



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
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2015/07

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

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

- 1) Apologies received:** Liz Brown, Mike Chapman, Jonathan Savory (NNDC)
- 2) Declarations of interest:** None
- 3) Minutes:** Approved and signed for the meeting of 19 January 2015
Approved and signed for the special meeting of 27 February 2015
- 4a) Norfolk County Council**
The Dry Road from Wells to Fakenham will now not be completely closed, but work will be carried out with temporary traffic lights. These will not be allowed to be used during the Easter or Spring Bank Holiday school holidays. Throughout the County there are nine sites where it is impossible to receive any emergency mobile 'phone signal. These are to be given priority for coverage improvement. With regard to the former Blakeney "reference area" these zones (elsewhere) have now been re-named as "highly protected marine areas". People using concessionary travel cards are asked to check that they have not expired, as they will be checked after 7 April, and invalid cards will be rejected.
- PC Jason Pegden arrived during the following
- 4b) North Norfolk District Council**
The Big Society Fund is still available for community projects despite the fact that the "pot of money" will now be smaller as the County is keeping a larger percentage of the second homes money. A *Growbiz* event at Thursford was very popular with local businesses, although there were few attending from Priory Ward. The budget for 2015/2016 has been approved, with no increase to the District portion of the Council Tax. NNDC is now paying the *living wage* to all employees. Concerns for the future include "Fracking", and the lack of Neighbourhood Plans.
- 4c) Safer Neighbourhood Team**
Since the last meeting there had been in the Parish two recorded crimes, both thefts, and five calls to police; all for minor matters. In the general area however, there have been several thefts of heating oil and also thefts from unlocked allotment sheds. JP asked if the SAM2 monitor was proving useful, and MB said that although still early, we are beginning to build up a useful library of statistical data. It is hoped that this will eventually be used to target police action and possibly highways improvements/alterations.

4d) Parish Clerk

The *Norfolk Rural Community Council* (which operates the heating oil scheme which is used by some in the village) will merge with *West Norfolk Voluntary & Community Action* from 1 April. The new organisation will be known as *Community Action Norfolk*. *English Heritage* is also undergoing a re-structuring and re-naming exercise. In conjunction with this they have confirmed that they will still take care of the Binham Market Cross, and have confirmed that ownership lies with the village.

5) To discuss any planning matters to hand

There were no new planning applications for consideration. The following applications had gained approval:

Change of use of agricultural building to two residential dwellings at Old Barn Farm.

Removal of "summer only residency condition" at 2 Westgate Barns, Warham Road.

The proposal to restore/revise the channel of the River Stiffkey at Cockthorpe has been withdrawn.

6) To obtain updates regarding intention of Norfolk County Council to charge people at rural Household Waste and Recycling sites (but not urban ones) from 1 April 2016

MS advised that following a statement from the government that such charges should not be made, it was unlikely that they would come into force (similar proposals had been made elsewhere in the Country). NCC will review the whole subject of the sites later in the year.

7) To discuss a letter from NCC regarding committee (as opposed to cabinet) governance

Last year the County Council had switched from cabinet governance; where most of the decisions were made by a small number of the major political group, back to committee governance. This system uses committees to decide on minor matters and to recommend to full Council on major matters. Such committees can contain Members chosen from the whole Council. As it is twelve months since the change we are being asked for our opinions. MS believed that the committee system was much better, and was unlikely to lead to costly mistakes like that of the "incinerator". It was agreed that we write, backing the new system.

8) To discuss letter from *Community Payback*

This organisation had written asking if we had any work for the people under their care who were undertaking community service. Such work could include various unskilled jobs such as scrub clearing and graffiti removal. There was no charge for the labour undertaken but expenses were payable. There were no suggestions of any work available.

9) To discuss any further action required at present regarding proposed *Broadland* development

DF stated that although there was opposition to this proposal, the Parish Council would hold a neutral position until a proper planning application was submitted, at which time it would decide on the stance it intended to take. In the meantime, he felt that the Council's job was to obtain as much information as possible, so that a proper decision could be made when the time came. One of the main concerns was the increased traffic flow that the development would have, particularly on the difficult junction between the Walsingham and Hindringham Roads. A meeting had taken place the previous week, at which representatives from the Parish Council were present, as well as a senior Highways Officer and members of the *Broadland Group* team. Marie Strong had arranged the meeting. It was stated there, that if the development went ahead, it would be possible for the sight lines to be improved, at a cost to the developer. DF said that in an ideal world we would want this work undertaken whether the development progressed or not, but it was unlikely to be possible at present without the development.

Another concern was the track/footpath that runs along the back of the proposed development to the Warham Road. Investigations had shown that this appeared to be in multiple ownership, which made maintenance difficult. At present William Wales was cutting the grass on a voluntary basis, but individual owners were jointly legally responsible. Broadland had stated that they were happy to maintain the section of the track that would be associated with the development. DF said that he was disappointed by a lack of quantitative data to justify the development, and hoped that Broadland and/or NNDC would be providing this.

A number of people wanted to raise various objections to the development, despite the remarks previously made by DF.

MB believed that because the proposed Binham development was one of a number contemplated throughout North Norfolk, it might be that the market housing proposed for Binham would subsidise not only the Binham affordable housing, but possibly affordable housing elsewhere. If this was the case it should be objected to on the grounds that we were using up land that should be kept for future affordable housing development in the village at a later time.

Peter Terrington said that he believed that the development would go ahead, and it was therefore in the best interests of Binham to “get the best deal possible for the village ” rather than blindly oppose it.

10) **To consider financial appeals from local organisations**

Various appeals had been received throughout the year from organisations based in East Anglia. It was decided that the whole budgeted amount of £200 should be split between four very local organisations (see next item).

11) **Financial report and accounts for settlement**

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors with agendas.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Binham Youth Group	Donation	50.00
Wells Community Hospital	Donation	50.00
Glaven Caring	Donation	50.00
Binham Memorial Hall	Donation	50.00

12) **Minor Items**

TW raised a matter on behalf of a Parishioner. That person believed that a piece of land in the village belonged to the village, but was being “taken over” by someone. It was agreed that the Council would need more details before it could act, including any evidence of the land ownership.

13) **To confirm the date of the next meeting**

Next normal meeting – Monday 18 May 2015

Annual Parish Meeting and Memorial Hall AGM – Tuesday 21 April 2015

14) **To undertake administrative procedures in respect of forthcoming election**

KL explained that elections taking place on 7 May could include one for the Parish Council, if more than the maximum number of seven candidates wanted to be Councillors. Notices would be published in about seven days on notice boards and the NNDC website. Anyone interested in becoming a Councillor would find there the details needed, including how to obtain the required application forms.

Existing Councillors who were present and wished to re-apply completed the necessary forms after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2058