BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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2015/01

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Amanda Able, Mike Bond, Liz Brown, David Frost (Chairman), Tim Walduck & William Wales
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC), Peter Terrington (NNDC),
9 members of the public

1) Apologies received: Mike Chapman, Safer Neighbourhood Team

2) Declarations of interest: None

3) Minutes: Approved and signed for the meeting of 17 November 2014

4a) Norfolk County Council

The new faster Broadband is now available to over 100,000 people in Norfolk. The mobile phone companies are intending to spend £5bn nationwide to improve the service in rural areas. The planning application for the King's Lynn incinerator has finally been withdrawn. With regard to the closure of the Wells/Fakenham Dry Road; it is now possible that the work on services will be able to proceed with only a partial closure of the road. Health checks are available to people between the ages of 40 and 74. With regard to the Council budget for next year, negotiations are continuing. In the consultation 74% of people said that they would be prepared to accept a small increase to safeguard services. The final budget decision meeting will take place on 16 February.

4b) North Norfolk District Council

The Big Society Fund is still available for community projects – the next round closes on 16 February. Following representations from the former North Walsham CAB the Norfolk CAB has only been given funding for six months, following which any competent body will be able to bid for the service. The Council Tax has been held at the same level for next year, but fees will increase by approximately 2.5%. The Enforcement Board has added the empty property in Binham to those that it intends to bring back into use.

4c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

The team had sent a report, which KL read. Since the last meeting there had been one recorded crime – an incident of criminal damage. There has been a spate of burglaries in the neighbouring areas of Sheringham, Holt, Blakeney and most recently Stiffkey. Some of these have taken place in the daytime, and police urge people to be vigilant

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4d) Parish Clerk

There will be a Police Budget meeting (everyone invited) in King's Lynn on 21 January. Another meeting was taking place in Norwich at the same time as our meeting. NALC had sent a short survey, asking if we were satisfied with their services. It was agreed that we are. Discussions are currently continuing in central government concerning the audit regime for smaller Parishes (those with a turnover of less than £25k). The intention is to remove these from the current audit requirement, but they will have to publish certain information on a website instead. With this in mind, KL is taking steps to set up a website for the Parish Council.

5) To report on NNDC *Parish Councils Forum* held on 24 November 2014

MB, MC, and KL had attended this meeting at Bodham Village Hall. The main item on the agenda was an explanation of the planning process following several representations from Parishes (including Binham) over disagreements between Parish and District thinking. MB found the explanation of "what was and what was not" a material consideration useful. KL believed that the proposed intention to send feedback in the future, where planners disagreed with Parish Councils, would be a worthwhile improvement.

6) To discuss the question "Is it reasonable for Norfolk County Council to charge people in rural areas (only) to use household waste & recycling sites when they are already getting a lower level of service?"

This item follows a representation from Langham PC at the last meeting when it was resolved to send a letter requesting that the Wells Site remain open. An answer had been received stating that it was not intended to close it, but that Wells, along with eight other small (and part-time) sites would charge £2 per visit from April 2016. The larger sites, which are still open seven days each week, would not be making a charge.

Councillors agreed that this discrimination between rural and urban areas was not acceptable and resolved to send a letter of complaint. MS said that she would speak to colleagues with sites that were similarly affected.

7) To discuss Norfolk Constabulary *PCSO Match Funding Scheme*

This proposal was for Parish Councils to fund half of the salary of a PCSO. This was clearly "out of our league" as it would mean an increase in our precept of several hundred percent.

8) To discuss CPRE *Light Pollution* questionnaire

Councillors believed that we already had enough questionnaires to answer from official bodies, and that we should not start completing them for pressure groups.

9) To discuss NNDC *Indoor Leisure Facilities* questionnaire

This had been sent by consultants acting for NNDC and concerned the future of indoor facilities in the district. The questions were jointly answered.

10) To discuss any outstanding issues

Although two of the three empty properties in the village now looked as if they would be returned to use, there had not been any success in persuading the owners of the third to do anything. The NNDC Enforcement Board had therefore been requested to add the property to their list for action.

MB circulated details of the results obtained from the latest two SAM2 positions at Langham Road and Walsingham Road. These were both showing better results than the previous sites, but there are still three more situations for the equipment to be used at, before the whole village has been covered. >>>>>>>>>>>>>

11) To discuss any planning matters to hand

There were no new planning applications to discuss. Applications had been agreed in the following cases:
The Chequers, Front Street – alterations to covered walkway
Jacaranda, Warham Road – erection of two-storey side extension and detached cart shed/garage
1 Front Street – installation of replacement side bay window
Abbey Farm, Warham Road – erection of replacement agricultural building to rear livestock
Communications Tower, Cockthorpe Airfield – installation of further antennas and satellite dish
The following applications were still outstanding following e-mailed discussions:
Change of use of agricultural building to residential dwellings at Old Barn Farm
Change to permit full residential use at 2 Westgate Barns, Warham Road (currently seasonal)

DF then read a statement concerning a meeting that had taken place with Councillors at the request of Broadland St Benedicts, the company that has purchased the housing land from NNDC at the rear of Priory Crescent. It is the intention to build a mixed housing site with approximately 14 affordable homes and a similar number of "open market" properties. Most of the affordable homes would be to rent, with a few available on a "shared ownership" scheme. The whole site was likely to be phased over three years. At present plans are still fluid, however, the company intend to make a presentation to the village on 27 February, when everybody would be invited to two sessions at the Memorial Hall, in the afternoon and the early evening. These sessions would be followed by a special additional Parish Council meeting at which the scheme would be discussed.

12) Financial report and accounts for settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors with agendas.
The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Clifford Hudson	Grounds Maintenance	160.00
Keith Leesmith	4th quarter salary and expenses contribution *	474.00
HMRC	4th quarter PAYE	111.80

* Includes rent for Stody Estate allotment ground

13) Minor Items

LB asked what was happening regarding the unkempt grass in Priory Crescent. This is not the responsibility of Victory Housing but in fact is part of the land recently purchased by Broadland St. Benedicts. Perhaps they would be prepared to care for it pending building construction.
There are occasional parking problems at Bunkers Hill, when visitors to one of the properties there cause difficulties for passing traffic including buses. It was agreed to write to the owner asking him to request that his guests park with consideration for others.

14) To confirm the date of the next meeting

Next normal meeting – Monday 16 March 2015
Additional special meeting – Friday 27 February 2015

The meeting closed at 2057