

BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN BARROW VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM ON MONDAY 5th February 2018

Present:

Mr G Judge (Chairman) Mr Z Kronbergs Mr J Pearson	Mr P Wesley Mr D Holmes Mr D Cousins	Mr Wilcock Mr R Ford Clerk in attendance: Kat Bowe
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Minute Ref		Action
5129	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Sanders and Country Councillor Soons	
5130	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None	
5131	<p>PUBLIC FORUM <u>School Transport</u></p> <p>Cllr Judge welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. Having read the consultation paper from Suffolk County Council (SCC) prior to the meeting he recognised that it was a great concern to many parents in the village. Viv Hughes (Chair of Governors at Barrow School) was asked to clarify what they would like the Parish Council to do and what steps she would like them to take as they have no role in the decision making process.</p> <p>Viv Hughes thanks the Parish Council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting (although confirmed she herself did not raise the matter with the Parish Council). The SCC's proposed changes to the school transport policy are a concern for many parents. The plan is to move away from the tradition catchment areas for school to a policy of nearest school. In addition to this the proposal removes priority transport areas. These were put in place so that the transport policy and the admissions policy worked hand in hand.</p> <p>It is estimated that the average cost for every parent would be in the region of £960 per school year. The consultation presents three options. Option 1 – agree the proposed changes, option 2 agree to the changes being phased in gradually, option 3 no change. People are being urged to have a look at the consultation and individuals are being urged to strong object to options 1 and 2.</p> <p>The proposal was deemed hugely discriminatory towards Barrow and other schools in the three-tier system. Although it claims to be fair and transparent by offering free transport to the nearest school, the offer of free transport to the nearest two-tier school stands, even if the nearest school is actually within the three-tier system. This is highly discriminatory.</p>	

	<p>Thurston will also be badly hit by this proposal with an estimated 840 students losing their right to free transport. The implication this proposal would have on children attending Barrow school is as follows: Reception to Year 4 = Barrow School Year 5 – Year 6 = Risby School Year 7 – Year 8 = Westley School Year 9+ = King Edwards VI School The above is subject to there being spaces available at these schools.</p> <p>The Department of Education document makes it clear that there is a statutory duty to provide transport to schools. Cllr Judge questioned how SCC think they can get away with the proposed changes. He confirmed he would be going onto the website to make his point. He also encouraged individuals to lobby County Councillor Soons who needs to stand up for Barrow who are currently being discriminated against.</p> <p>Mrs Wightman asked “Can the Parish Council put in a Parish Council response?”. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to SCC outside of the consultation.</p> <p>Mr De Mello asked “Can the Parish Council write to every member of the cabinet?” It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the members of the cabinet.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson stated that as Barrow has been identified as a key service centre, cutting of the school transport is unsustainable.</p> <p>One member of the public stated that as a consequence of removing the free transport the cost per child to attend school could be as much as £12,000 over the course of their education, unaffordable for most parents.</p> <p>Cllr Judge confirmed that something similar was rolled out in Essex seven years ago and to date the savings have amounted to only 10% of the predicted savings. And, in York they have made the decision to deliberately include Academy Trusts in their transport policies. The current Government has actively encouraged the move to academies and free schools across the country. The ultimate consequence will be that people will be driving their children to school.</p> <p>Cllr Judge confirmed that the Parish Council give their full support. A letter will be constructed, separately from the consultation which will be sent to the Cabinet members of SCC.</p> <p>Karen Soons will be available on 13th February in the committee room details to be confirmed if anyone would like to meet with her to discuss.</p> <p><u>Trees</u> Mr Dunning raised the following concerns regarding trees in the village:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watson Way – Hopkins Homes planted two trees at the entrance and one has died. Cllr Wesley confirmed this had been reported and Hopkins were going to sort it out. 2. Brittons Pond – There is a self-seeded Willow tree is this going to be left or removed? The Parish Council will look into it. 	<p>GJ</p> <p>GJ/Clerk</p>
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	<p>3. There is a Beech hedge near the bottle bank, will it be a hedge or left to become trees? The Parish Council will look into it.</p> <p>4. Brittons Crescent – The trees are huge and need cutting. Cllr Judge confirmed this land is owned by the Borough and not the Parish Council.</p> <p>5. Tree at the back of Meadow Way – as this tree is not on Parish land, the owner needs to be approached as asked to maintain it.</p> <p>Borough Cllr Houlder was asked to look into having the trees cut on Brittons Crescent.</p> <p>Last year a tree was removed from Papeley Meadow by the Borough Council, which was meant to be replaced. Cllr Houlder was asked to find out when this would happen as residents have been complaining.</p>	<p>IH</p> <p>IH</p>
5132	<p>To receive the Community Police Report.</p> <p>None</p>	
5133	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Having been previously circulated the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 were proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Wilcock with all Councillors in agreement. The minutes from the planning meeting on 15th January 2018 were proposed by Cllr Wilcock and seconded by Cllr Pearson with all Councillors in agreement</p>	
5134	<p>Matters arising from the last meeting (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</p> <p>a) Communication strategy including Newsletter and social media This has been an ongoing issue for some time. There is a significant social media presence within the village. Cllr Pearson questioned whether it would be a good idea to have a social media policy giving the Parish Council a 'right to reply'. Cllr Judge was concerned that this could get into a 'tit for tat' scenario. In the past couple of months, the Parish Council have begun issuing statements on social media, in particular in response to the A14 closure. He deemed this the right approach. People are entitled to have their opinion. In the previous edition of Newslink, within the Parish Council update, members of the public were encouraged to attend the Parish Council meetings to raise any concerns they had. It was agreed that statements would be issued as and when necessary.</p> <p>One post recently listed potholes, speeding and drainage and stated that the Parish Council did not care about these issues when in fact these are some of the main issues that the Parish Council focus on.</p> <p>The Parish Council must recognise that not everyone wishes to engage in social media and therefore it is important that the Parish Councils communication strategy included everyone where possible.</p> <p>The Clerk updated the Parish Council on Newsletters and what other Parishes were doing.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Judge confirmed that prior to the Parish Council issuing their own Newsletter, the preference was to have the Stile delivered to every household in the Village, within the Stile would be an update from the Parish Council. However this would have been of significant cost to the Parish Council and Risby would continue receiving all of the income generated from advertising. It was agreed that the Parish Newsletter would not be full of advertising and luckily so far the majority of the cost has been funded through sponsorship. It was agreed that Newslink in its current form could be improved. One option was to increase it to bi-monthly, however this would rely on the volunteers delivering it to be happy to do it more often which could cause a problem.</p> <p>Cllr Cousins stated that there currently is not much in it. Could people write articles for it? Cllr Cousins, Cllr Holmes and Cllr Kronbergs all stated they would be happy to contribute to it to make it more interesting. Local societies could also be given the opportunity to include articles. Cllr Judge proposed that what was needed was an Editor to take on some of the additional responsibility. Cllr Kronbergs volunteered for this. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Kronbergs to discuss way forward. Next deadline for articles is the end of February.</p> <p>b) Parish Council notice boards Cllr Ratcliffe was going to approach Vinnie Snell about making a notice board for village events to be publicised on, keeping the Parish Council ones clear for statutory notices. Cllr Wesley confirmed he would ask Vinnie and report back. Cllr Holmes asked if the notice board could be left unlocked, this is not really an option as there needs to be an element of control over what goes in there. He also asked if minutes could be put on the notice boards, however this is not possible as they are often in excess on 8 pages and therefore there is not enough space. It was agreed that there could be a notice directing people to the website for the recent minutes.</p> <p>c) Parking at the pond Cllr Wesley will source a 'No Parking' sign to put near the pond to discourage people from parking on the verge.</p> <p>d) Book exchange The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Bolton Bros regarding the request for a paper/book bank however they were not able to help as the village is slightly out of their area. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to see if they can help. In the meantime a notice will be put in the book exchange directing people to the recycling centre in Bury if there are too many books as they have a specific book recycling bank.</p> <p>Cllr Kronbergs obtained a quote for decorating the book exchange of £400. It was agreed it would be best to find volunteers to paint the book exchange. Cllr Pearson confirmed he would donate the paint.</p> <p>The Clerk obtained a quote to have the trees cut back which was £80. This was proposed by Cllr Wilcocks and seconded by Cllr Wesley with all Councillors in agreement. The Clerk will accept the quote.</p>	<p>ZK/Clerk</p> <p>PW</p> <p>PW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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5135	<p>VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>a) Village ponds It was agreed that the Parish Council would make some money available for the upkeep and maintenance of the pond opposite the Three Horseshoes pub and the pond on the corner of Brittons Road. The Parish Council have received a quote for £830 for the pond opposite the Three Horseshoes pub (the silt will be removed by Cllr Wesley) and £5,600 for the pond on the corner of Brittons Road.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson arranged for part of the pond near the pub to be cleared to enable SCC to survey it.</p> <p>It was agreed that the work on the ponds needs to be carried out and Cllr Judge and Cllr Wesley will obtain two additional quotes.</p> <p>b) Poplar trees on Playing Field The Parish Council have been advised to reduce the height of the Poplar Trees at the Playing Field. One tree surgeon has been spoken to and he has suggested that before a decision is made, the ivy around the bottom of the trees needs to be removed to allow for a full inspection. Once the decision to cut them has been made, this will become regular expenditure as will need to be complete regularly to keep on top of them.</p> <p>This is on hold until more information/advice is obtained.</p> <p>If the Parish Council do go ahead with this a public statement will be issued on social media explaining the reasons.</p> <p>c) Path to Town Estate Room During a recent health and safety inspection the path to the Town Estate Room was deemed unsafe. The Town Estate Room have agreed to cover the cost of repairing the path, however as this crosses Parish Council land if someone was to trip the responsibility would be questionable. It was agreed that the quotes need to come via the Parish Council and the work needs to be completed to Parish Council specification. The Clerk will obtain some quotes.</p> <p>The path to the Playing Field is due to be repaired week commencing 21st March. This path will be closed for the duration of the repair (anticipated to be approximately one week). A statement will be issued on Facebook advising people to enter the Playing Field via Ley Road for the duration of the repair. A notice will also be put on the notice board.</p> <p>d) Request for new bench Agnes McDonald has emailed Cllr Judge asking if he could install a new bench or bus shelter in the village in memory of his late father. It was agreed that a bench would be best. One suggestion was for one to be situated next to the village sign. All Councillors were happy to agree this request.</p> <p>e) Dog bin on Grove Park The situation with dog fouling on Grove Park is becoming a public health matter. It was agreed that a combination rubbish and dog poo bin would be installed on Grove Park, probably opposite the electricity sub station, next to</p>	<p>GJ/PW</p> <p>GJ</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>the path on the green. This was proposed by Cllr Wesley and seconded by Cllr Holmes.</p> <p>There is one offender in particular, Cllr Judge asked if the Borough Council would consider enforcement action is a name and address was provided. Borough Councillor Houlder was happy for the information to be provided to him.</p> <p>Borough Councillor Houlder was also asked to investigate why the bin at the cemetery and the bin in Brittons Road Carpark are no longer being emptied regularly.</p> <p>f) Access to properties on The Green The access road to the properties (opposite the hairdressers) is in very bad repair. Lots of cars use this access. The Clerk will obtain three quotes to have it repaired.</p> <p>g) Street cleaner for Denham Cllr Cousins raised the issue of litter in Denham. Currently a number of local residents help to keep on top of it but he felt they could benefit from having a street cleaner like Barrow does. The question was asked, would Sylvia want addition hours? Also, as there are no pavements, it is not very safe. There would be a concern if the Parish Council were to employ a street cleaner due to road safety. There would also be insurance implications due to the safety.</p> <p>One other option could be to contact the probation service, they may be prepared to put Denham on the community service rota.</p> <p>h) 39 The Street The occupant of 39 The Street will be sent a letter from the Parish Council in relation to the destruction of the verge instructing them to stop driving over Parish land and to reinstate the verge. If they wish they can apply to the Parish Council, requesting to install a dropped kerb at their cost.</p> <p>i) A14 closure Work on the A14 is now complete (finished Friday 2nd February). Cllr Judge attended a meeting on Friday with Jane Storey. They acknowledged that communication had not been of a high standard and that no proper risk assessment had been carried out. The official diversion was a strategic diversion route designed to deal with an emergency, not for a three month closure. Other Parishes were at the meeting and although Barrow suffered, the people of Hengrave suffered very badly. Highways England were asked about compensation for the damage that has been done and they claimed that it was not their fault that the diversion didn't work and that contractors didn't enforce it. Cllr Judge used that stretch of road twice and neither time was it closed at Junction 38 like it should have been. Highways England have been asked to rethink their stance based on the fact that no risk assessment was carried out and the diversion route was not enforced. They will report back in to weeks after further discussions have taken place. Currently the Parish Council does not feel hopeful of receiving any compensation.</p>	<p>IH</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>Cllr Judge asked why no contraflow was put in place, this is because it would have been expensive to do and a risk assessment would have needed to be carried out.</p> <p>County Councillor Soons has been very proactive on this matter and organised the meeting last Friday.</p> <p>Once the weather has improved, the Parish Council will obtain quotes to get the Greens repaired.</p> <p>The Parish Council have received a quote of £100+VAT for the repair to the damage caused to Burthorpe Green due to a HGV getting stuck. The owner rang and offered to pay for the damage caused.</p> <p>j) War memorial The War Memorial is now a Grade II listed building. This could help with grant applications in the future.</p> <p>The Clerk is still trying to obtain a third quote for the maintenance needed.</p>	Clerk
5136	<p>BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic strategy going forward will be discussed tomorrow, there is a £40m fund to be invested in West Suffolk • Borough Cllr Houlder does not anticipate any changes for Barrow as a result of the Electoral Review, the number of District Councillors is decreasing from 72 to 64 • The Budget is currently being done, St Edmundsbury will freeze council tax but other lines will increase. <p>Cllr Judge asked if a freeze in council tax would result in the reduction of services. Borough Cllr Houlder said he hoped not, but services have already been reduced, such as having the bins emptied fortnightly and the charge for the brown bin. Currently Forest Heath pay less council tax than St Edmundsbury and with the two councils merging this gap needs to be reduced. The amount Forest Heath pays will have to increase to match what is paid by St Edmundsbury. Currently St Edmundsbury is debt free with reserves, these reserves are being used to keep council tax down. Some services have been outsourced to reduce costs. The company used to collect rates is owned by a number of councils and they generate money by offering their services to other councils eg their bailiff services. St Edmundsbury also sell their IT services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in minimum wage and inflation causes problems. The Borough Council are currently going to the market to find people with expertise such as Lawyers and accountants, the market is very competitive and private companies are also looking to recruit these individuals. • The Borough Council does a lot to support the Town Council and contributes to cost of cutting grass verges, litter picking in town and supporting community centres. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently £33k left of the Rural Initiative Grant and £1,200 left in the locality budget, Cllr Judge enquired if some of this could be used to repair to damage to the verges, Borough Cllr Houlder to make some enquires. <p>Borough Cllr Houlder was asked if he would be willing to make nominations for the community award, apparently ward Councillors can make two nominations during their time in office. Cllr Judge stated he could think of two or three people to nominate within the village.</p> <p>Borough Cllr Houlder was asked to report the new playground sign just passed the 40mph limit on Colethorpe Road as it does not have planning permission.</p> <p>Cllr Houlder also confirmed he would make enquiries about the replacement tree on Papeley Meadow</p>	
5137	COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT Cllr Soons was unable to attend the meeting	
	General Data Protection Regulations The Chairman spoke to a City Lawyer regarding the Data Protection Regulations and was advised that we do as SALC have recommended we pay for the company suggested to be our Data Protection Officer and provide us with ongoing advice and training. The cost of this would be £600 in year 1 and £300 thereafter per year. The Parish Council could be deemed to be failing in their responsibilities if they don't follow what is recommended. This was proposed by Cllr Wesley and seconded by Cllr Kronbergs with all Cllrs in agreement. This decision will be reviewed after the first year.	Clerk
5138	Annual Parish Meeting The Parish Council are required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting once a year in April. The only person from the Parish Council required to attend is the Chairman. In previous years, the meeting has consisted of a Parish Council report followed by reports from other organisations within the village. This isn't necessary. It was suggested that instead of the above format, the Chairman of the Parish Council will give his report, then the Parish Council will try and source some guest speakers who could hold a question and answer session. Possible speakers include Leader of Suffolk County Council, someone from Highways and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Judge to send invites asking them to attend.	GJ
5139	ACCOUNTS A) Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Cllr Pearson, seconded by Cllr Holmes, with all Councillors in agreement. B) To confirm payments (see next page)- Proposed by Cllr Cllr Cousins Seconded by Cllr Kronbergs Other invoices include: Verse - £176	

	<p>Hammond Ford - £210</p> <p>These were proposed by Cllr Wilcock and seconded by Cllr Ford with all in ageement.</p> <p>PAYMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5th February 2018</p> <div><div>2017/2018 Accounts</div><div><div>EXPENDITURE</div><table><tr><th>Cheque No.</th><th>Payee</th><th>Amount</th><th>Notes</th></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>S Finlayson</td><td>£160.00</td><td>November cleaning</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>McGregor Services</td><td>£768.00</td><td>Hedge cutting and ditch clearing</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>S Finlayson</td><td>£200.00</td><td>December cleaning</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>INL</td><td>£840.00</td><td>October cutting</td></tr></table></div><div><p>Amounts owed to Parish Council</p><table><tr><td>CDC</td><td>£80</td><td>Contribution to <u>Newslink</u> – Sept 2017</td></tr><tr><td>H Price & J Barclay</td><td>£25</td><td>Allotment rent</td></tr><tr><td><u>J Goadby</u></td><td>£25</td><td>Allotment rent</td></tr><tr><td>K Bird</td><td>£25</td><td>Allotment rent</td></tr><tr><td>M Burton</td><td>£25</td><td>Allotment rent</td></tr><tr><td><u>E Volkert</u></td><td>£15</td><td>Allotment rent</td></tr></table></div></div> <p>c) To approve payment to Suffolk County Council for works on Bury Total cost £2,369.59. SCC require payment in advance. In the past some villages that have agreed to contribute then haven't. Cllr Judge has written to Jane Storey accepting that payment must ben made in advance but prior to payment the Parish Council want to have an agreed start date for the works. This was proposed by Cllr Wesley and seconded by Cllr Holmes with all Councilors in agreement subject to receiving an agreed start date.</p>	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Notes	BACS	S Finlayson	£160.00	November cleaning	BACS	McGregor Services	£768.00	Hedge cutting and ditch clearing	BACS	S Finlayson	£200.00	December cleaning	BACS	INL	£840.00	October cutting	CDC	£80	Contribution to <u>Newslink</u> – Sept 2017	H Price & J Barclay	£25	Allotment rent	<u>J Goadby</u>	£25	Allotment rent	K Bird	£25	Allotment rent	M Burton	£25	Allotment rent	<u>E Volkert</u>	£15	Allotment rent	Clerk
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5140	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>DC/17/2643/HH 8 Bury Road, Barrow, IP29 5DE Household planning application – single storey rear extension</p> <p>No objection</p> <p>DC/18/0045/HH Briarwood, Colethorpe Lane, Barrow, Suffolk, IP29 5BGHouseholder planning application – Two storey side extension on west elevation</p> <p>No objection</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>																																						
5141	<p>To note the following planning determinations</p> <p>None</p>																																							
5142	<p>Planning Appeal</p> <p>DC/17/0754/FUL Sheldon, 2 Stoney Lane, Barrow 5 no. Dwellings with associated access, garaging and car parking. AP/10/0004/REF - Appeal against refusal</p>																																							

	<p>All the comments made previously will go forward but the Parish Council has the opportunity to make addition comments via the planning inspector.</p> <p>Cllr Judge and Cllr Wilcock will work on this and provide a detailed response including photos to the planning inspector ahead of the deadline date (5 weeks from appeal date of 18th January).</p>	GJ/MW
5143	<p>Village Hall Report</p> <p>The village hall management committee now only meet every six months. Cllr Ford to find out plans for the bar area. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the agenda. Tom Wesley can provide information re the village hall in Newslink.</p>	
5144	<p>Correspondence To note the following items of correspondence received since the last meeting and agree action as appropriate:</p> <p>14.01.17 SALC Pensions – Auto enrolment</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>03.01.18 SALC Cremation Regs 2017</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>07.01.18 Karen Soons Thingoe South Division December round up</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>11.01.18 Planning direct Neighbourhood planning service Should Barrow have a Neighbourhood plan? – It costs a lot of money, it was agreed to wait until the next round of consultation for the next vision document before reconsidering.</p> <p>11.01.18 West Suffolk Council West Suffolk Electoral Review</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>12.01.18 West Suffolk Council Strategic Framework</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>15.01.18 Karen Soons Cedar Road</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>15.01.18 Local resident Large Lorries in and around Barrow</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>17.01.18 Suffolk Highways Tayfen Road junction improvements</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>For Information</p> <p>17.01.18 Karen Soons Increase in hourly rate for childcare providers in Suffolk</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>17.01.18 Local resident Junction on Bury Road</p> <p>No white lines or give way sign. This has been reported.</p> <p>17.01.18 Local resident Trees in the village and school travel consultation</p> <p>Dealt with in the public forum.</p> <p>22.01.18 INL Landscapes Public liability documentation</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>27.01.18 Local resident A14 Road Closures</p> <p>For Information</p>	
5145	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 5th March 2018, Committee Room, Barrow Village Hall at 7.15pm.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 9:20pm</p>	

Signed: (Chairman)

Date.....