

# BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF BARROW VILLAGE HALL ON Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Present:**

Cllr R Rawlings Cllr Wesley Cllr Holmes Cllr Cousins	Cllr Ford Cllr Pearson Cllr Kronbergs Cllr Steer	Cllr Bragg  Clerk in attendance: No Clerk, Minutes taken by Cllr Kronbergs
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Minute Ref		Action
<b>6330</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>                      Cllr K Rawlings, Cllrs Ford and Wesley joined the meeting at 7:20 and 7:25 pm, respectively.</p>	
<b>6331</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b>                      Cllr Steer declared a pecuniary interest in Items 8 and 9 (Neighbourhood Plan).</p>	
<b>6332</b>	<p><b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>                      There were 8 members of the public present.</p> <p>A member of the public drew the Parish Council's attention to the damage to the grass verges outside the Village Hall and the duck pond caused by lorries and parking cars. Cllr Pearson said he was disappointed by this behaviour and indicated the Parish Council may seek quotes from contractors to instal flexible bollards outside the Village Hall. Another member of the public suggested 'Keep off the Grass' signs. Cllr Pearson commented on the issue of overflow parking on The Green outside the Weeping Willow. The management had been asked to remind customers of the prohibition of parking on The Green.</p> <p>A representative from Fleur Homes reported on the public meeting his company had called in connection with the proposed development off Church Road. Fleur was aware the site was currently deferred but the company was currently collating responses, many of which had been favourable.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether it was true that West Suffolk Council (WSC) preferred the Bury Road site whereas the Neighbourhood Plan had selected the Barrow Hill sites as the preferred option. Another member of the public asked whether the Inspector would have to review the Church Road option if there were enough representations in its favour. Cllr Rawlings explained that the Church Road site could not be considered for the emerging Local Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) as it had been deferred by WSC but the ultimate decision on the NP would be the public's, via a referendum.</p>	

6332	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>The draft minutes of the meeting of 6 March had been circulated prior to the meeting. Subject to two amendments, their approval was proposed by Cllr Rawlings and seconded by Cllr Wesley. All councillors were in agreement.</p>	
6333	<p><b>Actions from Last Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Footpath resurfacing. A quote had been sought from Mike Nunn whom Cllr Pearson would be meeting the following Tuesday. Section 106 monies may still be available.</li> <li>(b) Highways re hedges. There had been no response yet from Highways.</li> <li>(c) Notice of Election – Clerk. The notice had been posted on the Notice Board.</li> <li>(d) Freedom of Information re gas main works – Cllr Pearson had made further FOI requests to ask what other payments WSC had received from the contractors concerned or their agents.</li> </ul>	
6334	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</b></p> <p>County Cllr Soons was not in attendance and had not submitted a report.</p>	
6335	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Remedial works Bury Road, Little Saxham 388419. Information had been received and Cllr Pearson feared the works would be prolonged.</li> <li>(b) Continuing works for new medium-pressure gas main on Bury Road and Little Saxham. See Minute [5(d)].</li> <li>(c) SCC resurfacing public footpath. The Parish Council had been informed that the County Council proposed to provide an unsealed surface for FP 12 as shown on the map that had been circulated to councillors. There were no objections.</li> </ul>	
6336	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b></p> <p>Cllr Rawlings reported there had been no further developments. There had still been no announcement from the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities on a further year's funding of Locality grants for communities such as ours preparing Neighbourhood Plans. It was still expected that funding would be renewed but failing which, the Parish Council would have to decide whether to provide funds from its own resources to complete the plan process.</p> <p>As previously reported, discussions had continued with prospective consultants. After a positive response from Turley, Planning Direct had reversed its position and also provided a quote. It had not been possible to obtain a third quote, although some dozen consultants had been approached.</p>	
6337	<p><b>Future of the Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To make a decision on committing Parish Council funds to complete the NP. The Parish Council had thus far not had to incur any costs on the NP process as it had been fully funded by Locality grants. If this funding was no longer to be available, the Parish Council would have to commit funds of approximately £20,000 to complete the NP process, failing which the NP would have to be abandoned.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Cllr Kronbergs spoke in favour of continuing with the NP. It would be a dereliction of duty to abandon the plan after all the work that had been done on it. Cllr Pearson reminded the meeting that the NP was about a lot more than just sites and housing numbers. Cllr Ford also spoke in favour of continuing.</p> <p>All councillors eligible to vote were in favour of continuing.</p> <p>(b) To discuss/accept quotes from planning consultants. As previously reported, two quotes had been received. Turley had quoted [£13,850 – check amount]; Planning Direct had quoted £13,500.. Cllr Rawlings recommended Turley. On a question from Cllr Kronbergs, he agreed that Turley's quote had not included costs for the Regulation 14 consultation, whereas Planning Direct had included this element.</p> <p>Cllr Kronbergs said that while he was now satisfied that Turley would not have a conflict of interest (it had previously acted for two of the three Barrow Hill landowners), there was nevertheless a risk of a public perception of such a conflict, so he could not support Turley. On a vote, Turley received 7 votes, Planning Direct 1.</p>	
6338	<p><b>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</b> District Cllr Houlder was not in attendance and had not submitted a report.</p>	
6339	<p><b>To receive the Community Police Report</b> Cllr Rawlings delivered his report (see Appendix 1).</p>	
6340	<p><b>Election</b> Valid nominations had been received from 7 councillors. As a result, there would be four vacancies going forward. Cllr Pearson thanked retiring councillors (Cllrs Bragg, Kronbergs, K Rawlings).</p>	
6341	<p><b>Community infrastructure</b> £850 from Cllr Houlder's locality budget had been awarded to the Village Hall Committee as a contribution to the Barrow Yoga Club Pilot project. The Parish Council would have to process the funds in the usual way.</p>	
6342	<p><b>Clerk Vacancy</b> There had still been no interest in the position of Clerk. Cllr Pearson reported that should the need arise, a clerk could be supplied by SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) on a meeting-by-meeting basis for a fee.</p>	
6343	<p><b>Correspondence from resident – assessments for determining preferred location for further development</b> The process of site selection had been based on assessments provided by the Parish Council's independent consultants AECOM. If residents were concerned, they should make representations to WSC. Cllr Rawlings would respond formally to the resident</p>	
6344	<p><b>Locality budget</b> £1,750 from Cllr Houlder's locality budget had been awarded towards the Coronation celebrations.</p>	

6345	<p><b>Pond survey</b> The Parish Council had been contacted by [xxx] concerning permission to carry out [Edna] surveys of the Parish Council's ponds on behalf of an undisclosed client. The Parish Council would refuse to cooperate as [xxx] refused to disclose the client's identity.</p>	
6346	<p><b>Coronation of King Charles III</b></p> <p>(a) Event. Cllr Steer reported on the plans. The advertisement for the party, which would be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, had been placed on the website and Facebook and would be advertised in the village shops and doctors' surgery. A banner would be displayed on the Village Hall.</p> <p>(b) Coronation lime trees. A resident had offered to donate two 6ft tall lime tree saplings to be planted somewhere appropriate to mark the Coronation. Possible locations were on The Green opposite the Jubilee bench and adjoining the Mill Lane allotments. Cllr Wesley would revert.</p>	
6347	<p><b>Weekend, tradesmen and construction work</b> Complaints had been received from a resident about noise generated by weekend working. The resident would be advised this was a matter for the Environmental Health department of WSC.</p>	
6348	<p><b>Community rights in England – planning</b> Correspondence had been received from a resident of Red Lodge about a power the Parish Council may have to grant planning permission via the NP in certain limited circumstances. The correspondent would be advised that the NP was not the appropriate vehicle for this.</p>	
6349	<p><b>Fairground request</b> A request had been received to hold a funfair on The Green from 24-31 July. Permission would be granted.</p>	
6350	<p><b>Anti-litter signs (Cllr Cousins)</b> Cllr Cousins had been advised that the signs would cost £70 each. Permission would have to be sought from Highways to plant them on the verge. He had found two possible locations in Denham and would circulate proposals to councillors.</p>	
6351	<p><b>SCC e-mail: VCFSE Sector grant funding alert – April 2023</b> Noted and circulated.</p>	
6352	<p><b>Freedom of information request – Gas Main Works</b> A second response was received stating a formal review had been carried out and additional information was given. The total value paid to SCC was £6,940 with subsequent amendments of £1,400. The Parish Council were not happy with the response and wish to challenge it further.</p>	
6353	<p><b>SALC</b></p> <p>a) SALC ebulletins Circulated for information</p>	

6354	<p><b>Financial Matters</b>  The previous month's papers (already approved) had been erroneously circulated to councillors. The current papers were not available, so the matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
6355	<p><b>PLANNING</b>  There were none.</p>	
6356	<p><b>To note the following planning determinations</b>  DC/23/0039/VAR  Holiday Lodge Site Weeping Willow 39 Bury Road Barrow Suffolk  Planning application - variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of DC/21/1840/FUL to enable amended plans for change of use from amenity land to seven holiday lodges      Approved</p>	
6357	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Committee Room of Barrow Village Hall at 7:15pm.   The meeting was closed at 9:03pm</p>	

Signed: ..... (Chairman) date.....

## COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT – APRIL 2023

### MESSAGES CASCADED

There were no messages to cascade this month.

### REPORTED CRIME FOR THE MONTH FEBRUARY '23 = 1

#### Violence & Sexual = 1

CATEGORY	LOCATION	TIMELINE/ACTION
Violence & Sexual	On/near Poplar Close	Under investigation

I have written to our Community Police Office, PC Lee Andrews-Pearce and asked the following:

1. Sent copy of crime statistics for the parish and asked for comment, with particular emphasis on lack of convictions.
2. Requested that the Kestral team undertakes speed checks in the village.
3. Suggested that we hold an 'Open' event for residents to meet him, despite the poor attendance at last year's event.

Ralph Rawlings

6<sup>th</sup> April 2023