



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2023 AT EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL**

The Barnham and Eastergate Annual Parish Assembly for 2023 took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Eastergate Village Hall. Following the successful format for the event used last year the Council had again publicised the meeting as a 'Community Engagement Event' and once again encouraged excellent public attendance (no official figure but around 40).

These minutes together with the full report of the Chair are published on the Council's website.

**In attendance: Newly elected Parish Councillors: Chris Allington: Phil Cramp: Andrew Crawford: Simon Parkin: David Phillips: John Robinson: Sue Wallsgrove: Chris Wells: Alison Crabb (Parish Clerk): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk and Eastergate Village Hall Manager): Sarah Jolley (Assistant Clerk, Planning) 6 organisations with exhibition stands (Guiding movement; Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust: ABE Parish Churches: Eastergate Cricket Club: ADC new Community Warden; WSCC to promote new bus service in the Parish) Sussex Police PCSOs were to be present but were called away on a 'shout' at the last minute**

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was hosted by the Parish Council and Chaired by, Chris Allington, who welcomed everyone to the event/meeting and introduced the key people at each of the exhibition stands as follows:

Sean Harvey, ADC Community Warden

Pete Edgeler, President, Eastergate Cricket Club

Nina McMaster, Ali Tarbard and Kathy Lanigan, Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust

Father Paul, ABE Churches

Julie Allington, Guiding Movement

Bill Leath, West Sussex County Council

Apologies were received from Sussex PCSOs and 4Sight Vision

### **2. Chair's Report for the year 2022/23**

A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes and covers the following areas:

- Organisation structure – with strong Councillors we have been able to focus on some key areas such as improving the Community we live in through a People, Places & Spaces, Community Resilience, Litter picking all assisted by some excellent volunteers and staff
- Planning & Environment Committee – whilst unable to stop large developments being imposed on us due to government policy the Committee do have small wins on other development proposals and the Neighbourhood Plan, and the strong policies it contains, enables them to get significant changes made to the large development in terms of design, sustainability and other areas of concern to residents.

- Strategic Plan – As already mentioned we have put in place Working Parties to help take forward some of the key strands in the Plan and we continually monitor and update the content of the Plan to keep it relevant.
- Community Infrastructure Investment – through S106 receipts and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts that come to us from developments that we have had to accept we are able to make investments in both small projects (VAS, new gateway signs, litter picking and some new ideas are coming forward such as a Community Garden) and larger projects (new entrances at both Barnham and Eastergate halls) and we also have funding for improvements to Murrell's field.
- Community Programmes – working with the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust and with a large National Lottery Project funding we continue to provide new and existing community programmes at both our Halls to improve community cohesion
- Volunteers – we couldn't achieve a lot of what we do without the fantastic work of our volunteers (more than 100)

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The minutes were approved and the Chair signed a copy.

### **4. Question Time**

The Chair gave those present the opportunity to ask questions and the following were noted:

- Asked to list 5 things we had achieved the Chair responded as follows, with some input from the Chair of Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust:
  1. Attracted over £200k lottery investment to take forward a programme of community engagement.
  2. Infrastructure improvement projects from CIL funding as already mentioned
  3. Litter picking initiative which is growing and engaging more volunteers
  4. Lottery funded 3-year programme to develop community cohesion with focus on the isolated and lonely; young people; life skills development and; a staffed community hub.
  5. Planning permission for a porch and store extension to Eastergate Village Hall and a porch on Barnham Community Hall. Funding for these projects secured with a mixture of CIL and grants.
  6. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 monies secured from developers to invest in Community infrastructure projects. Over £150k thus far attracted and a range of smaller projects funded.
  7. Masterplan being created for Murrells Field and £120k secured to invest in it. Public consultation on designs in 2023.
- Car Parking problems in Barnham Village Centre both in terms of the charging issues and time limits on the car park behind the Coop and the lack of enforcement for those who ignore the parking restrictions on the main Barnham Road. In response the Chair was able to inform the meeting that the car park is privately owned by the Trust who own Barnham Square but working with them we have managed to ensure that better signage and a longer 'free' time period is available. They will also be installing a pay machine by the disabled bays. On the enforcement issue ADC officers do come round but probably not regularly enough so the Clerk agreed to raise the matter again.

## **5. Conclusion**

The Chair closed the meeting and invited all present to take the opportunity to engage with all the exhibitors present, to mingle and chat with Cllrs and neighbours and to enjoy the refreshments provided.