

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st November 2010 in the Church Hall at 7.00p.m.

Present: T Girling (Chair), G Musson, C Stokes, H Whitefield, J Lea, R Farrow (Clerk), J Field (County Councillor), M Touman (District Councillor) and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies: D. Milward, J Risbrow, A East, N. Cooper, C Howard (PCSO), M Redbond (District Councillor)
2. Members Declaration of Interest: None

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Girling welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the situation since the letter was sent to all residents of Barham Green. He said that he has been assured that Travellers, if they return, would be removed as soon as possible. The last group of Travellers have now been settled elsewhere and should not return. Mr Girling went on to say that he and Mr Musson attended a Seminar re Common Land, but no information was available with regard to the Barham situation. Efforts will still continue to get hold of Mr Picton Phillipps and a permanent notice will be erected on the Green indicating no vehicles allowed etc. (wording to be decided).

Mrs Wright then raised the subject of other problems on the Green, such as parked and abandoned cars, a caravan, boats and builder's rubble. Mr Girling said he is willing to write to the offenders if names and addresses are supplied, failing that he will call round and if necessary arrange a Solicitors letter.

Mrs Garwood said that the post box at Barham Green is in a very dangerous position and questioned if this could be removed to a safer place. It was advised that she should write to the Post Office authorities.

Mr Girling finally said that the existing notice board would be replaced at the same time as erecting the no vehicle notice.

Items 6 and 7 brought forward to allow Councillors Field and Touman to attend another meeting. Both Councillor Field and Councillor Touman gave their reports (copies on file)

Mr Lea considered that a letter should be written expressing an opinion regarding the railway station extension of planning application..

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st September and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 17.9.10 were signed by the Chairman as being a true record.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes:
 - a) Update re Travellers encampment on Barham Green. Mr Girling said that since the letter to the commoners (previously circulated), he had sought a meeting with the Solicitor who works in conjunction with Keren Wright which confirmed that everything is in place to deal with the problem should it occur in the future. The question was raised as to whether we can claim back from the owner of the land the expenses incurred.
 - b) Barham Picnic Site: Minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on the 13th October had previously been distributed. No further information has been received from Mr Hindle with regard to transferring the assets from SCC to the parish council. Mr Lea considered we should fix a further meeting, but Mr Stokes said there is no point in doing so until we know there is definite information available.

5. Police Report: Report received from PCSO Cat Howard which was distributed in the room. Mr Girling reported that he had attended a meeting with Inspector Duncan and Mr Jenkyns along with Claydon and Gt Blakenham PC's to discuss PCSO Howard's role in the area. It was considered that using her time to patrol the industrial areas should not be at the expense of seeing her and her police car in the villages. There is also a lot of time spent at the schools, although it was pointed out by Mrs Whitefield that this was an investment in the future. It was considered that because we pay for our PCSO we should have the power to decide what she does.
Mr Girling said a meeting is to take place with Inspector Gary Duncan shortly to discuss funding the PCSO in the future. So that he can have a clear idea of what members want of our PCSO, he asked for their opinions before the meeting on the 10th November.
8. Chairman's Report: Mr Girling reported fly-tipping at Kirby Rise and a problem with the dog waste bin at Thornhill Road, both problems now having been sorted. Regarding the proposed new notice board at the Green and the notice prohibiting vehicles, Mr Girling asked if it is agreed that he should go ahead. The cost of the boards would be in the region of £600 and they would be made from recycled materials. It was agreed unanimously that Trevor should go ahead.
9. Highway Matters: Mr Girling said that following forwarding residents' letters of complaint concerning A14 noise levels, a very detailed response was received. Mr Musson has passed this to everyone who was concerned.
10. Street lighting – nil to report.
11. Treasurer's report: A list of cheques issued since the last meeting and the bank reconciliation were approved.
Audit for the year ending 31st March 2010 has been completed and there are no issues arising. The annual return was therefore approved and accepted by the Council.
12. Planning matters: Phillipps Road application has been refused.
13. Correspondence: Details of the planned merger of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.
14. Reports from appointed reps:
Recreation Ground: Mr Girling reported that there has been recent vandalism. .
Village Hall: Mr Stokes was unable to attend the recent meeting as he had not received details in time.
Community Hall: The last meeting was missed by T Girling and G. Musson. AGM is on 16th November.
Parish Liaison – Mr Musson reported that the proposed merger of Mid Suffolk and Babergh was the only subject covered. A further meeting has been arranged to deal with outstanding items on the agenda.
15. Matters raised by members: Mr Lea asked what the position is re the Doctor's surgery. Mr Girling replied that Dr Thomas is not working at present, but locum doctors are in place.
16. Date of next meeting – already arranged for 10.1.11.
Finance meeting confirmed as the 15th November.