

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BARHAM CHURCH HALL, ON MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Darren Milward, Vice Chairman Frances Milward, Cllr Brenda Mitchell, Cllr Casey Wooltorton, Cllr Jeremy Lea, Cllr Wayne Allan & Cllr Oliver Wastall.

Also present: BMSDC John Whitehead, PC Richard Smith, the Clerk and 8 members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

PC Richard Smith introduced himself to the meeting and reported that over the last 28 days, 13 calls had been logged for Barham, he could only report 2 of the cases to Barham, which are; Interference with a motor vehicle in Foresters Walk and an incident in Sandy Lane where it was suggested that potentially a car was following a young child, however when spotted the car drove off, nothing further to suggest an offence was being committed. In addition to these 2 incidents, he can inform that the offenders have now been sent to prison in relation to the recent burglaries in Claydon. He welcomes positive work from the Barham Community Speed Watch Team.

The Chairman reported to PC Smith that speeds in excess of 70mph have been recorded in Barham. He would like the police to use the statistics downloaded from the VAS as evidence, PC Smith agreed to liaise with the Chairman on this. The Chairman asked that the police speed cam vehicle attends Barham more regular. APNR has not yet been deployed to Barham.

Member of the public present asked that the Parish Council come to a decision this evening regarding item 6.12 g. She also advised that regarding the Heads of Terms for the Picnic Site, she had not given the information previously requested regarding Charity Number and Bank Account information to the PC.

Cllr John Whitehead BMSDC report has been forward to all prior to the PC meeting. He reported on the Joint Local Plan, Local Energy Showcase, Tree for Life and Careeriosity Festival in Stowmarket.

He informed that the new police and crime plan which was out for consultation, closed on 22nd November, recruitment is progressing well and there should be nearly 1400 new officers by March 2023.

1.12 APOLOGIES

a. Apologies for absence. Cllr Andrew Akhurst – SALC Training, Cllr Neil Cooper – Shielding and BMSDC Tim Passmore – Shielding.

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

2.12 COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Declaration of any pecuniary or other interests with regards to any item on the agenda.

Cllrs Mitchell & Wooltorton regarding the picnic site.

3.12 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2021.

The minutes were approved correct, proposed Cllr Mitchell seconded Cllr Milward.

Minutes signed by the Chairman.

4.12 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes were approved correct, proposed Cllr Wastell seconded Cllr Lea.

Minutes signed by the Chairman.

5.12 WORKPLAN AND PLANNING LIST

a. Review of Workplan

The Chairman informed that 3 quotes have been received for a new SID device, the preferred option being from Westcotec, £3240.00 ex VAT. The portable device to be used on the newly erected posts in Sandy Lane & Norwich Road/Coopers Way. Agreed by all to purchase a new SID, proposed Cllr Mitchell seconded Cllr Milward, Clerk to place the order. To be paid for out of the CIL budget. Claydon & Whitton PCC could be asked if they would like to go shares with a 2nd SID device. Highways to be asked to install more posts in Barham for SID to be located.

Chairman's initials.....

SALC Councillor Training, the Clerk informed that Claydon & Whitton PC have agreed that they would like to merge with the PC for the training. Training to commence from April 2022, modules to be merged into 4, £200 plus VAS per session and mileage for the trainer. Agreed by all.

Defibrillator Training, the Clerk informed this will commence after January 2022, cost £100 to the trainer plus mileage. Agreed by all.

Barham Traffic Calming Measures. Costings have finally been received from Highways and forward to all prior to the meeting. The Highways design team has put together an estimate at a cost of £7209.20. The Chairman informed that the traffic calming measures proposed are for larger 40mph repeater signs along with 40mph roundels on the road from De Semurez Drive along Norwich Road to Church Lane. Also to make the junction safer and to make traffic aware of the junction at Sandy Lane onto Norwich Road (taken 18 months to get to this stage so far)!

Cllr Lea would like to bring to the attention of the PC that the cost of £7209.20 could just be for the details of the design to date and not for the actual new traffic calming measures. The Clerk to confirm this with Highways. The PC agreed it is happy to go ahead with the work if it is the total cost.

Another site meeting would need to take place prior to any new works being carried out.

CIL Advance Money, BMSDC Whitehead confirmed that there is at least £25,000 which can be spent by the district council on Barhams behalf.

b. Review of Planning List & To Discuss any new Planning Applications Received

No planning issues to be reported to the PC.

6.12 FINANCE

a. Monthly Payments – to agree the payments for October & November. These were approved by all, October payments £9,906.60, receipts £3,640.64. November payments £1810.54, receipts £240.00. Signed by Cllr Lea. The Clerk informed that confirmation has been received from BMSDC for £2000 Locality Budget towards the new play equipment in Kirby Rise. Cllr Whitehead was thanked for this.

The Clerk also informed that the grant application to SUEZ has been approved, £7966.00 funding towards the new play equipment. The Chairman informed that Simon Marsh is happy to supply and erect fencing around the new play area, free of charge. PC Smith agreed that a 6ft high, anti-climb fence would be appropriate to stop any anti social behaviour. The area could have a lockable gate, which would need to be locked and unlocked by a village resident. The Chairman asked PC Smith to include the new area on its patrol list.

b. Monthly reconciliation – to approve November bank reconciliation. As at 30/11/21 the Current Account £29,463.92, Business Premium Account £34,652.35. Signed by Cllr Lea.

c Spend Against Budget for the 3rd quarter, September to December 2021.

All Councillors have received this in advance of the meeting for consideration.

d. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Income.

The Clerk reported that £3640.64 has recently been received making a total of £4177.98. As discussed earlier money to be used to pay for the new SID.

e. Clerks Annual Pay Increase and Working From Home Pay.

The Clerk advised that NALC has recommended an increase of 1.75% for Local Government Pay 2021 and to be implemented from 1st April 2021 as advised by NALC, The Clerk currently receives £7281.56 salary and is on SCP level 17, £12.73 per hour. Agreed by all that the Clerks salary to be raised 1.75% to £7408.99, £12.95 per hour. The Clerks working from home pay to be increased from £400 to £600 per year. Agreed by all, proposed Cllr Allan seconded Cllr Wastall.

f. To Consider Opting into a Pension Scheme for the Clerk.

Cllr Lea informed that the Parish Council is obliged to do so. Clerk to proceed and get costings.

g. Application from Claydon & Barham Recreation Ground Committee for a grant from the Barham Parish Council Community Infrastructure Levy/S106 towards new play equipment.

A request has been received from the Claydon & Barham Recreation Ground Committee for help with funding towards a new £75,209 project to improve and expand the playground equipment. Claydon PC has pledged £10,000 so would like to request a grant from the PC of £6,500 (60/40 split), however the committee would be pleased to receive any contribution.

The Clerk will ask Cllr Whitehead if the PC can request that a donation of £6,500 is paid out of the District Council CIL Advance money. If the money is not available to be spent on the Recreation Ground play equipment then it was agreed by all that the PC will make donation of £6,500 from its own funds. Proposed Cllr Allan seconded Cllr Wastall.

h. Annual Donation to Claydon & Barham PCC.

It was agreed by all to make the annual donation to the Church of £550

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i. Annual Donation to the Good Neighbour Scheme.

A request has been received from the Good Neighbour Scheme, it was agreed that as the Parish Council had supported the scheme last year a donation of £150 will be made out of this financial year.

j. To Consider a Gesture of Good Will to the Wombles Litter Pickers.

The Chairman would like the PC to acknowledge the fantastic work which the volunteer litter pickers carry out around the village, in all weathers. It was agreed by all that the same gesture would be made as last year, 3 Snape Maltings Hampers up to the value of £350 in total. The Clerk will organise this. Head Womble thanked the PC, this gesture really is greatly appreciated by all the fellow Wombles of Barham.

k. To Consider Donations to – River Gipping Trust, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, Headway.

The Clerk advised that £1,063.23 has been spent so far on donations, therefore leaving £1,936.77 to spend. It was agreed by all to give £500 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, and £250 each to River Gipping Trust, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Headway. In addition, a request has been received from Claydon & Barham Village Hall who are carrying out urgent maintenance work on the roof, a further £600 is needed to help pay for new roof trusses. Agreed by all to give £600.

All of the above payments and donations were approved by all, proposed Cllr Wastall seconded Cllr Woollorton.

l. CTP payment (Contributing Third Party) Relating to the SUEZ Grant towards new play equipment at Kirby Rise.

The Clerk reported that further to the successful grant application approved by SUEZ for £7966.00 towards the new Kirby play equipment, a CTP payment had to be made by the PC for £916.09. Approved by all.

m. To Review and Approve the Precept Budget 2022 – 2023

The Clerk had forwarded the draft budget to all in advance for the meeting for consideration.

Cllr Lea suggests that PCSO/Security is now removed from the budget, agreed by all. The Chairman recommends that PC Expenses should be raised to £2500.00, training raised to £1000.00, PC expenses raised to £8500.00, village maintenance reduced to £2000.00. This will result in the precept remaining the same as the current precept budget, £27,300. Agreed by all to set the forthcoming precept budget at £27,300, proposed Cllr Mitchell seconded Cllr Lea. Earmarked reserves are for one-year expenditure in case the government withdraws its funding and also to put towards recreation space for children.

7.12 REPORTS – Councillors to report on any meetings that they have attended since the last Parish Council meeting.

Village Hall Committee, Cllr Mitchell has nothing further to report.

Claydon & Barham Recreation Ground Committee, Cllr Allan informed that the play equipment is being repainted.

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

a. Parish Council Planning and Finance Meetings.

A village resident has asked that the PC consider reinstating monthly Planning and Finance meetings. The Chairman advised that SALC had confirmed that the PC are conducting its business correctly. The Clerk will continue to forward planning applications to the 4 councillors who are the planning representatives. Plans are advertised on the PC website and at PC meetings also advertised on the BMSDC website. If any controversial planning applications are received then an extra ordinary meeting would be called. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council finance is handled in a transparent way, advertised on the PC website, audited by internal auditor and external auditor. Cllr Lea also checks the bank reconciliation on a monthly basis. The PC agreed that they are happy to continue with the satisfactory way that the planning and finance is handled.

b. Draft Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils Housing Land Supply Position Statement Consultation November 2021. The document has been circulated to all.

c. Neighbourhood Plan. Claydon & Whitton Parish Council has resolved to commence a Neighbourhood Plan and have invited Barham along with Gt Blakenham Parish Councils to join in with a joint plan. Consultants would need to be employed to undertake the bulk of the work at a cost of between £16,000 and £25,000. It was agreed by all not to go ahead with this as the PC is unable to commit to the work involved. Planners do not take in consideration neighbourhood plans when agreeing to let planning developments go ahead!

Chairman's initials.....

d. Barham Picnic Site – Heads of Terms.

The Chairman explained that there has been a misunderstanding between the Parish Council, SCC and the Picnic Site Community Group, there is no lease to surrender back to SCC, the Parish Council are the owners of the Freehold for the picnic site. The SCC Legal department has advised that they cannot confirm Heads of Terms to the Picnic Site Community Group. Cllr Lea would like to propose that the process is moved quickly on and that the Parish Council considers the Draft Heads of Terms which he has prepared and has been forward to all in advance of this meeting. He recommends that the PC proceed as Land Lords. (SCC cannot be the Landlords).

Cllr Woollorton expressed that his committee are all keen to proceed with the Picnic Site. He also advised that a lease could be finalised in a matter of weeks.

The Chairman asked the Parish Council if it is happy to continue to proceed with SCC legal team preparing a lease? 5 of the Councillors present are not happy for SCC to proceed. However the Picnic Site Community Group Site has stressed that this is the preferred route for them and urged the Parish Council to agree.

The Parish Council therefore agreed to proceed with Suffolk County Council preparing a lease for BPSCP, but is not happy with this route. It would be preferred for the Parish Council to prepare a lease (which would be quicker and not so costly). Cllr Lea suggests that the BPSCP gets a quote from solicitors for legal fees. The PC will also need to instruct a solicitor.

9.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING & DATES FOR 2022

Monday 7th March 2022. The meeting ended at 8.52pm

Chairman

Date