

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE CLAYDON & BARHAM VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT: S. Carr, G. Musson, W. Allan, N. Cooper, A. Deveney, District Councillor J. Whitehead and County Councillor J. Field

1.1 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was four members of the public present who presented the council with a list of questions that they would like answered and a proposal for the Barham Picnic Site (see file). The Chair thanked them for their proposal, but the Parish Council could not consider it as Claydon Football Club were tenants of the site.

2.1 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor J. Whitehead reported that earlier that day Cabinet had approved the 2018 / 2019 budget with the 1/2% Council Tax increase, the Cabinet had also given its approval to help fund the Regal Theatre improvements in Stowmarket and the boundary review proposals were due to published on Tuesday 6 March.

3.1 APOLOGIES: J. Lea, D. Milward and District Councillor J. Caston

4.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST APPROPRIATE TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Councillor N. Cooper's sons play for Claydon Football Club but he did not see this as detriment to decision making for the picnic site and the other councillors agreed.

5.1 MINUTES of the meeting of 8th January 2018 were approved and signed.

6.1 WORKPLAN

The joint approach for speed signs in the villages is still in the hands of District Councillor J. Whitehead to order with the localities fund before this expires in the middle of February.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted BT regarding the phone box and they explained that it was due to be removed, as part of the street ratification programme. However, BT were unable to commit to a date of when this would be.

Bells Cross Road, road signage is still on the list of items to be completed and County Councillor J. Field explained that it was now going to cost more, as it would involve temporary road closures for this to happen.

7.1 REPORTS

There were no meetings attended since the last Parish Council Meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor G. Musson would contact the village hall to see when their next meeting was and to ask them to include the clerk in their emails for reference.

8.1 FINANCE

- a. Monthly payments – It was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £3454.18.
- b. Street cleaning pay increase – the Council received a letter from Mr & Mrs Sillett asking them to consider increasing their hourly rate. After discussion regarding this the Council agreed to increase their pay to £7.85 per hour with immediate effect.
- c. GDPR – following agreement to buy into the DPO Centre service for Data Protection the Council needed to agree the category of cover they would like to take. After discussion the Council asked the Clerk to contact SALC to let them know that they would like to sign up for Category 1.

- d. Asset Register – the Council reviewed the Parish Councils Asset Register and noted that the Clerk had updated this to show the disposal of the old laptop, the addition of the new laptop, printer, parish mobile and storage shelves and boxes, as well as adding a total figure for the Parish Councils assets, as required for audit purposes.

9.1 PLANNING

The Clerk reported that Mid Suffolk District Council was asking for comments to be submitted regarding the re-consultation of planning application 1856/17. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply that Barham Parish Councils response was the same as the previous submission.

At last month’s meeting Councillors agreed to write to MSDC on behalf of residents raising these issues and other planning matters. The Clerk did this on the 16th January but is still awaiting any response from this.

10.2 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

11.2 FLY TIPPING

A member of the public had raised concerns with Councillor A. Deveney regarding the correct process for getting rubbish removed. District Councillor Whitehead stated that fly tipping should be reported to Mid Suffolk District Council who normally responded quickly to such requests.

12.2 PICNIC SITE UPDATE

The Clerk was able to update Councillors regarding recent communications from Prettys

13.2 MERGER OF BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Parish Council were all in favour of the merger, as it was the logical approach. The survey needed to be completed by end of today. The clerk was asked to respond as follows, agree to the merger but to also pose the question regarding who made the choice to move their office location to Endeavour House, which does not fall in either of the council’s areas.

14.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Parish Council considered correspondence received from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association and it was agreed that the council would not contribute at this time it would concentrate on the local organisations.

Chairman

Date