



**MINUTES OF BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2020 AT BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**

Present: Chris Allington (Chair): Dick New (Vice-Chair): Paul Ayling: Rob Bates: Terry Bedford: Phil Cramp: Andy Earwaker: Heather Kilroy: David Phillips: John Robinson: Ella Simmons: Isabel Thurston (arrived at 8 pm. due to an ADC commitment): Sue Wallsgrave:

In attendance: Alison Crabb (Clerk): Nina McMaster (Assistant Clerk): Several members of the public and 1 member of the Press

1. Open Public Session – All those present were interested in item 6 on the agenda so left participation until that point in the meeting.

2. Apologies – Derek Whittington

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared at this point on the agenda.

4. County and District Councillor Inputs

No items to report from County Councillor, Derek Whittington, in his absence. Isabel Thurston, in her capacity as District Councillor, had nothing significant to mention upon her arrival at the meeting.

5. Policy Community Support Officer

Caroline Wilson, the PCSO newly assigned to cover the Parish, attended the meeting. She introduced herself and gave a little background to her personal position in that she had been a PCSO for 14 years and had therefore been both a dedicated area PCSO and part of the centralised operation of PCSOs. PCSO Wilson was now assigned to cover the Fontwell electoral Division which includes Barnham and Eastergate and the surrounding villages. PCSO Wilson has now been in post for a few months and during this time she has established links with various people across the Parish, including the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and the local schools and businesses. She has also attended the community coffee mornings and has been getting to know the area in more detail. Some of the key issues she has been dealing with have included anti-social behaviour around the train station; dealing with vulnerable people through links with ADC; burglaries at Barnham businesses. To contact Caroline people should use her email address: caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Mention of a very useful website forum called 'nextdoor.co.uk' – which includes an Eastergate and Barnham group - was made to PCSO Wilson where people post about issues of concern in the area and suggested she look to see if she could get a profile on the site so she could post updates on incidents of interest. It was also noted that PCSO Wilson would be attending the Annual Parish Assembly on 14th April.

6. Consideration of Planning Application BN/18/20 – Former Brooks Nursery (Variation of condition to change the foul drainage scheme from Sewage Treatment Plan to Pumping Station with associated drainage works)

Due to concerns previously raised by local residents in respect of this development the Chair, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee, agreed to discuss this new application in respect of the development at this Full Council meeting. Members of the public were present and the Chair agreed to let them participate in the discussion. The Chair introduced the item giving some background to the position the Council finds itself in. The former Eastergate Parish Council had strongly objected to the use of packet treatment plant solution and has continuously pressed Southern Water to consider how they will provide a safe and secure sewage system into the Parish with all homes in the built-up area being connected to the mains sewage system.

A lengthy discussion took place with the residents putting forward their concerns which the Council noted and considered. These included the desire to see proper enforcement of the previous conditions in respect of the sewage system; the absence of the Southern Water technical report on the application; the lack of adequate planning application notices; and the fact that the proposal to reroute using the existing Elm Grove sewer pipe would see undue pressure being placed on an already overworked system that requires regular pumping.

In summarising the Chair put forward three points for consideration and approval:

1. The Council will continue to press Southern Water and the Environment Agency to improve the sewage infrastructure within the Parish
2. The Council does not believe ADC assert enough enforcement on developers in respect of conditions placed on planning applications and will continue to pursue better enforcement particularly around sewage and surface water drainage.
3. The Council will submit an objection to the application unless the missing Southern Water statement gives sufficient technical evidence to prove that the solution they are proposing will work and be the right solution, on the grounds that as stated in the Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan Policy ES1 – Flooding, Drainage and new development

Planning permission should only be granted for new development subject to the following conditions:

- no development shall commence until full details of the proposed drainage schemes for surface and foul water (including details of their routing, design, and subsequent management and maintenance) have been submitted to and approved by the planning authority; and
- no building shall be occupied until the drainage schemes have been implemented in accordance with the approved details.

This has clearly not been the case with this development hence the need for this Variation of Change application

The Council also agreed to object on the grounds that the preference would be for connection to the main sewer to be through the existing development and into the main sewer on Barnham Road not via Elm Grove South.

Resolved:

- 1. The Council to continue to press at all opportunities to improve the infrastructure**

- across the Parish
- 2. The Council to pursue ADC to provide better enforcement of planning conditions on new developments.
- 3. The Council will submit an objection on the ground stated above unless the Southern Water report that is missing from the application gives sufficient technical evidence that the solution they are proposing is the right solution and that it will work.

7. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14th January 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair of the Council.

8. Finance

- 8.1 The Clerk circulated a list of payments made since the last meeting. All payments were **noted** and no issues were raised.
- 8.2 The Clerk sought approval for the Council to appoint R S Hall and Co as the internal auditor of the accounts for 2019/20. The Council noted that the company had previously been the internal auditor for both Barnham Parish Council and Eastergate Parish Council and **agreed** to the appointment.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the payments that had been processed since the last meeting.
- 2. To approve the appointment of R S Hall and Co as the Internal Auditor for the 2019/20 Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council accounts.

9. Planning & Environment Committee

- 9.1 The Council **noted** the minutes of meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee meetings held on 7th January and 18th February 2020. Sue Wallsgrove as Chair of the Committee informed the Council that due to excellent work undertaken by David Phillips the Committee approved the submission of comments on the ADC Draft Design Guide to meet the February deadline. No other significant matters were mentioned. Isabel Thurston also informed the Council that ADC would be appointing a Sustainability Officer to whom the Council can refer 'resilience issues' such as flooding.
- 9.2 Work on the Review of the Neighbourhood Plan continues with the sites submitted from the 'Call for Sites' exercise currently being evaluated for consideration by the Council. Work on the Parish Design Guide to support the Plan was also progressing well. Maureen Chaffe, Process Matters, is currently programmed to present to the Annual Assembly on the Revised Plan.
- 9.3 The Chair, Chris Allington, took the opportunity under this item to update the Council on a meeting earlier in the evening with the owners of Barnham Square. The meeting had been asked for by the owners to undertake further discussions on their proposal for the redevelopment of the Square that had been hold for over a year due to negotiations with Network Rail over potential solutions to the parking issues that the previous Parish Councils had highlighted would occur under their proposals for redevelopment. The main points to

note from the discussion are that due to an unsatisfactory outcome to the Network Rail discussions the proposed redevelopment would now look to include underground parking to help solve the parking issues. The plan was also to redevelop the buildings to provide between 40 and 60 affordable rental homes and the owners were looking for assistance from the Parish Council on how these might be managed. The Council are going to talk to the ABE CLT to see if it might be of interest to them. Pre-application discussions will then take place with ADC and the Council was invited to be involved in those discussions.

10. Reports on various Outside Body Meetings and other meetings events attended since the last meeting

10.1 ABE CLT – Andy Earwaker attended the latest meeting held on 10th February as the Council's appointed 'observer'.

He mentioned 4 points:

- A meeting with Andrew Griffiths has been arranged for 17th April for the CLT and Parish Councils
- Work continues with ADC to link up the housing needs list with the Parish applications.
- Discussions to identify possible sites/developers to provide affordable/social housing continue with a potential site in Aldingbourne with the Southern Housing Association currently being pursued.
- The CLT would like the details of Redrow developers to look at potential properties within the proposed Angel's Nursery site.

11. Community Facilities in the Parish

11.1 Eastergate Village Hall – Nina McMaster (Facilities Manager) reported on continued success at the Hall in terms of revenue and activities.

11.2 Eastergate Pavilion – Nothing significant to report

11.3 Barnham Community Hall – Terry Bedford was able to report no significant issues at Barnham Hall, but updated the Council on the latest position with regard to the merger of the two Hall charities to form Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust. All was moving forward to enable the merger to formally take place in April/May.

11.4 Eastergate Village Hall replacement boiler – The Chair reported that following concerns from Councillors about ensuring that adequate investigations into alternatives to a gas boiler replacement in the Hall he had received various reports from industry experts who recommend that at this moment in time the structure of the Hall, particularly the lack of insulation in the roof would preclude a suitable renewable energy solution being installed. However, a new quote has been asked for to include replacement pipework and radiators and to future proof it for alternative systems being considered.

Resolved: That the grant application be submitted once the new quote was available and that it was noted that future consideration would be given to a more renewable energy solution

11.5 Proposed extensions to Eastergate Hall and Options for Eastergate Pavilion

Following an ITT process and the appointment of the Seaman Partnership to take the above

projects forward discussions have taken place as to what is required next. The result is that the Seaman Partnership now need to be commissioned develop design options to facilitate a longer term plan and fund-raising strategy for the projects: In order to do this the Council is asked to approve the following costs:

- £2,500 for Concept Design Options Eastergate Sports Pavilion
- £2,500 for Concept Design Options EPH
- £900 Measured survey EPH

In addition David Phillips suggested an additional sum of money be put aside for other potential investigative costs, giving a total for approval of £6500

Resolved: That the sum of £6,500 be approved to commission the Seaman Partnership to provide the Concept Design Options and other works as described above.

12. Communications

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest draft of the Parish Newsletter and explained that a full Directory of user groups at both Community Halls had been left out as it was felt this was very much a Parish Council Newsletter and that such a Directory should be considered for a Trust newsletter in the future. The Clerk asked all Councillors to consider the document and let her have any comments by 9th March so the draft could be sent to ADC for production.

13. Correspondence Items

13.1 The Clerk had circulated an email from ADC giving potential suggestions for a name for the Strategic BEW site. After a short debate that dismissed all the suggestions it was agreed to submit 3 alternatives: Church Farm; Church Gate and Springbourne.

13.2 The Chair reported on ongoing correspondence with the WSCC Library Service over the potential for funding of a Tier 7 Library at Eastergate Village Hall using S106 funds that have been clearly identified in S106 agreements in the Area.

13.3 As already mentioned the Chair, Dick New and Sue Wallsgrove will attend the meeting with Andrew Griffith, MP for Arundel & South Downs, arranged for 17th April 2020.

13.4 The Chair mentioned his response letter to an article in The Telegraph with regard to Village Halls and funding availability from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and the Lottery Reaching Communities. The response set out the reality in terms of the amount of funding available which was far lower than the impression given in the article. He had copied Louise Beaton, who is an adviser to ACRE, who was unaware that the amount of actual funding was as small as he had detailed.

14. Annual Parish Assembly – 14th April 2020

The Clerk had circulated the draft Notice for the above meeting. A good range of speakers had been secured and it was hoped that it would encourage the public to attend, what is essentially their meeting. The Clerk would put up the notices next week and would then put up the final agenda the week beginning 6th April. In the meantime all Councillors were encouraged to promote the event and attendance.

15. Report by Clerk

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

A27 Arundel Bypass minor corrections to consultation – it was noted that the corrections had not given the Council cause to revise their submission, but they did note that Walberton Parish Council were proposing to send in a detailed response although not focussed on the corrections circulated.

Ford to Hunston Canal Proposal – a request for the Parish Council to appoint a representative to a group looking to promote a traffic free travel route along the Canal had been made, but it was agreed that until the plan was further forward no rep would be appointed. It was also noted that part of the route had been identified by the BEWAG group for potential development as such a route.

Claremont Lodge Nursing Home potential provision of streetlight. Following further discussions and information from WSCC and SSE the Council agreed that they would not support a street light for the Nursing Home.

Death of a Royal Protocol – the Clerk informed the Council of the need to approve a protocol in the event of the death of a senior royal and she would produce a document for consideration.

16. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Tuesday 14th April 2020 on the conclusion of the Annual Parish Assembly, but not before 8 p.m. at Barnham Community Hall.

At this point the Chair closed the meeting to the public as it was RESOLVED that Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 because of the nature of the business to be transacted the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of all items within Part Two of the Meeting

PART II

17. Staff Matters

The Chair asked the Council to support his recommendation to award the Clerk and Assistant Clerk their annual increment from 1st April. It was noted that the annual pay rise award for Local Government workers had yet to be agreed but that would automatically be awarded in due course.

Resolved: To approve the award of the annual increment to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.55

Signed by:

Chair, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council