



**MINUTES OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND JULY 2019 AT BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**

Present: Chris Allington (Chair): Dick New (Vice-Chair): Rob Bates: Terry Bedford:
Phil Cramp: Andy Earwaker: Heather Kilroy: John Robinson: Stewart Pritchard:
Isabel Thurston:

In attendance: Alison Crabb (Clerk): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk): Chris Hughes (District Councillor): 5 members of the public

1. **Open Public Session** – Two areas of concern were raised but as noted on the agenda no formal minute of the discussion will be made. Any actions noted from the discussion will be undertaken by the Clerk.
2. **Apologies** – Ella Simmons: Sue Wallsgrove: Derek Whittington (County Councillor)
- 3.. **Declarations of Interest**

In respect of item 8 on the agenda it was noted that Chris Allington, Terry Bedford and John Robinson are all current Trustees of Barnham Community Trust.

4. County and District Councillor inputs

In the absence of County Councillor, Derek Whittington, there were no matters raised.

District Council report - Isabel Thurston and Chris Hughes were both present and mentioned a few issues in particular the plans of the new Council in respect of looking at the current Local Plan to see if there is any way they can undertake a review of the confirmed Plan. It was noted that it would be a long process even if a review could be undertaken. The new Council are proposing to look at going back to a Committee system of governance which would enable more specific Committees to be set up e.g. a specific Environment Committee. Update on progress on these issues would be reported to future meetings.

The Chair asked the District Councillors if they could look to 'unstick' the current lack of progress in respect of the DPD document related to the Local Plan. In particular the fact that there has been no contact with Parish Councils since the cancellation of a progress meeting at the end of May and the fact that there is no documentation related to the discussions on the website. They both agreed to see what they could do.

5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4th June 2019.

Resolved: That the minutes of Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th June be approved as an accurate record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair of the Council.

6. Finance

- 6.1.** The Clerk circulated a list of payments for approval and following a couple of explanations on certain payments the Council **agreed** that the payments be approved and the Chair undertook that approval online during the meeting.
- 6.2** The Clerk informed the Council that she was not yet in a position to circulate detailed accounts but was able to inform the Council of the current financial position and updated the Council on the position with closure of the previous Barnham Parish Council and Eastergate Parish Council bank accounts. The Clerk **agreed** to circulate a summary of the accounts for the first quarter by the end of July.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve all payments for July 2019 and the Chair to duly authorise those payments using the online banking system.**
- 2. The Clerk to circulate accounts for the first quarter by the end of July.**

7. Reports from Parish Councillors who have attended recent Outside Body meetings

7.1 JWAAC (Joint Western Arun Area Committee) attended by Dick New

Dick New attended the above meeting in place of Chris Allington and it was his first experience of attending this particular meeting. He was most disappointed at the lack of ability for Parish Council representatives to take part in discussions and even more so the fact there is no ability to vote on any of the decisions taken. He felt that the meeting was not of much value to the Parish Council.

7.2 ABE CLT attended by Andy Earwaker

As agreed at the last meeting Andy Earwaker attended the most recent meeting of the CLT in order to seek a proper understanding of the aims and objectives of the Trust and to see if the Parish Council should formally consider appointing a representative to the Board, given the Council's concerns over the potential for a conflict of interest around, for example, site identification and associated planning decisions. He reported that the Trust had drafted a number of policy documents which could contribute to a mitigation of these concerns. Particularly relevant was the draft Conflict of Interests Policy and the emerging Business Plan. These were in the process of discussion/approval. He noted that some suggestions had previously been made as to how the PC might reconcile its concerns with support for the CLT initiative but his initial assessment was that the issue could more easily be addressed through adherence to the proposed policies and the development of an appropriate protocol. As a next step, he would attend another meeting or two of the CLT to gauge progress on the Policy documents and then supply an options paper to the next available meeting of the Council.

7.3 ADC Special Development Control Meeting attended by Rob Bates

Rob Bates attended the above meeting that was consider application AL/3/19 as the former Eastergate Parish Council had submitted an objection to the application. The application was to consider approval of 68 homes which was a net addition of 23 houses on the site which was

previously approved for 268 houses, now 291. The net increase was due to the size of dwellings now being built - fewer four bedroomed homes and more three- and two-bedroomed homes. It was also noted that all plans for 3 storey buildings had been deleted. Rob Bates reiterated an expanded the Council's previous objections in the 3 minute speech allowance that he was given and whilst the Committee approved the application it had proved a very useful experience to attend and participate in the process.

8. Community Facilities in the Parish

The Chair introduced the item, explaining that Terry Bedford had agreed to get involved in looking at and understanding how the facilities in Eastergate were run and to look at how all the Parish facilities might be better joined up moving forward.

Before taking the Council through a short presentation Terry Bedford gave the Council some background on the current operations of Barnham Community Trust, the organisation that runs the Barnham based Community facilities, including the current organisation, management and financial position, together with information on user groups and events run by the Trust. He added some details on what he had learned so far from discussions with Nina McMaster, the Community Facilities Manager for the Eastergate facilities and how impressed he had been with his findings.

The presentation given by Terry Bedford showed current organisational structures and governance for each set of facilities and then put forward a proposal on how the future organisation structure could be changed to bring all facilities under one structure by merging the current Charitable organisations that are involved in both sets of facilities under one new organisation. The most sensible option to be considered would suggest that the Charity that currently relates to Eastergate Village Hall would cease to exist and be merged with the Barnham Community Trust to form a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation called Barnham & Eastergate Community Trust. It might also be that the services of Louise Beaton would be considered useful to help the Council through the process if agreement was given to take the proposal further.

The Trustees of the current Barnham Community Trust had already discussed the matter confidentially and agreed, in principle, and provided the Parish Council also agreed, that the merger and potential reorganisation of the management of all community facilities, current and future, in the new Parish, be considered and investigated in more detail.

After a short discussion where a few minor issues were raised the Council **agreed** to set up a small Working Group to be led by Terry Bedford and to consist of the current Community Facilities group members (Dick New and Heather Kilroy), with the possibility of involving other as and when necessary, to investigate how the proposal might be achieved and to look to report back to the Council at the meeting on 3rd September.

Resolved:

- 1. That a Working Group to be led by Terry Bedford, with Dick New and Heather Kilroy and others as and when necessary be established to investigate the proposal to merge Eastergate Village War Memorial Trust with Barnham Community Trust.**
- 2. To consider engaging the services of Louise Beaton to help with the process if it was not felt that the Working Group could undertake the necessary work.**

9. Approval of Strategic Plan for Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council

The Chair introduced a finalised document of the previously drafted document that had been presented to the Annual Parish Assembly in May. The document now incorporated comments that had been passed to him by Councillors, in particular Rob Bates, that he felt enhanced the document and centred around enhanced natural habitats, a need for proper recognition of Eastergate village centre as well as Barnham, working with different sports clubs in the area, climate change and environmental impact, protection of green and blue infrastructure. The Council considered the amendments and **agreed** that the document be approved and published on the website as the current Strategy Plan for the Council, which would of course be a living document that could be updated and amended when required.

Resolved: That the Strategic Plan for Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council be approved and published on the Council's website.

10. Barnham & Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan

Following the informal induction session held on 27th June the Council now formally **agreed** to undertake a Review of the Barnham & Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan with the main aim of identifying additional housing needs as proposed by the draft Arun DC DPD document. It was also agreed the need to reform the Neighbourhood Plan Review Team and that the process would be managed by the Planning & Environment Committee who should discuss and set up a formal plan at the meeting on Tuesday 16th July. Maureen Chaffe of Process Matters had been approached and agreed to be involved to help with the process and the Clerk was currently completing funding applications to enable the Council to undertake survey work etc etc.

Resolved: That the Council undertake a Review of the Barnham & Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan and that responsibility for the management of the Review would be undertaken by the Planning & Environment Committee

11. Report by Clerk

The Clerk mentioned correspondence from Renford Marsden (who is no longer the Poppy Appeal Organiser for the area) and Julie Allington in relation to preparations for this year's Remembrance Service. The Council **agreed** to order one large wreath, the cost of which is not to be less than the two individual wreaths donated in 2018 (so as the total donation amount is not reduced), which would have words to reflect the fact that the Council recognised those residents of both Barnham and Eastergate that had been lost in conflict. Julie Allington had asked the Council if they wished to put the poppies on the lampposts again (she is willing to coordinate) and if so to do the same as last year would require the purchase of an additional 20 poppies. All **agreed** to the purchase of the poppies and volunteers would be asked to help nearer the time although Stewart Pritchard volunteered to help at the Barnham end of the Parish.

The Clerk had been contacted by the Claremont Lodge Nursing Home in respect of a previous request made to Eastergate Parish Council to consider providing a street light outside the Home. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with WSCC to try and find out how much such provision would cost and that when she had more details she would bring back a proposal for consideration to the next Council meeting.

Resolved: That the Clerk order a wreath and purchase additional poppies for lampposts.

12. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Barnham Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed by

Chair, Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council

DRAFT