

## **BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CLAYDON AND BARHAM VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2014**

**PRESENT:** A. East, T. Girling, D. Milward, G. Musson, Miss C Webb, District Councillors M. Redbond and J. Whitehead, County Councillor J. Field and PCSO Matt Brown

#### **1.6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman welcomed Judy Wright, Secretary of the Barham Green Resident's Group who was attending for an update regarding the enforcement case for no.4 Barrack Cottages.

Mr Redbond reported that he had visited the site and had met with Carmel Driscoll, the Enforcement Officer, to discuss the case. Ms Driscoll was satisfied with the condition of the front garden and was still working in co operation with the owner to look at clearing the rear garden. She was due to visit the site again shortly and would look at the gas bottles in the front garden. The case will remain open and Mr Redbond will continue to be kept up to date with progress.

#### **2.6 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor J Field's report was circulated at the meeting. (On file)

Councillor Redbond reported that the CYCP scheme had run one session during the recent school half term break. There is concern with continuing funding for this project and he was looking at other avenues for financial support.

Councillor Whitehead reported that Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council's were still looking at the Council's office accommodation.

#### **3.6 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

PCSO Phil Brill's report was circulated prior to the meeting. PCSO Matt Brown gave Councillors some background information regarding the Community Speedwatch Scheme and that Great Blakenham and Claydon & Whitton Parish Council's were looking at participating in a joint scheme with Barham Parish Council.

**4.6 Apologies:** N. Cooper, J. Lea and P. Usher

#### **5.6 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda**

Mr Girling declared an interest in the item regarding Claydon and Barham Recreation Ground Management Committee grant application as he is one of the Council's representatives on the Committee.

**6.6 MINUTES** of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were approved and signed.

#### **7.6 WORKPLAN**

Councillors received an update on the outstanding matters.

02/14 12.2 – Noticeboards – The Clerk reported that she had contacted Grippit UK to place the order for two noticeboards but was told that the Council would be invoiced prior to the

noticeboards being made. Having chased the company many times for the pro forma invoice, this had not materialised. The Clerk has concerns about the financial situation of the company and felt that the order was not being processed. Councillors supported these concerns and agreed that the Clerk consider other noticeboards and report back in due course.

05/14 13.5 – Enforcement Case – land adj Honeymoon Cottages – The Chairman reported that he had visited the site and that PCSO Phil Brill had also visited the site and reported that the caravan had been in situ for a number of years. The Chairman reported that the caravan cannot be seen from the road and appeared not to be causing a problem, but raised concern that this could encourage further caravans on the site. The Clerk had written to Mr Buckingham, Planning Enforcement, highlighting the issue and asking him to confirm that the District Council was happy with the situation. A response had not been received to date.

## **8.6 REPORTS**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the following meetings:-

PCSO Tasking Group – He had raised the concern at the lack of police attendance at Parish Council meetings. PCSO Brill would try to attend the meetings subject to his shift pattern or arrange for another police officer to attend.

Village Hall Committee – He reported that the village hall had Wi-Fi available.

Community Centre – The application to Sita UK for a grant was progressing as was the planning for the 30 year anniversary.

## **9.6 FINANCE**

a. Monthly payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1,187.48.

b. Claydon and Barham Recreation Ground Management Committee – The Chairman reported that the Committee was struggling financially. The accounts for the financial year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 showed a shortfall of just over £700. The largest expenditure was for the annual grass cutting and the insurance, with the only income being received from Claydon Football Club and the Pre School.

The Chairman reported that following the misuse of the zip wire the seat needed to be replaced at an estimated cost of £400 and that the problem of dog fouling on the site needed addressing with the installation of suitable signs prohibiting dogs on the Recreation Ground and play area.

The Chairman believed the best way forward was to meet with representatives from the Committee and Claydon & Whitton Parish Council to look at the financial situation so that future financial management is put in place. Councillors were concerned at the high level of expenditure and felt in principle that the annual grass cutting fee and the insurance should be met by both Parish Councils on a 60 / 40 split.

It was agreed that the Chairman arrange a meeting with Claydon & Whitton Parish Council and the Recreation Ground Committee to look at the financial situation and that in principle Barham Parish Council would be prepared to meet the costs of the annual grass cutting and the insurance for the financial year 2015/16 on 60 /40 split with Claydon & Whitton Parish

Council. In the meantime it was agreed to give a grant of £500 for this financial year towards maintenance costs.

Councillor J Field confirmed that he would be prepared to meet the costs of the replacement seat to the zip wire from his Locality Budget. The Chairman thanked him for his offer of assistance.

### **10.6 BARHAM PICNIC SITE**

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Tim Carr, Claydon Football Club, to ask for the Council's agreement to proceed with the dedication of the Picnic Site to the Fields in Trust – Queen Elizabeth II Fields.

All Councillors had received a copy of the document and a number of concerns were raised. Firstly, that as Landlords should the agreement be with Barham Parish Council not Claydon Football Club, secondly, the document states that the dedication is in perpetuity but the lease to Claydon Football Club is for only 99 years and lastly, that if Claydon Football Club surrender the lease back to the Parish Council would the land be able to be used for purposes other than football pitches or a playing field.

It was agreed that further legal advice be sought by the Parish Council before any consent is given to Claydon Football Club to progress.

### **11.6 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME**

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by PCSO Phil Brill to enquire if Barham Parish Council would be interested in taking part in a Community Speedwatch Scheme. He was considering a joint scheme with Great Blakenham and Claydon & Whitton Parish Councils. The scheme aims to reduce speed in areas of concern.

The scheme would require 6 volunteers from each parish who would be trained with the use of a speed gun. The training and high visibility jackets would be provided by Suffolk Police but the speed gun costs of £70 per month would have to be met by the Parish Councils. Once the volunteers were trained they would be able to record registration numbers of offending vehicles, these details would then be forwarded to Suffolk Police who would issue up to a maximum of two letters to the offenders and then persistent offenders may be targeted for police enforcement.

The Chairman reported that Suffolk Police were attending Great Blakenham Parish Council's meeting next Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, to give a presentation about the scheme, if anyone was interested in attending.

It was agreed that Barham Parish Council supports the scheme if the Council receives six volunteers. It was agreed to advertise in the In Touch magazine, the website and facebook.

Chairman

Date