

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON ZOOM, ON TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Darren Milward, Cllr Frances Milward, Cllr Jeremy Lea, Cllr Neil Cooper & Cllr Wayne Allan.

Also present: SCC John Field, SCC Adrienne Marriott, BMSDC John Whitehead and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM – SCC John Field informed that he supports the ANPR scheme (automatic number plate recognition), used to discourage those who speed excessively. An ANPR will benefit the whole community and is a move in the right direction.

The Chairman has collated the figures from the new, 2nd VAS which has recently been installed by De Sumerez Drive on Norwich Rd (40mph zone). 8076 cars have passed through since it was installed on 23rd March to now, 6288 were travelling at a good speed, 1810 were travelling over the speed limit and between 55-75mph. One vehicle kept at a constant speed of 75mph to the 2nd VAS sign! The 1st VAS (30mph zone) by Coopers Way on Norwich Road, recorded from the beginning of March to now, 42,131 vehicles passed through. 18,183 travelling at a good speed and 23,945 over 55-75mph. The blue tooth device gives a lot of valuable data and he encouraged Cllr Lea to analysis the statistics.

He has recently met with PC Mike Small the Community Speed Watch officer in Barham and recorded speeding with a hand held device, he prosecuted 2. PC Small acknowledged that speeding in Barham is a major problem. Fatalities have happened in the village which need addressing. The Chairman has asked that he attends the village regularly with the hand-held device. Cllr Lea fears more fatalities will happen again due to speeding in the village and in particular in Sandy Lane by the gravel pit where lorries go in and out.

The Chairman has spoken on many occasions with the SCC Highways officer Mike Motteram regarding the speeding issues in the village, but does not get any results from him.

SCC John Field acknowledged that the figures do give confirmation that there is a real problem. The new VAS which has been installed does help to discourage some from speeding and the results/figures give good evidence. He would suggest other parishes also support the ANPR.

1.4 APOLOGIES

a. Apologies for absence. Cllr Brenda Mitchell, Cllr Cassey Woollorton, Cllr Andrew Akhurst & PC Mike Small

b. Consent/non consent to absence. Consent was granted to the above councillors.

2.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST APPROPRIATE TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations given.

3.4 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF BARHAM PICNIC SITE - Further to the decision made by BMSDC regarding the Pre-Application Enquiry DC/21/00937.

The Chairman advised that he will refer this item to later in the meeting as the district councillor is not able to attend the meeting until 8pm.

4.4 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – To consider this for Barham

The Chairman reported what the Community Speed Watch is all about;

It is an educational scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic though their community (but not in a 40mph zone). The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. Community Speed Watch incorporates poster campaigns and a pledge system linked to direct action using speed detection equipment all under the supervision of the County Council. The use of the radar devices will not lead to prosecution – drivers will get a letter from the police instead – but will help to underline the community's commitment to reducing speed. There must be a minimum of 6 volunteers to take part, but the more volunteers the better. All volunteers must attend the training in order to be able to take part. One volunteer should be identified as a co-ordinator and another as a deputy.

The Chairman asked for Councillors to consider being part of a team with him. Cllrs Frances Milward, Lea & Allan agreed along with SCC Marriott. A dedicated article will be put on website, In Touch and Facebook to encourage volunteers. The Clerk will also invite the local volunteer litter pickers "The Wombles" to join.

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The Chairman will contact PC Mike Small to start the process of a Community Speed Watch for Barham, agreed by all. Clerk to email Tim Passmore to encourage his involvement.

5.4 TO CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE NEWLY SET UP NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP, BACON ROAD – To help fund Neighbourhood Watch Signs.

The co-ordinator of the above has contacted the PC regarding funding for street signs for a newly set up Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Bacon Rd, which is split between Claydon and Barham. Bacon Road has had a couple of instances in recent weeks that have caused some concern to the residents and it's hoped that the NHW scheme will enable all to feel safer. The price for a sign and associated fixings £75 in total. It was agreed by all that the Parish Council will make a donation of £75, proposed Cllr Lea seconded Cllr Allan.

6.4 TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE PROPOSED NEW PLAY AREA AT KIRBY RISE; Safeguarding Policy, Health & Safety, Equal Opportunities.

The Clerk had forwarded the documents to all for consideration prior to the meeting. BMSDC require the documents to be adopted by the PC to progress the grant application for the new play area. The documents will be for Barham Parish Council across the board not just for the play area. However, Cllr Lea suggests that the district council include a clause in the Health & Safety Policy to say that the document is just for the Play Area. It was agreed by all to adopt the above policies, proposed Cllr Milward seconded Cllr Allan. Clerk to complete the appendix D.

The draft Heads of Terms for the lease of the land at Kirby Rise, has been received from BMSDC, which the Clerk has forward to all for consideration. It was agreed by all to proceed, the term of the lease will be for 50 years and no rent will be required. Cllr Lea would recommend that the Clerk informs the district council that the PC approve of the draft and that it is happy to use the nominated solicitor along with paying reasonable costs for the work on the lease & survey.

The Clerk informed that so far she has received back quotes from Playground Facilities, £19,213.57 for 6 pieces of equipment & fencing. The Chairman has also met with Kompan, Wickstead and Sovereign, awaiting quotes. It was agreed by all that the proposed new equipment could be installed towards the middle of the open space, which would help to break up the area and would be away from cars.

The Clerk is also proceeding with grant applications to BMSDC for S106 & Capital Grant funding along with Suez, Virador and Biffa. The district councillors have agreed to give Locality Funding. It is hoped the new Suffolk Council Councillor will also help to fund.

7.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Claydon & Barham Village Hall Committee Meeting. This is to take place on Tuesday 20th April, they would welcome a representative from the Parish Council. As no one from the PC is interested to be a representative, the Clerk to inform the committee.

b. Barham Woods. The Chairman informed that the footpath which runs alongside the woods from Barham Lodge has disappeared and there are not finger sign posts giving directions. Cllr Cooper will go to look and investigate.

Cllr Lea suggests that Cllr Cooper keeps an eye on the activities relating to development works at the wood and report back at the next PC meeting.

c. Tree, Hedge & Wildflower Planting for Parishes. The district council has created an action plan to improve and strengthen biodiversity (wildlife and plant life) in the area and would invite community partners to be part of this. They are offering free trees and hedgerow plants, as well as asking for help in locating areas for wildflowers. Applications need to be in my 20th June 2021.

It was agreed by all that the areas of the village which would benefit from wildflower planning are Jackson Place, Barham Green and Bull Lane. Trees & wildflowers could be planted on the open space at Kirby Rise. The Clerk will apply.

8pm BMSDC John Whitehead arrived at the meeting.

3.4 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF BARHAM PICNIC SITE - Further to the decision made by BMSDC regarding the Pre-Application Enquiry DC/21/00937

Cllr Whitehead reported that further to the pre-application which the Parish Council has made, he can now inform that the district council has come to the following conclusion;

The site is outside the settlement boundary and is noted that it is part of the issue with any residential development. In terms of commercial development this is also not permitted in the countryside unless there is an overriding need for a specific use to be located away from towns and villages. As such this would only be acceptable based on specific end users.

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However, in addition the development of the site would have to have regard to the location within the Lower Gipping Special Landscape Area and the significant habitat potential of the site, as well as the requirement to make alternative provision for recreational space. This is all likely to impact on the type/extent of development acceptable on this site. With regards to other potential uses it will be looked into to see if they could support requirements for pitches / sport opportunities, noting the previous consent for football/recreational use and any other uses are welcomed for consideration.

The Chairman would like the District Council to consider the suggestion which a local businessman has put forward which is for him to take over the site, he proposes to keep half of it as a picnic site and to develop a play area and café. The rest of the site to be used for parking and his storage.

Cllr Whitehead recommends that drawings and a narrative is put together, he is then happy to present this to the district council for a further pre-application. The Chairman to contact the business man to draw up his proposal. If the proposal is not accepted by the district council then Cllr Cooper would suggest that the PC divest it selves from the situation as this has been going on for over 12 years.

It was agreed by all that in its present state the picnic site is a liability which the PC no longer wants to be responsible for. Cllr Whitehead is sorry that this has cost the PC so much effort, time and money looking after the picnic site.

8.4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 24th May 2021 in Barham Church hall. Due to the current Covid restrictions an Annual Parish Meeting will not take place this year.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date