

## **BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CLAYDON AND BARHAM VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016**

**PRESENT:** S Carr, N Cooper, J Lea, D Milward, G Musson, P Usher, Ms C Webb, County Councillor J Field and District Councillor J Whitehead

#### **1.1 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr Tuppen, as webmaster for the Parish website, highlighted that the site was not up to date and that the Council's facebook page that was linked to the website needed some attention. The Chairman confirmed that the website will be up dated as soon as was practicable and the facebook page will be looked into.

He also raised concern regarding the lack of communication from the Parish Council to parishioners regarding the planning application for 14 dwellings on Norwich Road. The Chairman confirmed that MSDC had failed to inform the Parish Council regarding this application and this had caused problems for the Parish Council in notify residents especially as the application had been submitted by the developers over the Christmas period. The Parish Council had been given an extension of time to submit their response until 5<sup>th</sup> January but was very unhappy with the response of MSDC and would be writing to the District Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns.

#### **1.2 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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

Councillor Whitehead's report was circulated at the meeting. (file)

**1.3 Apologies:** District Councillor J Caston

**1.4 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda**

None were received.

**1.5 MINUTES** of the meetings of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were agreed and signed.

#### **1.6 WORKPLAN**

Councillors received an update on the outstanding matters.

02/15 10.3 – Barham Picnic Site – The Chairman reported that the Parish Council's Solicitor, Prettys, had earlier confirmed that if the Parish Council signed the Licence to Charge document then ownership of the site would transfer to Sport England. Following liaison with the legal department at Suffolk County Council and their advice that this would not be the case, Prettys had now changed their advice and were now advising the Parish Council to sign the document as ownership would remain with the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman sign the document. It was also agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to Prettys raising concerns about the advice given to the Parish Council, the length of time this has taken and that the advice was given by a trainee Solicitor that should have been overseen by a Solicitor.

05/10 – 10.10 – Road Markings – Norwich Road – Councillor Field will approach SCC to find out when the road markings will be installed, including Barham Church Lane.

07/12 – 12.12 – Dog Waste Bin – The Crescent – Mr Cooper confirmed that there is no dog bin in this vicinity. It was agreed that the Clerk order a new dog bin to be installed on the corner of The Crescent.

### **1.7 REPORTS**

There were no reports.

### **1.8 PCSO AND FUTURE FUNDING**

The Chairman reported that following the recent correspondence from Suffolk Police concerning the future of PCSO's, he had arranged a meeting with Claydon, Blakenham and Henley Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of jointly funding a PCSO. Previously the Parish Councils had met 40% of PCSO Phil Brill's post but would now be looking to fund the post fully, and this could be in the region of £32,000, to be met by all the Parish Councils who joined the scheme. Barham Parish Council fully supported the appointment of a PCSO but had to consider the impact of raising the Precept to fund this post. Mr Musson advised that Needham Market Town Council may be interested in funding a PCSO jointly with other parish councils but this had not been confirmed.

It was agreed that the Chairman would update Councillors on the discussions that take place at tomorrow's meeting. Following this meeting he and Mr Musson would be attending a meeting the following evening arranged by Suffolk Police to discuss the matter further.

### **1.9 FINANCE**

- a. Monthly payments – It was agreed to signed cheques to the value of £524.20.
- b. Budget and Precept 2016/17 - Councillors had received the final draft budget and noted the contents of the report. Councillors noted that the Parish Council was still awaiting an invoice for Suffolk Police for the contribution towards the PCSO post for this financial year. It was agreed to budget £5000 in the budget 2016/17 for the provision of a PCSO post but if this appointment was not made the £5000 to be used to pay a lump sum towards the loan from the Public Loans Board that was taken out to fund the street lighting. It was agreed the final precept figure of £24,208 be requested from Mid Suffolk District Council. This represents an increase of 2% over the current year.

### **1.10 BARHAM PICNIC SITE**

This item had been dealt with under the Workplan.

### **1.11 BT PHONE BOX**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had receive an email from the Public Telephone department at BT following a request they had received from a local resident who was interested in taking ownership of the box and converting it into a magazine exchange point for the local community. Unfortunately BT cannot enter into agreements with local individuals, but ownership can be transferred to local Parish Councils for a nominal sum of £1.

The Parish Council had considered similar requests in the past and had raised concerns about liability, the implication of maintenance, legal fees and responsibilities, insurance costs and generally making it a safe place. They also had concerns about future maintenance and responsibility if the residents concerned moved away or did not have an interest in the phone box in the future. It was agreed to write to BT to ask them to answer the questions raised by the Parish Council.

### **1.12 PARKING COOPERS WAY**

Mr Musson gave Councillors some background information regarding the parking problems in Coopers Way that had continued since 1993. The Chairman reported that a resident had written to the Parish Council raising concerns about the safety of Coopers Way and the parking problems with vehicles being parked on bends opposite junctions, opposite driveways and the pavement causing visibility to be restricted even though resident parking areas are provided on the estate but are not always used.

Councillors felt that the best course of action was to approach Suffolk County Council Highways to see if they would visit the site particularly in an evening or a weekend to see what can be done to manage the situation, maybe the installation of double yellow lines on the bends would be appropriate.

### **1.13 PLANNING**

15/4077/FUL – Erection of 14 dwellings, with associated landscaping, open space and infrastructure – Land at Norwich Road

The following comments were forwarded to MSDC – The Parish Council supports this application but would like to raise the following concerns:-

The Parish Council has very strong concerns with regard to the consultation carried out by MSDC. The Parish Council was not notified by MSDC and it is very unprofessional for an application of this size to be submitted and asked for comments over the Christmas period. The application was only highlighted through the weekly list. This has not left sufficient time for the Parish Council to consult with parishioners or for Councillors to consider all the substantial paperwork. Could you please let the Parish Council know why we weren't consulted and could you also confirm which residents were sent the consultation letter.

1. Does the application provided sufficient parking for the properties. Many of these new sites provide inadequate parking which then provides problems later when the development is built.
2. The road layout of the site. The Parish Council has concerns about the access onto Norwich Road. The junction proposed is very close to that of the doctor's surgery directly across from the proposed access and the major junction a few yards along, Barham Church Lane. Has Suffolk County Council Highways considered this in their response. Is this access in the best place.
3. This application is being built on a flood zone. Is MSDC happy with the proposal and the flooding issues associated with this.

4. The Parish Council would like this application considered by the Full Planning Committee not under officer delegated powers. Could you inform me how this application will be dealt with.

5. As regards the Section 106 monies. Could you let me know what this amount is as this is not clear from the documents submitted.

Chairman

Date