

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BARHAM CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Darren Milward, Vice Chairman Frances Milward, Cllr Jeremy Lea, Cllr Neil Cooper, Cllr Wayne Allan, Cllr Brenda Mitchell, Cllr Cassey Wooltorton & Cllr Andrew Akhurst.
Also present: BMSDC Cllrs John Whitehead and Tim Passmore (who is also the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner) 2 representatives from DK9 and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Mr Darren Debenham the operations manager for DK9 Security introduced Laura Zimmerman who is the DK9 Security Patrol Officer for Barham and helps to keep the community safe, currently 5 nights a week. The security officer reported that incidents of fly tipping, anti-social behaviour in teenagers and ad-hoc incidents have all dropped in the village, due to her patrols and the rapport that she has built up with the community of Barham. The scout hut and surrounding garages had always been a problem area with teenagers smoking cannabis, but she has been able to eradicate the problem. However, many of the problems in Barham have been moved out of the village to the surrounding villages and in particular to Claydon and the Recreation Ground. She is extremely passionate in her work and the residents of Barham are now familiar with her patrolling the village at night and they feel safe and secure knowing that she is doing so. She is on first name terms with many residents and often speaks to them in on the street. She will notice if curtains or blinds have not been opened and will therefore check on elderly or vulnerable residents to ensure they are ok. In fact, one night she noticed an elderly gentleman had left a candle burning on the windowsill, so she knocked on his door to advise him and therefore prevented an accident. She notices if garage or shed doors have been left open and will advise to prevent a robbery. Many positive comments from the residents of Barham have been passed onto her. However, there are always a few negative comments also!

The patrol officer explained that whilst she is on duty she has the backup of CCTV, night vision, thermal imagery and her dog. However, the backup from the police is often not on hand. On some occasions when she has needed to hand crime over to the police, there has been no back up when she has rung 999 or 101 to report in particular drug offences (and there has in the past been a great deal of evidence of drugs and dealing in Barham).

DK9 has passed on 36 suspicious number plates to the police which are known and wanted by them! Also on one occasion the police have contacted DK9 for help & evidence for a particular incident. However DK9 are only the eyes and ears of the public, they do not replace the police but are a far better service than a PCSO.

Tim Passmore the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, asked DK9 for the link they have with the police? The DK9 operations manager informed that their only link is ringing 999 or 101 and that they never get feedback from the police when handing incidents over to them. Tim Passmore asked the Parish Council to invite PC Mike Small who is the Community Engagement Officer to attend the Parish Council meetings as this would be a useful link.

Recently DK9 had reported an incident to the police, youths throwing lighted petrol over the bridge down onto the A14 below and have video evidence which had been reported to the police, but the police had not attended.

Tim Passmore is extremely disappointed that the police have not been responding when DK9 has alerted them to crime in Barham and will look into this. He would also like the Clerk to set up a meeting for him to attend along with the Chairman, DK9 and PC Mike Small. Cllr Lea asked that the patrol officer attends future PC meetings to give an update.

Both the DK9 representatives have signed up for the Barham Community Speed watch, they are very aware of speeding through Barham and look forward to being involved with this initiative.

The DK9 operations manager advised that unfortunately they will not be able to operate on reduced hours eg 5 nights a week down to 4 nights a week.

7.45pm Tim Passmore left the meeting.

1.6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a. To Receive Apologies for Absence.** None
- b. Parish Council to give Consent/Non Consent to Absence**

Chairman's initials.....

2.6 COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Declaration of any pecuniary or other interests with regards to any item on the agenda. None

3.6 TO RECONSIDER THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REGARDING RENEWING THE DK9 SECURITY, 3 MONTH CONTRACT, from 4 days back to 5 days.

The Chairman informed that the resolution which the parish council had passed at the last meeting, to reduce the DK9 contract from 5 days down to 4. The current contract ends on 13th June 2021. DK9 has advised that unfortunately, after very careful consideration they have had to take the business decision that it would not be viable for them to accept a new contract for the reduction of hours. Therefore, the Parish Council must decide if it wants to continue with 5 days a week or not to renew a contract. DK9 have informed that they give Barham PC a very heavily reduced rate as a gesture of goodwill, but with the reduction in hours it does not make this a viable business agreement for DK9 Security. They require a minimum of 30 hours per week for this contract. They stated that they were under the impression that the hours per week would increase after the initial trial period and accepted the first renewed reduction. However, DK9 cannot supply a dog handler at 24 hours per week at the current reduced rate.

DK9 would really like to continue with this contract, but they do have to make viable business decisions. They informed that they have fulfilled and exceeded their obligations and feel their services have been very welcomed by the parishioners and residents of Barham. However they do feel sometimes they have been made to look bad but this is due to the non-response of the local police force (DK9 totally understand that the police are very busy and that they provide a very valued and important service. This comment is no way detrimental towards the police force) but this action has given the impression that this is one of the main reasons for the reduction of hours.

The Chairman thanked DK9 for its services to date, the Parish Council has been very lucky to have been able to have the facility since December 2020. If the facility is taken away now the trouble makers will return to Barham and all the good work of DK9 will have been in vain.

Cllr Mitchell informed that she does not think that there is enough crime in Barham to justify the expense of DK9. People should be contacting the police directly to report incidents.

Cllr Woollorton does not think that DK9 are doing a bad job however the Parish Council cannot afford the service, the police should be dealing with the work in the village, which is what we pay taxes towards. Can DK9 negotiate hours with us?

The Chairman informed that the PC had allocated £5000.00 for this financial year for Security/PCSO, this was without putting up the precept. So far the PC has spent £2391.00 (this is after the contribution from a local businessman of £1,350.00), £2609.00 remaining in the budget for security/PCSO. Barham had also offered Claydon Parish Council the service of DK9 to monitor the recreation ground for £100 a week, but they had declined.

Cllr Lea advised that as the country is slowly coming out of Lockdown more people will be returning to the streets again and trouble/anti social behaviour may return! A solution could be for DK9 to work between Barham & Claydon and to share the cost. He asked BMSDC Cllr John Whitehead, also Claydon Parish Councillor, if Claydon may consider this. Cllr Whitehead informed that like Barham Parish Council it does have financial reserves it could use without putting up the precept. He will take this suggestion back to Barham Parish Council for their meeting on 28th June.

The Vice Chairman informed that to share the cost with Claydon PC as follows; suggest 5 nights a week (6 hour shift), £22,600 a year, minus £7,000 contribution from the local businessman = £14,820. Shared between the 2 Parish Councils, £7,410 each.

The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors to vote, to renew the DK9 contract for a further month to 11th July 2021, 5 nights a week, 6 hour shifts. Once Claydon PC has considered the offer from Barham at there meeting on 28th June, then Barham Parish Council will need to make a further decision to agree renewing or dropping DK9. 7 Parish Councillors agree and 1 Parish Councillor objects, therefore the motion was carried, proposed the Chairman seconded the Vice Chairman.

The Chairman proposed that the street lighting in Barham is kept switched on during the night, as it is currently turned off at midnight, this may help to eradicate any suspicious/anti-social behaviour, seconded Cllr Allan. Clerk to contact SCC to request this.

Chairman's initials.....

4.6 DC/21/03053 - Full Planning Application, erection of extension to existing portacabin (relating to planning permission 3550/15), Barham And Claydon Surgery, Kirby Rise, Barham, Suffolk IP6 0AS.

Cllr Cooper advised of the planning application. The previous application to extend in 2016 was not carried out and they now wish to extend with additional portacabins. The surgery is expecting a lot more patients therefore a bigger facility is needed. Plans should have been for a more permanent structure or to move the surgery to the super centre.

The Chairman advised that to extend the current surgery now would jeopardise a new surgery being built on Norwich Road once the new development is built.

It was agreed by all that the Parish Council objects to the planning application, the Clerk will inform BMSSDC.

5.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS. a. DRAFT LEASE – KIRBY RISE PLAY AREA.

The Chairman informed that the draft lease has been sent by the district council to Prettys the Parish Council solicitors. The solicitors are happy with the lease, Cllr Lea and the Chairman have also checked it though and are happy to proceed.

b. Barham Picnic Site.

The Chairman informed that he has so far met with 2 valuers who have given a value of approx £50,000 to £100,000 in its present state. It is worthless without a change of use on it, which the PC is unable to get. If the site was used for commercial then the value would increase to £400,000.

Once all of the reports have been received, then a decision will be made by the PC and the Chairman may call another Extraordinary Meeting.

6.6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 6th September, 7pm in Barham Church Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman

Date