



**BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 31st OCTOBER 2023 AT BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**

Present: Chris Allington (Chair): Phil Cramp: Andrew Crawford: Heather Kilroy: Simon Parkin: David Phillips: James Roberts: John Robinson: Sue Wallsgrove: Chris Wells: Penny Wycherley.

In attendance: Alison Crabb (Clerk): Gemma Hindson (Assistant Clerk, Planning).

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Gemma Hindson the new Assistant Clerk to her first meeting of the Full Council.

1. Open Public Session

No public were present.

2. Apologies for absence

Trevor Bence (WSCC): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk, Community)

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded to make any declarations of person and/or pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda or at any time during the meeting should the need arise.

4. County and District Councillor Updates

In sending his apologies Trevor Bence informed the Clerk he had no issues to report.

Sue Wallsgrove in her capacity as Arun District Councillor had no significant matters to update Council on. However, in response to a comment from the Chair she was able to confirm that ADC had identified substantial sums of unspent S106 monies much of which related to affordable housing provision and that she was trying to establish where these funds should be spent.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council's meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 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 details of payments made since the last meeting In September 2023. All payments were **noted**, and no issues raised.

6.2 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the current financial position. No issues of concern were raised and the content was **noted**.

- 6.3** At this point in the meeting the Chair updated the Council on the current Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 funds that have been paid to the Council. In summary:

CIL position - of the £67.7k received £56.6k has been spent or is committed for expenditure, which leaves a balance of £11.1k of unspent and currently uncommitted monies for new projects. There is a 5 year time limit on the spending of these funds so we currently have some time to consider our priorities for these funds.

S106 position:

- (a) the historical funds received relating to previous Eastergate planning applications and ringfenced to be spent on playground facilities has all been spent.
- (b) the £202k received from Angels Nursery and The Lillies developments is ringfenced to be spent on specific works relating to Murrells Field as per a Deed of Agreement. This funding has to be spent within 10 years of receipt so by the year 2032.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the payments made since 12th September 2023**
- 2. To note the current summary accounts**
- 3. To note the current CIL and S106 funding position**

7 Planning & Environment Committee

- 7.1** Sue Wallsgrove, as Chair of the P&E Committee, informed Council that at the present time there had been very few planning applications for consideration and that the last meeting considered one application.
- 7.2** The Chair gave a very brief update on the recent meetings he, Sue Wallsgrove and Chris Wells had had with ADC reps in relation to the BEW Strategic site and in particular the infrastructure investment plans (IIP) for the developments. He had circulated a summary document of those meetings but confirmed that at this moment in time we were still awaiting a copy of the IIP that ADC were to produce. There would appear to be little progress on the large developments moving forward as there were many planning issues to be resolved including the A29 realignment scheme and school places provision. We would continue to keep the pressure on ADC and report further in due course.

8. Community Updates

- 8.1** In the absence of Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk, Community) there was no detailed report. However, the Clerk mentioned that all arrangements for the upcoming Remembrance Service were in place and that many Councillors had agreed to volunteer to marshal and support the event. The Council thanked Julie Allington and her volunteers for putting up the new poppies on the lampposts and the Clerk would ask Nina to confirm Aldingbourne Parish Council's involvement in this activity and the event itself. The Clerk and Chair confirmed that the Newsletter was now with ADC ready for printing and then distribution in the next week or two.
- 8.2** Update on Hall extension projects – Both Hall projects are now progressing and payments are being made using both the BIFFA funding and the Public Works Loan money. Whilst the projects are currently on time, there may be some issues with the supply and installation of the doors for each extension but it was still hoped that the December completion dates would be met. There may also be a need to use some of the contingency funding for BCH to ensure new internal fully accessible doors are supplied.

9. Working Party Updates

9.1 Community Resilience Team – Update on progress by David Phillips

- First Aid Training Courses have taken place with many Cllrs and volunteers taking the opportunity to participate. More will be arranged if demand dictates.
- Leaflet for all household has now been distributed;
- Best forms of communication being investigated and volunteer details will hopefully be forthcoming from the leaflet distribution. WSCC training would then be looked into
- The idea of establishing an emergency Whatsapp group was put forward by the Chair and all Cllrs **agreed** it would be a good idea and the Clerk would ask the Assistant Clerk (Community) to look to set this up.
- Grant funding application to SSEN has been successful and funding will shortly be received to enable the Council to purchase two generators (one for each Hall);
- ADC Emergency Officer has just sent through a potential MoU for consideration to enable the halls to be used as Emergency Centres. It requires careful and detailed consideration before any commitment is made.

During this discussion Sue Wallsgrove took the opportunity to briefly report on the various flooding emergencies that had arisen during the recent heavy rainfall and the potential for more instances with the imminent arrival of Storm Ciaran. Southern Water had responded and the Environment Agency were looking at ensuring the Rife is cleared of debris. She would continue to keep Council updated and would seek support if required.

9.2 People, Places and Spaces (PPS) Working Party – Update by Penny Wycherley and team

Litter Picking - Andrew Crawford reported that the regular litter picking events continued to receive good support and that a useful meeting had taken place with the ADC Cleansing Officer to try and pursue some key matters in the villages.

Simon Parkin updated Council on the excellent progress he had made with Barnham Station Manager, who was very willing and happy to collaborate to enable planters to be installed by the bench by the Railway car park and this would now be progressed.

Plants around the village signs continue to bring forth positive comments and there are plans to look at what other plants should be considered for those locations moving forward.

Planters on lampposts – agreed to leave them up for the time being but replace them in December with some festive wreaths (the Clerk is pursuing the relevant permissions for this change. It has also been agreed that we will ask Aldingbourne Trust to provide and plant up the planters for next year (they have also agreed to store them once taken down) as part of the cost.

Village Garden progress – initial tree felling and clearance has taken place. The water supply will be installed in early December. The Buffer zone with the car park is being discussed with Rob Sparrow. The dog bin needs to be moved and the Assistant Clerk (Planning) was asked to speak with ADC officers for this to be done. It had also been discovered that whilst topographical plans exist for the majority of the Murrells Field site this area for the village garden is not covered. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would ask David Seaman to arrange for a further survey to be undertaken.

Blue plaques – Through discussions with Sandra Lowton (local historian) a list of sites of interest that could have a blue plaque installed had been identified and Cllrs were asked to consider the list and agree those of interest to them.

10. Report by Chair of the Council

The Chair mentioned the following additional items which should be considered as part of the upcoming budget discussions:

- Fencing on boundary between Murrell's Field and properties on Yapton Road.
- Volunteers Event to be organised next Spring
- Communications Strategy to be updated and improved

11. Report by the Clerk of the Council

The Clerk mentioned the boundary issue with Redrow. It has now been confirmed that Redrow are in the process of handing over the buffer zone (the 3m strip from the fences of the homes that are closest to the Murrells field boundary and the tree line of our boundary) to the management company (Remus) who will then be responsible for future maintenance. Once confirmed a contact name will be passed to the Clerk who will ensure Rob Sparrow is informed and works with Remus to ensure appropriate management of the zone.

Eastergate Playing field, playground and pavilion – As part of the planning process being undertaken by Eastergate Cricket Club to install a new net facility on the playing field it has come to our attention that the land has never been formally registered with Land Registry with the original 1972 and 1974 conveyancing documents being the proof of ownership. The Clerk has engaged Surrey Hills Solicitors to formally register the land and will inform Council when the process has been completed.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th December at 7.30 p.m. at Barnham Community Hall. The main agenda item will be a discussion on the draft budget and potential precept level for 2024/25.

The Meeting Closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed by:

Chair, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council