



**BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2024 AT BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**

Present: Chris Allington (Chair): Andrew Crawford: Heather Kilroy: Simon Parkin: David Phillips: James Roberts: John Robinson: Chris Wells:

In attendance: Alison Crabb (Clerk): Gemma Hindson (Assistant Clerk, Planning): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk, Community): County Councillor Trevor Bence: PCSO Caroline Wilson: PS Lou Baileff; 9 members of the public:

1. Open Public Session

Members of the public were present to listen to the meeting and in particular to listen to the report for the PCSO following recent anti-social behaviour in Barnham Village Centre.

2. Apologies for absence

Sue Wallsgrove: Penny Wycherley: Phil Cramp:

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

Trevor Bence gave an update on all the flooding issues around the Parish that he had been involved in along with Sue Wallsgrove and others. He particularly mentioned the current Portsmouth Water issue on Fontwell Avenue and stated that the excessive development was not the reason for this flooding. He asked that his thanks to Sue Wallsgrove be placed on public record and the Chair echoed those thanks.

He also made mention of the issues with planning applications in relation to the BEW Strategic Site and the fact that WSCC had now stated that they would put in a blanket objection for all applications coming forward on education grounds, in particular the lack of school places. He encouraged more joined-up thinking and working together for all the neighbouring Parishes but was concerned that different agendas was stopping this being as effective as it could be.

In the absence of Sue Wallsgrove on District Council business there was no DC update.

PCSO Report

Following a lot of reports of anti-social behaviour in the centre of Barnham PCSO Caroline Wilson and PS Lou Baileff attended the meeting to give an update on the current situation and the actions that they were taking.

The Council and members of the public present were informed that there were two major issues being dealt with. The first were a group of youths who targeted the Coop and had come on the train from outside the area. This group have been dealt with and should not return. The second, more persistent group, of offenders all under the age of 18 and mainly boys have been identified and are in the process of being served paperwork regarding being interviewed under caution for multiple offences. They will also be served Acceptable Behaviour Contracts by Arun District Council at the point of interview. The Youth Offending Team have also been

involved with the aim of trying to stop their behaviour from escalating to more serious actions in the future.

There had also been a serious assault in Farnhurst Road for which three arrests have been made.

It was confirmed that multi-agency working was taking place and ADC 's Community Safety Team were organising a meeting of all parties including the British Transport Police to find ways of working together to stop these issues arising in the future.

Finally, it was reconfirmed that all reports of anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police using 101 or more accessible the online reporting at www.sussexpolice.uk The more reported incidents received the more resources could be deployed.

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

Resolved:

That the minutes of Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council's meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 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 December 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**.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the payments made since 5th December 2023**
- 2. To note the current summary accounts**

7. Approval of Budget and Precept for 2024/25

Following consideration of the draft budget at the meeting of the Council in December the Clerk had prepared and circulated a revised budget for 2024/25 together with a paper containing options for discussion and recommendations for approval of the precept amount to be requested from Arun District Council and to approve the budget for 2024/25.

Points to note included the following:

- The taxbase was confirmed at 2442 (an increase of 42 on the draft budget presented in December).
- The budget presented was based on a 5% increase in Band D Household Council Tax payments.
- The current budget includes specific budget lines for key activity areas and Working Groups, namely: Planning & Environment Committee, People, Places and Spaces WP, Community Resilience Team and a new Communications WP.
- The annual build-up of reserves figures remains at £5,000.
- S106/CIL funds continue received are ring-fenced in an interest bearing savings account for use as projects are developed and monies spent. The project plans for 2024/25 include:
 - Completion of the Community Garden
 - Additional planting projects around the village

- Additional benches with planting
- Progression of the Murrells Field drainage and improvements project

Approval of the budget as presented would result in an end of year surplus of around £11,000.

The Council made no further comments or amendments to the budget and considered and approved the following recommendations:

1. That the budget for 2024/25 as presented be approved.
2. That a 5% increase in Band D Council Tax payments be approved resulting in a rise from £73.48 per annum to £77.15 per annum per paying household.
3. That a precept sum of £188,400 be requested from Arun District Council

Resolved:

1. **To approve the budget for 2024/25 as presented**
2. **To approve a precept of £188,400 for 2024/25 (based on a 5% increase in Band D Council Tax payments) and that the Clerk be asked to inform Arun District Council of that decision.**

8. Planning Matters

In the absence of Sue Wallsgrove, Chris Wells (Vice-Chair), gave a brief update on the business undertaken at the last meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 16th January. The last meeting considered several applications in relation to various improvements to existing properties and noted various decisions by ADC approval of a new dental practice through a change of use application. The Committee was surprised to receive an application in relation to part of the BEW site but objected on the lack of building of the A29 southern alignment and the drainage capacity bearing in mind recent flooding issues. The Committee also considered the ADC Gypsy and Traveller DPD and the Rampion 2 local impact report and agreed that no comment on either document was required.

9. Community Updates

- 9.1** The Assistant Clerk, Community, informed Council of issues that arose at Eastergate Pavilion and recreation ground on New Year's Eve which resulted in the Fire Brigade being called to deal with a litterbin that had been set alight. The bin has since been replaced by ADC and the Council will be refilling the Fire Extinguishers in the Pavilion that were used by the Cricket Club running an event that night. This incident and a couple of other issues have led the Assistant Clerk having discussions with both the Football and Cricket Clubs over the use of the Pavilion, which have hopefully been resolved satisfactorily.

Eastergate Hall has received another Warm Spaces Grant from ADC of £1000 to support energy costs due to the community drop-in activities it runs.

- 9.2** Update on Hall extension projects – Both Hall projects still awaiting final works being undertaken, which should be completed first week in February.

10. Working Party Updates

- 10.1 Community Resilience Team** – Update on progress by David Phillips

- First Aid Training Courses have continued
- Emergency First Aid Kits had been provided by the First Aid trainer

- WSCC Team training has now been arranged for 19th February and anyone interested in volunteering is being encouraged to attend
- Purchase of other equipment being pursued including walkie talkies and the generators.

10.2 People, Places and Spaces (PPS) Working Party – In the absence of Penny Wycherley the Chair read out the written update provided as follows:

The Village Garden

- Clearing and planting work continues slowly due to the inclement weather
- The water supply will be installed last week of January (now completed)
- Plans for a buffer zone are being developed with Rob Sparrow and the Trust and will be brought to a future meeting for approval

Christmas and Spring Planting

- The Green Angels completed 3 successful projects for Christmas: wreaths on lampposts; Xmas trees and plants in large pots by the Station car park benches and Xmas swags and foliage on the gateway village signage.
- 10 additional planters have been purchased to be planted with spring flowers and hung on the 5 lampposts in the village centre.
- ‘Engage Barnham’ Project bid, discussed at the last meeting, was submitted to the Govia Thameslink ‘Your Station Your Community Improvement Fund in December with the outcome to be announced in the Spring. The project aims to enhance and improve the area around the bench by the Station Car Park.

10.3 Communications Working Party

James Roberts (Chair) informed the Council that a date for the first meeting had been set for the first week of February.

10.4 Murrells Field Improvement Project Working Party

Whilst the Working Party has yet to meet the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Working Party (David Phillips) had been seeking professional expertise to be engaged to provide the services to support the Working Party in developing and costing plans for the required improvements (namely the drainage, levelling and provision on recreational sports pitches) and any additional improvements that could be considered for inclusion, together with public consultation on the plans once developed.

The Council was recommended to approve the following appointments:

- a. DLS Architects to provide Project Management support
- b. Larch Landscape Consultancy and Design Ltd to provide professional services to design and cost a landscape masterplan for community engagement and ultimately a final design for the Council to appoint contractors and take the project forward within the £200k S106 funding available.

Resolved:

- 1. To appoint DLS Architects to provide Project Management Support at a maximum cost of £2250.**
- 2. To appoint Larch Landscape Consultancy and Design Ltd to provide professional services to design and take forward the final approved project at a cost of £8k +VAT**

11. Dates for Meetings 2024/25

Resolved:

- 1. To approve and publish the dates for Full Council and Planning & Environment Committee Meetings for 2024/25 (all dates are subject to change if necessary)**
- 2. To agree the same format as previous recent years for the Annual Assembly on 30th April, 2024, but to hold it at Barnham Community Hall.**

12. Report by Chair of the Council

The Chair had prepared another statement (appended to the minutes) on the world of Barnham and Eastergate and the current plight of our Parish, mainly centred around lack of common sense in relation to the planning for the BEW Strategic Site, but also other areas that impact on the Parish. His initial plan if supported would be to use the statement to address Andrew Griffith at his meeting on 26th January. The Council gave their support to the statement, subject to some minor adjustments they felt could be made and the Chair agreed to discuss those adjustments with James Roberts as Chair of the new Communications WP.

13. Report by the Clerk of the Council

The Clerk mentioned the following matters:

- An email from the Chair of the ABE CLT had been received which included an update on the success of the allocation of the 22 CLT Properties that had been secured on the Wings development in Aldingbourne. Of those 22 homes 15 were local residents with the others coming from neighbouring parishes.
- An issue with the resiting of a litter bin on Lake Lane had been managed by the Assistant Clerk (Planning) who had met with ADC Head of Cleansing on site. It was agreed the new site was unacceptable and that he would look further into an appropriate site potentially for a dog waste bin rather than a general waste bin. A further update would be made in due course.
- An invite to join an ADC organised Arun Flood Forum had been received and it was agreed that Sue Wallsgrove (DC rep) and Chris Wells/David Phillips would represent the Parish Council.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m. at Barnham Community Hall.

The Meeting Closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed by:

Chair, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council