



# BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

**Those Present** Mike Bond, Liz Brown, Mike Chapman, David Frost (Chairman), Stan Hewitt, Lucy McCallum & William Wales  
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie Strong (NCC), Sheila Oxtoby, Tom Fitzpatrick, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Simon Hester (NNDC), PCSO Sarah Kirby, 14 Members of the Public

DF welcomed the visitors from NNDC and said that some items on the agenda would be taken out of order to accommodate them and others.

**1) Apologies received:** None

**2) Declarations of interest:** None

**3) Minutes:** Approved and signed for the meeting of 17 November 2015

**4c) Safer Neighbourhood Team Report**

There had been two recorded crimes in the Parish since the last meeting – both in November and both house burglaries. There had been several similar crimes at the same time in adjacent Parishes. A reported suspicious vehicle turned out to be legitimate, but the police would like to encourage people to report similar incidents even if they have similar outcomes. There are spam emails circulating regarding parking penalty notices – these should be ignored as the attachments to them contain a virus.

**5) To discuss concerns at recent burglaries in the village**

A member of the public asked if, following the recent burglaries, the Parish Council should look at the possibility of installing CCTV cameras in the village. These would not necessarily have to be funded by the Parish Council, but other sources of funding could be looked at including the *Big Society Fund*. PCSO Sarah Kirby said that whilst these had their uses, there were regulations regarding them which made it difficult for anyone to set one up in public areas. She instead recommended the “Homewatch” scheme but would also speak to the Crime Prevention Officer.

**4b) North Norfolk District Council Report**

The NNDC visitors were invited to speak under this heading. DF said that whilst the planning committee dealt with many applications on a routine basis, from Binham’s point of view the current application was the largest seen in the village since the original building of Priory Crescent. He also said that on the last occasion that Tom Fitzpatrick and Sheila Oxtoby visited mention was made of attempts to stop the automatic right to buy of Housing Association properties in rural areas, and the possibility of restricting new market housing to full-time

occupancy (excluding use as second homes). He asked what progress was being made in these areas.

*All planning applications are dealt in accordance with the law, and politicians are not allowed to interfere with the process. The sale of Housing Association properties is a matter for central government, not NNDC. Regarding permanent occupation – it is a condition that could be asked for and it would be up to the planning committee to decide whether to add it or not.*

Member of the Public: Is the current plan the only one that can be used, or can an alternative plan be submitted?

*Yes there could be alternative plans – but that would be up to the developer, and the planning committee.*

WW: Have the other sites associated with this development progressed through planning?

*No – they will all be considered together*

MB: Several changes have been asked for and alterations have been made, but the main objection, the size of the development, has not altered. This will represent an increase of 14% in the village housing stock. Could the development be phased over a number of years?

*In theory it could, but this would be more disruptive to neighbouring properties.*

MB: What is the appeal process if the village is unhappy with the final decision of the planning committee?

*Appeals are allowed on the basis of a point of law – if the appellant believes that planning law has not been adhered to.*

MC: NNDC may be representing the wider community, but does not appear to be representing the village of Binham. Could the development be smaller to begin with, and added to later?

*It would be less disruptive to local properties if built quickly.*

MC: The plan says that it is a “mixed development”. In fact it is two distinct but adjacent developments.

*Come to the Planning Committee meeting and have your say. Conditions can be made following comments made.*

DF: The Parish Council tries to represent the views of the village – it is to be hoped that the Planning Committee will listen to their views.

#### **4a) Norfolk County Council Report**

Age Concern is now running a weekly bus from Binham and other local villages to Fakenham. This is a door-to-door service and can be booked by telephoning 07990 026839. Wells dementia-friendly committee are running several events from Wells Hospital and other local venues this year. Details can be found at [www.dementiafriendlynorfolk.com](http://www.dementiafriendlynorfolk.com) The County Council is putting £1.1m into a fund to help keep people out of hospital or to allow them home from hospital quicker by providing home care. The budget consultation is now over, and over the next few weeks NCC will be considering the replies and setting the budget.

#### **4b) Continuing North Norfolk District Council reports**

Vincent Fitzpatrick: Sheila Oxtoby and her team are to be congratulated, as the Council has now achieved the “Gold Standard” in the *Investors in People* scheme. An exercise is currently running to re-register those voters who have postal votes – people should complete forms that are being posted to them and return them as soon as possible. The *Big Society Fund* is still operating and grants of up to £15k can be obtained. The next closing date is 8 February. An innovative scheme is being trialled in Holt Country Park, using pigs to eat and clear bramble undergrowth.

Simon Hester: Also mentioned the *Big Society Fund*. Most recent grants have gone to the east of the district – it would be good to see applications from this area. The government has given £100k to local heritage projects. Some of this will go to Wells Maltings, and some to the Cromer West Block, which had been damaged in recent storms.

**4d) Parish Clerk's Report**

Following the last meeting KL had written to the Stody Estate to ask if any more allotment land might be available to rent. Unfortunately it is not. KL wondered if a sum of money might be available if the proposed development goes ahead, as "planning gain", which could be used to buy or even rent some additional land for allotments – there may be a demand from any new housing as well as the existing requirements. We have been advised that our grant application for computer equipment from the "transparency fund" has been successful, although we have not actually received the money at the present time.

**6) To discuss any planning matters to hand**

a) Following alterations to the Priory Crescent/Walsingham Road planning application, it would be necessary to meet to consider the new proposals so that a formal response could be made. It was agreed that this would take place on Tuesday 26 January. Plans would be available for inspection in the Memorial Hall from 2.30pm, the Council would meet as a planning committee from 6.00pm, and a public meeting would take place at 7.30pm.

b) Notification has been received that the application to build a stable and hard-standing at land adjacent to Kirby Cottage has been withdrawn.

**7) To discuss Public Rights of Way (possible registration of)**

In view of the time taken by the additional items at the beginning of the meeting, it was decided to hold this item over until the March meeting. DF said that he had put an article about it in the *Lynx Magazine*, so people would have an opportunity to think about it in the meantime.

**8) To discuss concerns over works being undertaken at Common Lane (Marsh)**

Following requests, the NNDC Enforcement Officer has issued a *Planning Contravention Notice*, which will give planners an opportunity to discover what is happening on the site.

**9) To discuss north Norfolk Parishes meeting – Monday 22 February**

An invitation had been received to this meeting, which would take place in Cromer. MB, MC, DF, and SH will attend.

**10) 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	225.00
Keith Leesmith	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter salary and expenses contribution	453.60
HMRC	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter PAYE	109.40

**11) Minor Items**

The water on the Hindringham Road, which is running throughout The Street, has been reported to the Highway Rangers. Although it is not expected that they will be able to deal with it, they should be able to pass it on to someone that can. LB asked about the provision of dog bins. KL believes that they are about £80 each to buy, and approximately £300 per annum to empty. It was thought that irresponsible dog owners would still not use them, and therefore the cost was not justified.

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

Next normal meeting – Monday March 2016

Additional special meeting – Tuesday 26 January 2016

**The meeting closed at 2110**