

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE CLAYDON & BARHAM VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: S. Carr, G. Musson, W. Allan, J. Lea, District Councillors J. Whitehead and J. Caston and County Councillor J. Field

1.12 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public present who asked for updates on the following:-

- a. Barham Church Lane development – the Chair provided the public with an update. Barham along with Claydon & Whitton Rural Parish Council had met with Pigeon, at their request, to discuss minor changes they had made to the plans for the development. There were no significant changes from what the councillors could tell. The Pigeon plans now indicated that houses nearer to church would become bungalows. At present no copy of the changed plans has been received. The Chair confirmed that there is still no firm date for when this application will go before Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee.
- b. Joint Neighbourhood Plan – the Chair provided an update from the recent meeting he attended with representatives from Claydon & Whitton Rural Parish and Great Blakenham Parish Councils. The meeting was attended by representatives of Planning Direct. The chair emphasised that even with the support of an organisation such as Planning Direct there would still be a significant amount of work for councillors to complete. The next meeting of the three parish council representatives is on Monday 18th December.

2.12 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Field's report was presented at the meeting (see file)

Councillor J. Caston reported that there was a Council Tax Reduction Scheme that had a consultation period, which was November 2017. This is something that the Parish Council was not aware of. He also reported that Mid Suffolk District Council were working with Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury to help tackle an increase in homelessness, and had received £96'000 of funding. They have taken on more staff for this and are looking at preventative ways to reduce those sleeping rough.

3.12 APOLOGIES: N. Cooper, D. Milward and A. Deveney

4.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST APPROPRIATE TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Chairman S. Carr declared an interest to item 13 on the agenda – the Claydon Primary School proposal for joining South Suffolk Learning Trust, as he is the Chair of Governors at the Primary School and the Chair of the SSLT. Vice Chairman G. Musson to chair the meeting for this item.

5.12 MINUTES of the meeting of 6th November 2017 were approved and signed.

6.12 WORKPLAN

Claydon and Whitton Rural Parish have agreed to a joint approach for speed signs in the villages and the council will discuss this at January's meeting.

Clerk is to contact Mid Suffolk District Council regarding an update for Planning Applications 0928/17, 10 dwellings on land off Norwich Road and 0085/17, 27 dwellings near Pesthouse Lane.

7.12 REPORTS

Councillor G. Musson reported that Claydon and Barham Village Hall's stage is due to be repainted week commencing 18th December for a week but it will be back in action by January 2018.

The Chair reported that the Recreation Ground Committee held their planned budget meeting and had a proposal for the parish's contribution to this. Please see the agreed amounts below in item 8.12 (d).

8.12 FINANCE

- a. Monthly payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1036.10.
- b. The CYCP funding was discussed and the Parish Council agreed to continue financial support to the sum of £500.
- c. The Parish Council discussed the DPO costings for the new Data Protection legislation. It was agreed that the clerk should contact SALC expressing our interest in joining their proposed scheme but also to ask what due diligence processes have been undertaken to achieve best value for Parish Councils.
- d. The Parish Council agreed to the Recreation Grounds proposed funding requirements for 2018/2019 and will pay the funding in two instalments of £1'000 each. First instalment April 2018 and the next being in September 2018 once their budget has had time to be reviewed.
- e. Following agreement by councillors the Clerk and the account signatories completed the closure request form for the Santander account and move the funds to the parishes Barclays Savings account.

9.12 PLANNING

Councillors were reminded that the De Saumarez Drive development would be discussed by the MSDC Planning Committee on Wednesday 13th December.

10.12 REVIEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS DOCUMENT

The Parish Council have received and approved the revised version of Barham’s Financial Regulations document. This will now be reviewed on a yearly basis.

11.12 CHRISTMAS STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME

The Parish Council have agreed to keep the street lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve, which is the same as Claydon & Whitton Rural Parish Council and any street lamps owned by Suffolk County Council.

12.12 CLAYDON AND BARHAM WEBSITE UPGRADE

The Parish Council discussed options for moving forward in January 2018 once the website upgrade is complete and the Webmaster wishes to relinquish his duties as webmaster. The council recognised that this may be the opportunity to contact other local website owners to see if there is an opportunity to consolidate on to one platform.

13.12 CLAYDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Parish Council heard representation from others connected to the schools proposal to join the South Suffolk Learning Trust and learned about their views. Following this the councillors present could see no reason to not recommend in the absence of an alternative.

14.12 FLY TIPPING

This item of the agenda has been deferred until the next parish meeting, as the councillor taking the lead on this had to give his apologies.

Chairman

Date