



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**

The Barnham and Eastergate Annual Parish Assembly for 2025 took place on 8<sup>th</sup> 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: Chris Allington, Phil Cramp; Andrew Crawford; Heather Kilroy; James Roberts; Sue Wallsgrove; Chris Wells; Andrea Rainger; Penny Wycherley: Parish Council Staff: Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk, Community and Eastergate Village Hall Manager); Gemma Hindson (Assistant Clerk, Planning); Linda Cranfield: Representatives from local organisations and authorities as detailed below and approximately 60 residents (no official record of numbers taken).**

**Apologies: Ray Coggin; Simon Parkin; John Robinson**

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was hosted by the Parish Council and was Chaired by Chris Allington. Chris welcomed everyone, both the exhibitors and residents and thanked them for taking the time to attend the event.

### **2. Annual Report of the Chair of the Parish Council for 2024-25**

The following are the details from the short presentation given by 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.

#### **Parish Councils**

- Parish Councils are the tier of local government closest to their electorate and best placed to serve local communities
- Devolution – between East and West Sussex and possibly Brighton and Hove Council, which will lead to more responsibility and more resources for the local parish councils.
- 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 local 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.
  - Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council – have received a successful grant application

## 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. The police have made a huge effort in this area and have made some high-profile arrests and will continue to monitor the situation.
- 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
  - Communications – Community Matters monthly email, annual newsletter and social media
  - Green Angels – seasonal planting, community garden, Village Garden
  - Litter Pickers – 388kg in 2024 – equivalent to a grand piano
  - Community Resilience Team – generators purchased, store built & 67 First Aid courses
  - Vital partnership with Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust
  - Funded primarily by grants and new housing (S106 & Community Infrastructure Levy)
  - Investing in community infrastructure
  - Plans to replace Eastergate Pavillion & pre-school or gym/bar
  - Plans for extensions approx. cost £4.5m including £1m donations from local developers, grants and donations
  - Successful application for Community Funding from Govia Thames Link –

Currently 1 x vacancy for a Parish Councillor

### 3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The minutes were approved, and the Chair signed a copy.

### 4. Presentation by Parish Councillor James Roberts – The Power of Volunteering

- Projects need volunteers
- Parish Councils & BECT - 165 volunteers
- Volunteers help at the coffee mornings, the resilience team and the Garden Angels

15.1m people currently volunteer i.e. 33% of adult population throughout England and Wales, although this is the lowest recorded number. It is currently more difficult to recruit and retain volunteers. Anyone wishing to volunteer was invited to speak to any parish councillors. **Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council are holding a Volunteer Coffee Morning on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April 11am – 12.30/1pm and all invited to attend.**

### 5. Presentation by Nigel Boshein – UK Harvest

Nina-Maria McMaster introduced Nigel Boshein from UK Harvest by explaining that there are currently 12 volunteers who help with the Eastergate food project. The food donations are collected from the Donnington Head office every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month and local residents are invited to drop in to the Community Hub.

## **Nigel Boshein – UK Harvest**

- Food Waste Charity set up by Yvonne Thompson
- Based in Donnington
- UKH run 16 food hubs in West Sussex
- 1/3 food lost or wasted
- No food shortage in the world – the problem is distribution
- Food collected from donating organisations
- Covid was difficult and have developed other partnerships and in the community.
- Give as an extra and talk to members of the community
- MIND, NHS blood pressure checks services also provided at the food hubs
- Food hubs are open to everyone
- It's not about the donations – help for the community
- 21,000 people used UKH in 2024
- Spread the word to others so they come
- Volunteers – currently 250 at UKH if anyone wishes to volunteer
- Funding required – no funding from individuals, lottery (not 2024) and other organisations

The food provided for the evening where donated and prepared by food from UK Harvest

## **6. Introductions to Exhibitors**

Nina-Maria McMaster introduced all those present either manning exhibitions stands for their organisations or available in the room for people to engage with. Those present were:

- ABE Creatives – Jo Strain
- Barnham and Eastergate Community Lottery – Bethan Harrison
- Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust & MAMF – Sally-ann Baker
- Eastergate Cricket Club – Pete Edgeler
- Guides Association – Julie Allington
- KISMET – Barbara Ennis
- Litter picking – Andrew Crawford
- People, Places and Spaces – Penny Witcherley
- UK Harvest – Nigel Boshein

## **7. Questions and Answers**

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

- Extension at Eastergate – parking area would not be extended.
- Eastergate Pavillion – no extra parking provisioned for. The funding will be used to provide opportunities to access facilities rather than extend the parking.
- 500 Bus – has been very successful and may be extended
- Insufficient parking in Barnham. Controlled parking zone and residents only parking have previously been looked at. £100 parking permit and need 75 – 80% to vote and previously only 40% of the population voted.

- With the development of 4,000 homes in the local area, a multi-story car park between the station to SPH will be part of the new strategic development.
- Parking outside station – bollards now outside and will be closed 9/4/25. Yellow lines have been obscured so parking has become a problem with buses unable to get through.
- Blue badge parking at station car park – privately owned by GTR.
- Barnham Square behind Co-op – privately owned by developers.
- Parking – no enforcement around parking by shops which makes it very difficult to access.
- Parish Council can adopt powers if they have the resources.
- Dog fouling – more signage required. More signs do not change behaviour. Murrells Field has improved possibly by peer pressure.

#### **8. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

The minutes were approved, and the Chair signed a copy.

#### **Chris Allington expressed thanks to the following for their contribution: -**

- Communications team – indebted to the comms team for their help and the newsletter is a source of information distributed in local community
- Green Angels – seasonal planting, lamp posts, community garden, signage
- Litter pickers – Andrew Crawford – GPS Litter picker to identify where litter is found. Staff employed to do litter picking along Barnham Road
- Community Resilience Team – flooding, grants, halls, safe places
- 67 First Aid courses have been run by KISMET
- Thanks also to the current parish councillors

Nina-Maria McMaster – Eastergate Village Hall and Assistant Clerk Community

Gemma Hindson– Planning

Ali Tarbard and Sally-ann Baker – employed by BECT

Following the questions session, the Chair 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 UK Harvest as well as the team who organised the set-up of the room and helped exhibitors with their stands and arrangements.