



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2024 BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

The Barnham and Eastergate Annual Parish Assembly for 2023 took place on 30th April at Barnham Community Hall. The event was once again publicised as a Community Engagement Event and brought about another encouraging turnout of residents and local organisations.

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

In attendance: Parish Councillors: Phil Cramp; Andrew Crawford; Heather Kilroy; Simon Parkin; James Roberts; John Robinson; Sue Wallsgrove;; Chris Wells; Penny Wycherley: Council Staff: Alison Crabb (Parish Clerk); Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk and Eastergate Village Hall Manager): Gemma Hindson (Assistant Clerk, Planning): Representatives from local organisations and authorities as detailed below and approximately 30 residents (no official record of numbers taken).

1. Welcome

The meeting was hosted by the Parish Council and would have been Chaired by Chris Allington (the newly elected Chair of the Parish Council). Unfortunately illness had befallen him and Chris Wells (Chair of the Council's P&E Committee) kindly stepped in to welcome everyone, both the exhibitors and residents, and to thank them for taking the time to attend the event.

2. Annual Report of the Chair of the Parish Council for 2023-24

The following are the details from the short presentation given by Chris Wells on behalf of Chris Allington which highlight what the Parish Council can do to support the community it serves, a summary of the key points contained in the full copy of the report which is appended to these minutes; and a few facts and figures about how Council Tax payments made by residents funds WSCC, ADC, the Police and the Parish Council.

Parish Councils

- Parish Councils are the tier of local government closest to their electorate and best placed to serve local communities
- However, our powers are limited in that many of the things we would like to do for the community require the agreement and involvement of higher authorities
- We do
 - Give views on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the Parish
 - Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
 - Work with higher authorities to achieve improvements and solutions to local issues
 - Develop and maintain a Neighbourhood Plan which has statutory weight when responding to planning applications
 - Invest in our community infrastructure using S106 receipts, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts and grants.

Summary Points from the Annual Report

- Your Parish Council has established several Working Parties to focus on key areas where we can make a difference most of which are represented here at this meeting

- Our recent agenda has been dominated by flooding, drainage, sewage, road closures, potholes and anti-social behaviour.
- Your Parish Councillors and staff are focussed on lobbying the authorities that need to take the actions necessary to support our community.
- BEPC Strategic and Community Infrastructure Investment programme
 - Funded primarily by grants and new housing (\$106 & Community Infrastructure Levy)
 - See our newsletters – We are making real progress
 - Vital partnership with Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust
- We have facilitated two public meetings already this year.
 - Andrew Griffith, MP – Housing development pressures on infrastructure (Jan-24)
 - Police and ADC Anti-social behaviour team (Apr-24)

Council Tax Information

For your information this is how your Council Tax Funds WSCC, ADC, Police and BEPC

- Band-D Property Services breakdown is:

WSCC - Schools and education	36.81%
WSCC - Social Care	27.24%
Police - Policing and Crime	11.23%
ADC/WSCC - Overhead	5.69%
ADC - Planning and Environment	3.82%
WSCC - Recycling and Waste disposal	3.48%
BEPC - Parish Council	3.42%
WSCC - Roads and Transport	3.18%
ADC - Housing	1.93%
WSCC - Fire and Rescue	1.46%
WSCC - Supporting Communities and the Economy	0.95%
ADC - Economy	0.79%

- Parish Council Budget breakdown is:

BEPC - Parish Council	3.42%
BEPC - Staff and Administration	2.48%
BEPC - PWLB Loan repayments	0.55%
BEPC - Sportsfields, Maintenance and Lighting	0.22%
BEPC - People, Places, Spaces	0.09%
BEPC - Planning and Environment	0.04%
BEPC - Community Resilience	0.02%

3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on 23rd May 2023

The minutes were approved and the Chair signed a copy.

4. Presentation by Sue Wallsgrove, Arun District Councillor

Sue Wallsgrove gave a very brief summary of the flooding and sewage issues that had besieged the Parish this winter. In particular she mentioned the tanker operation in Barnham Lane/Lake Lane that had taken away over 350,000 litres of water per day during the months they were in operation and was pleased to report they had now left the site. She is working with Southern Water to help ensure anti flood devices and solutions are provided to homes directly impacted by flooding and sewage issues. She acknowledged that Southern Water had now completed repair works to the sewers in Barnham Road and Elm Grove but these were not permanent solutions to the problems that will continue unless proper investment is put into the infrastructure. She along with other Councillors will continue to lobby against any new homes being connected to the sewers before or unless infrastructure investment takes place. Penny Wycherley proposed a vote of thanks to Sue Wallsgrove and County Councillor, Trevor Bence, for all their work on the Parish's behalf to support residents during these times.

5. Presentation by Parish Councillor Simon Parkin

Simon Parkin gave a short presentation on the work of the new Communications Working Party that had recently been established by the Parish Council to look at new and different ways to improve communications between the Council and the residents of the Parish. One of the new initiatives will be the production of a monthly newsletter giving brief updates on what the Council has been doing and continues to do for residents and other items such as litter picking events, events at our Community Halls etc. The main purpose of this presentation, however, was to encourage people to sign up to receive this newsletter which will be circulated through email and published on the Council's website each month.

6. Introductions to Exhibitors

Chris Wells introduced all those present either manning exhibitions stand for their organisations or available in the room for people to engage with. Those present were:

PS Lou Baileff and PCSO Caroline Wilson
Arun Community Safety Team – Christine Holyoake
Eastergate Cricket Club – Pete Edgeler
Guides Association – Julie Allington
ABE Community Land Trust – Mike Link
Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate Churches – Father Paul
Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust – Terry Bedford
Barnham and Eastergate Community Lottery – Elaine Bedford
Eastergate & Barnham WI – Sandra Harris
ABE Creatives – Jo Strain
WSCC Highways – Steve Hills
County Councillor, Trevor Bence

7. Questions and Answers

The Chair opened the floor to questions but as none were forthcoming he declared the meeting closed and invited all present to take the opportunity to engage with the exhibitors, to mingle and chat with Cllrs and neighbours and to enjoy the refreshments provided for which a vote of thanks was given to Ali Tarbard and the team who had also organised the set up of the room and helped exhibitors with their stands and arrangements.