

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BARHAM CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 2ND AUGUST 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Darren Milward, Vice Chairman Frances Milward, Cllr Jeremy Lea, Cllr Neil Cooper, Cllr Wayne Allan, Cllr Brenda Mitchell, & Cllr Andrew Akhurst.

Also present: BMSDC Cllr John Whitehead, 27 members of the public and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Member of the public would like to raise the following;

Heavy goods vehicles coming out of Barham pits, are causing the road to break up by De Saumarez Drive.

Large vehicles are parking on the Picnic Site, he understood that the site was to be retained for recreational use.

He did not know about the meeting this evening and has not seen it advertised! Would the Parish Council consider another notice board more central to the village?

The 40mph VAS sign is erected 20 yards away from the start of the 40mph speed limit and would be better placed with the 40mph sign by De Semerez sign. The bank is grown up and the sign cannot be seen.

The Clerk advised that she will report the road breakup on the Highways Fix My Street Reporting tool and encouraged all to do the same.

The Vice Chairman advised that the Picnic Site will be discussed.

The Clerk informed that PC meetings are always advertised on the village notice board which is by the Co-op, however it would be a good idea to have another noticeboard in the village. The meetings are also advertised on the village website www.barham-suffolk.org.uk and in the monthly In Touch magazine. However Extra Ordinary meetings may not always be advertised in the In Touch due to the short notice of meetings being arranged.

Chair advised that the 40mph VAS sign is erected on a post which was approved by Highways and cannot be moved.

Member of the public informed that they are unable to find minutes on the website of a Parish Council meeting which agreed the previous parking of heavy vehicles on the picnic site. Who had given permission for the parking of heavy vehicles? The Clerk confirmed that there are no minutes which state granting the permission (It was missed out in error from the minutes dated 7th December 2020).

Member of the public, also referred to the Land Registry document which says that the Picnic Site lease states that it must be used for the use of recreational and leisure. Has County Council agreed to the parking of vehicles as there could be a breach of contract? If the picnic site were to be sold by the Parish Council it is understood that the County Council would need to have back 75% from the sale and the PC 25%.

Member of the public asked the Clerk to read out 14.3 of the Financial Orders which she did.

The meeting then became rather heated and vocal. The 20 minute Open Forum had overrun, therefore the Chairman asked that the Councillors agree to another further 5 minutes of Open Forum, agreed by all proposed Cllr Allan seconded Cllr Mitchell.

The Chairman informed that the Picnic Site is on the agenda so that the Parish Council can discuss its future. There are already a number of options for consideration and the council has already made a Pre-Application to BMSDC for change of use to light commercial, housing or to sell the land.

A local business man has in fact offered to reinstate the picnic site and provide a café, play area and parking all free to the village. He would use the remainder of the site to park his vehicles and would install another access to do so.

Member of the public gave some constructive support by suggesting that the Parish Council put its proposals in the In Touch magazine and on the website and ask the public for feedback and to carry out a proper consultation with the public. This will then give the Parish Council a chance to put the site to good use for the village, as it hasn't been used for 12 years.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for this suggestion which the PC will consider doing. However in the past when the PC has asked the public for input with the Picnic Site, none has been received. The PC has had the topic of what to do with the picnic site at its meetings over the last 12 years and now wants to finalise its future.

Chairman's initials.....

Members of the public gave suggestions of use, community gardens, allotments, running track, adult gym equipment.

Cllr Mitchell would like to speak as a member of the public, having declared a pecuniary interest, she informed that her family has previously offered £150,000 to put the picnic site back to how it was and for the benefit of the general public. The picnic site should be retained for recreational purposes and money would be best spent on it for this purpose rather than the new Kirby Rise Play area.

When a member of the public gave the land (picnic site) to Suffolk County Council, there was a covenant which stipulated that the land must remain for the people of Barham.

She informed that the lorries currently parked at the picnic site must be removed as it is a breach of contract which with the county council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Open Forum.

1.8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a. To Receive Apologies for Absence. Cllr Cassey Woollorton due to work commitments & District Councillor Tim Passmore, holiday.

b. Parish Council to give Consent/Non Consent to Absence. The Parish Council approved the absence.

2.8 COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Declaration of any pecuniary or other interests with regards to any item on the agenda. Cllr Brenda Mitchell relating to the Picnic Site.

3.8 TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF BARHAM PICNIC SITE.

The Chairman reported that further to the PC meeting which took place in June he has met with 2 valuers at the site who have given a value of approx £50,000 to £150,000 if sold in its present state, but many conditions apply to the land. If the site was used for commercial then the value would increase to £400,000. The reports received from the valuers have been emailed to all.

The options which the PC might consider are;

- Put the picnic site up for sale on the open market
- Take up the offer of the local business man
- Apply for change of use (however covenants apply)
- PC/village to make good use for recreational purposes
- Or leave as it is

The Chairman asked the Parish Council if its wish is to put the picnic site up for sale on the open market (as is) at a reasonable price? A vote was taken by a show of hands, 2 against the sale and 4 support the sale. The process to see the picnic site will begin.

The Chairman reported that K2 Recovery has asked to park its vehicles again on the picnic site for up to the next 3 months. As they are working with Highways England to recover vehicles which break down on the A14 during the current road works. K2 Recovery will only be operating during the day not at night time. They will pay the PC £450.00 a week, which could equate to £5400 over 3 months. This would be money which could be spent on the new Kirby Rise play equipment as another £8,000 is still needed.

A vote was taken by a show of hand, 5 agreed to the parking of K2 Recovery vehicles again for up to 3 months and 1 against.

4.8 TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM CLAYDON & BARHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE, FOR A GRANT FROM THE BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - To improve the play equipment at the Claydon & Barham recreation ground.

A letter has been received from the Claydon & Barham Recreation Ground Committee informing that they would like to request a grant from the parish Community Infrastructure Levy set aside for community facilities. This would be a contribution towards a £75,209 project to improve the playground equipment at the Claydon & Barham recreation ground. They wish to expand the current play equipment to include a toddler play unit, a swing seat suitable for all abilities, a timber trail, an older children's climbing unit and to tarmac the basketball area plus to add more picnic tables. Also, to add a BMX track. A plan of the proposals has been circulated to the Councillors.

The Chairman advised that Barham Parish Council may need to apply for more CIL money themselves to cover the

Chairman's initials.....

cost of its new play equipment on Kirby Rise as another £8,000 is still needed. If the PC was to make a contribution it might be given from its donations budget, which currently stands at £2500 (remaining). Cllr Whitehead informed that Claydon Parish Council has given the committee £10,000 towards the recreation ground.

Cllr Lea proposed that a more formal financial document to support its proposals, is prepared by the Recreation Committee. The PC can then see how the committee proposes to fund the £75,209 project and any shortfall.

The Chairman asked the committee to prepare a document in time for the PC to consider at its next meeting which will take place on Monday 6th September 2021.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

Chairman

Date