmas, it was agreed by all that a hamper will be purchased up to the value of £100 for the cleaners to share between them. The Clerk to arrange this and to make contact to get the names of all the volunteers, Christmas cards to be sent to them also. Agreed by all, proposed Cllr Wooltorton seconded Cllr Milward.

i. To Approve the Clerks Annual Pay Increase. The Clerk advised that SALC has sent through the 2020-21 National Salary Awards for Clerks from NALC. To be implemented from 1st April 2020, for Barham Clerk June 2020. The Clerk asked the Parish Council if they would consider increasing her pay up to the SCP level 17, £12.73 per hour. She is currently on the SCP 9/10 for Barham and also works for 2 other councils where she is on the SCP level 17. The Chairman would like the Parish Council to consider a pay increase to £7,281.56 as this will acknowledge her 25 year's experience, to be back dated to June from her commencement date as advised by NALC. Agreed by all, proposed Cllr Milward seconded Cllr Lea. The Chairman to carry out an appraisal for the Clerk after her first 6 months, yearly then after.

j. Street Cleaners – Invoice to pay. The invoice has been received for September, October, November total 13 weeks, 91 hours, Mrs G Sillett £566.80 & Mrs M Sillett £226.72. The Chairman advised that at the last Parish Council meeting the cleaners had been asked to provide a detailed update of the areas they cover within the village and the jobs they do along with detailed hours, times and jobs done. However, this has not been received with the November invoice. It is therefore difficult for the Parish Council to know what has been done and the street cleaners are never seen. Would not like to think they are duplicating the jobs which the volunteer cleaners do. The Clerk advised that the Community Caretaker Grant will rise from 1st April 2021 to £8.91 per hour. Clerk to send a letter to the Street Cleaners to advise them of the pay increase. Also, to ask them once again, to provide a detailed update of the areas they cover within the village and the jobs they do along with detailed hours, times and jobs done eg weekly timesheet as the Parish Council must see evidence. Also ask them if they are happy to continue doing the job. This was agreed by all and the current invoice to be paid, proposed Cllr Milward seconded Cllr Lea.

8.12 CORRESPONDENCE – To report to councillors on any correspondence recently received.

a. MSDC Joint Local Plan Pre Submission. Cllr Lea advised that MSDC asks local councils to inform of any plots land in the area which could be used for development. There is currently one site in Barham which is by the Sorrell Horse but the Parish Council would strongly object to any development there. The Clerk to submit the above objection to MSDC before the deadline 24th December, Barham Parish Council unanimously agree that they do not want any new developments in Barham.

The Chairman advised that it was a disappointing result of planning questionnaire's received back from the Barham residents, but thanked the 138 who did so. Results posted on the Barham website, unanimously do not wish to see a development on the Norwich Road site. The Chairman and Cllr Lea have had many meetings with Pigeon developers and MSDC and that application 1856/17, is going to be looked at by MSDC planning referral committee on 20th January 2021.

b. Quiet Lanes Initiative – Bull Road, Barham. A letter has been received from Hemingstone Parish Council informing that they wish to nominate Bulls Road starting from the junction with Bells Cross Road and where it continues into Church Lane in Hemingstone for consideration in the SCC Quiet Lanes Project. Would Barham Parish Council support this? It was agreed by all that it does.

c. Henley Community Hall. Cllr Lea Suggests that the Clerk contacts the Clerk of Henley Parish Council for details of there new Community Hall. This could be used as a model for Barham to work towards and also to ask how the project was funded?

9.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1st March 2021, 7pm in Barham Church Hall.

24th May APM & AGM, 6th September 2021, 6th December 2021

The meeting ended at 9.16pm

Chairman **Date**