



**MINUTES OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 9th March 2021**

Due to the COVID19 Pandemic this meeting took place virtually using Microsoft Teams following government legislation allowing Parish Councils to undertake meetings in this manner.

Present: Chris Allington (Chair): Dick New (Vice-Chair): Paul Ayling: Phil Cramp: Andy Earwaker: Heather Kilroy: David Phillips: John Robinson: Ella Simmons: Isabel Thurston: Sue Wallsgrove:

In attendance: Alison Crabb (Clerk): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk): District Councillor, Christopher Hughes:

1. Open Public Session – No public present so no issues raised

2. Apologies – County Councillor, Derek Whittington:

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared at this point on the agenda.

4. County and District Councillor Inputs

County Councillor Derek Whittington had given apologies and had nothing specific to report.

District Councillor, Christopher Hughes was present and gave a very brief update on ADC issues that impact on the Parish. He mentioned that the Land South of Barnham planning application had been refused and that ADC had agreed a Council Tax rise of 5%.

5. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26th January 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair of the Council.

6. Finance

6.1 The Clerk had circulated a list of payments made since the last meeting. All payments were **noted** and no issues were raised.

6.2 The Clerk sought approval to the appointment of R S Hall & Co as the Internal Auditor for the Council for the 2020/21 accounts. Unanimous approval was given.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the payments that had been processed since the last meeting**
- 2. To appoint R S Hall & Co as the Council's Internal Auditor**

7. Planning Matters

7.1 The Council **noted** the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 19th January 2021.

7.2 Angel's Nursery Development

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting held with Redrow, the developer of the site, to discuss the potential access points from the site to Murrell's Field as detailed on the planning permission. There appeared to be a major discrepancy between the Parish Council and the developer in terms of the delivery of the two access points show on the approved Plans. The Parish Council believe that the S106 funding agreement will fund a pedestrian only access from the site through to the Field at the top end of the Field closest to the Community Hall and agreed that they would facilitate and fund this. There is an additional pedestrian/cycleway route shown on the plans that should potentially access onto Murrell's Field through to Church Lane and onwards. Redrow informed the Council that it expected the Council to resource this access, including applying for planning, seeking diversion of the culvert and then paying for the works from the S106/CIL funding. The Council informed the developer that they would need to seek further advice/information from the District Council's Planning Officer and the Clerk has since had a discussion with him and a site meeting will be set up in due course to discuss the matter.

Related to this it was noted that when the S106 funds are released there will be the requirement to undertake the project for which the funds are ring-fenced for and that is to install appropriate drainage systems and prepare and seed an area of Murrell's Field to enable sports to take place. It was agreed that firmer plans needed agreeing for this project and Dick New suggested a local firm who specialise in this work might be approached and David Phillips agreed to lead on this moving forward.

7.3 Pre-application discussion with Proposed developer of land north of Spode Cottage

The Planning and Environment Committee had been approached to enter discussions with the agent of the owners of land north of Spode Cottage to build 10 houses with access onto Wandleys Lane. It was noted that this site had been put forward as part of the Reg14 process of the Neighbourhood Plan Review (although not through the earlier Call for Sites) and that the current response was that this site was unsuitable and therefore should not be included. To this end the Council was asked if it felt such a discussion should take place when it was clear that any application for this site at the present time would not receive Parish Council support and the Council would therefore reserve making any comments/objections until/if an application was made. The Council **agreed** that no discussion should take place, but a response would not be sent to that effect until after a scheduled Neighbourhood Plan discussion the following day. In addition the Council **agreed** that further pre-application discussions should only take place on sites that the Council might potentially find acceptable for development even if not included in the Revised Neighbourhood Plan.

8. Revised Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan

Following the closing date of the Reg14 consultation an informal discussion of the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan took to discuss the analysis of the responses undertaken by the Team. Those present gave the Neighbourhood Plan Team guidance and comments on the issues they raised and further work will now be undertaken to finalise the Draft document for approval to move to the next stage of consultation at the Parish Council meeting in April.

9. Community Update

- 9.1 The Assistant Clerk informed the Council that following the recent 'roadmap' announcement it was not envisaged that the Community Halls – both of which are now run by the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust – will open before mid-May and then it may only be for certain groups and activities. However, the Cricket Club hoped to start use of the Pavilion and Eastergate Field in April and potentially Barnham Trojans may get a few sessions in as well.
- 9.2 The Assistant Clerk also updated Council on the work she had been doing in securing grants and support to reach the elderly and vulnerable in the Parish. The latest schemes that have started are regular 'veg box' deliveries and plans to deliver ready-prepared meals. The Council's thanks go to the local suppliers who have supported these schemes at cost or for free. The current Lottery funding received by the Trust has been earmarked for spending by the end of March as required and discussions are taking place to look at future funding.
- 9.3 The Council noted that the majority of the funding for this work is secured by the Trust and that part of the Assistant Clerk's role involves community liaison for the Council.

10. Report by the Chair of the Council

West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) - The Chair updated Council on the latest position in respect of the Council's membership of WSALC and future provision of training and advice that the Clerk can obtain from that membership. There had been several meetings, discussions and proposals, but the latest position and one that on behalf of the Council the Chair supported was that a new Board has been appointed by WSALC and that Board is going to ensure that appropriate advice and training will be sourced and made accessible to Parish Councils moving forward. The Parish Council will therefore be asked to pay the subscription and the Chair recommended and the Council **agreed** that the payment will be made.

Elm Grove South Residents Association – Southern Water and sewer issues – The Chair reported that he had been having lengthy and ongoing correspondence with the Elm Grove Residents Association in respect of the ongoing issues they are still having in respect of the potential connection to the sewer pipes on their private land from the Upton Brooks development. The Association has been in correspondence with Andrew Griffith MP and the Chief Executive of Southern Water but have yet to receive a satisfactory response as to exactly what Southern Water's Plan to resolve the Upton Brooks issue is. The Chair has responded now to say that he would ask Council to resolve to seek a meeting with Southern Water to ask them to discuss and share their Plans for not only this development, but potentially for the whole of the Parish in view of all the anticipated future development from the Strategic Site. He sought volunteers to join him at the potential meeting and Paul Ayling, Sue Wallsgrove and David Phillips put themselves forward with the additional suggestion that the Council looked to invite some local drainage experts who have been involved in historical discussions. The Council also noted that Isabel Thurston, in her District Councillor role, would be participating in a meeting between ADC and Southern Water.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Southern Water to seek to set up a meeting with appropriate representatives to discuss and potentially resolve this matter.

11. Report by the Clerk of the Council

The Clerk mentioned a few issues as follows:

Community Garden proposal – The Council was reminded that grants have been given to the BECT to take forward this proposal and there was the potential to use Community Infrastructure Levy funds that will come to the Parish Council. However, due to the pandemic no progress has been made. It was agreed to revisit the proposal once in person meetings can take place. Isabel Thurston was keen to take this forward and thought she could find volunteers.

PCSO Caroline Wilson had given apologies but informed the Clerk that the current crimes of note in the Parish were mainly related to vehicle crime and break-ins. At this point Phil Cramp mentioned drones flying over the railway line area of the village and also issues of unmarked white vans circulating (and causing residents to be suspicious) were mentioned. The Clerk would pass these issues on to the PCSO.

Other matters the Clerk has dealt with in recent times were noted as:

Flooding from the new development in Lake Lane

Damaged verges in Lake Lane

Litter problems all across the Parish – in respect of this the Planning Committee have agreed to consider reconvening organised litterpicks (as per the latest Council newsletter) once the meeting of small groups of people are allowed and the Clerk has a list of potential volunteers from both ends of the Parish.

In response to a question the Clerk reported that she and Isabel Thurston would be meeting the WSCC Officer to assess the identified sites for the VAS after which the cameras would be ordered.

12. The next meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. It was noted that currently all meetings will have to resume in person from May.

The Meeting Closed at 9.03 p.m.

Signed by:

Chair, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council