



# BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith  
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2016/10

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 MAY 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

**Those Present** David Frost, Stan Hewitt, Lucy McCallum, & William Wales  
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie Strong (NCC), Vincent Fitzpatrick (NNDC), Simon Hester (NNDC), PCSO Sarah Kirby & 7 members of the public

**1) Election of Chairman:** David Frost elected unanimously  
Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed

**2) Election of Vice-Chairman:** Liz Brown elected unanimously

**3) To confirm dates of meetings for the coming year:**  
Confirmed as 18.07.16 : 19.09.16 : 21.11.16 : 16.01.17 : 20.03.17 : 15.05.17

**4) Apologies received:** Mike Bond, & Liz Brown,

**5) Declarations of interest:** None

**6a) Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 21 March 2016:** Approved & signed

**6b) Minutes of special planning meeting held on 5 April 2016:** Approved & signed

### **7a) NCC Report**

The devolution debate continues; the latest word from Downing Street being that the requirement to have an elected mayor may now be negotiable (again). NCC intends to offer homes to Syrian refugees. The exact numbers are still being worked out, but they will be in family groups and are likely to be housed in either Norwich or South Norfolk. Despite the long wait, Binham should have fibre broadband by the end of the year. Throughout the County isolated properties where the provision of cable is unlikely will be offered alternatives such as a discounted satellite service. Until the fibre broadband arrives people should complain to their providers if they are unhappy with their current (copper wire) service.

### **7b) NNDC Report**

VF had sent a written report which was circulated to Councillors and is appended to these minutes and can be found on the website. He attended the meeting to read the report and answer any queries. See: <http://binhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

### **7c) Safer Neighbourhood Team Report**

There had been 2 burglaries and 1 (late reported) theft just before the last meeting. In the local area police are asking people to be vigilant in the area of churches (theft at Blakeney recently) and

they should also be aware that trailers are being stolen – so precautions should be taken to safeguard and possibly mark and photograph these. Attention is requested to a dirty white Berlingo van, which has been seen in the area of reported thefts. No registration number is known but the vehicle has high visibility stripes – possibly an ex highway van. At the last meeting that SK attended a request was made for CCTV in the village; she therefore researched the matter. Private CCTV, in or around people’s homes, which does not record from areas that the public have normal access to, is readily available and inexpensive. However, if filming in public areas (including roads and streets) is to be undertaken, there are extensive regulations around the use of the data captured and those that are allowed to access it. If people would like to progress the matter of private CCTV or other crime prevention matters Sarah would be happy to arrange a meeting with a crime prevention officer and/or commercial installers.

#### **7d) Parish Clerk Report**

An email thanking us for our donation had been received from AgeUK Norfolk. NCC are switching to an online system of planning consultations, although we do not receive many cases from them. NNDC are also working in that direction and KL had volunteered to take part in a pilot study, although this had not yet started.

#### **8a) To agree the accounts for 2015/2016**

Copies of the accounts had been circulated to Councillors beforehand, and it was agreed that the Chairman could sign them off.

#### **8b) To complete the annual governance statement for the audit**

Copies of the questions required to be considered had been circulated beforehand and it was agreed that they could all be answered positively. As the internal audit had been completed, the accounts could now go forward for external audit.

#### **9) To discuss any planning matters to hand**

*Determinations:* External alterations at Stewards House, Blacksmiths Yard and Erection of steel portal framed livestock building at Nutwood Farm – permission granted in both cases.

*Erection of 28 Houses on land off Priory Crescent & Walsingham Road:*

DF said that unfortunately neither he nor any other Councillor was able to attend the planning committee meeting at Cromer on 4 May. However, Clive Brady had kindly attended and read a statement on behalf of the Parish Council, which Councillors had approved beforehand. Pennie Alford also attended and spoke against the proposal as a “concerned resident”. David then read the prepared statement, which said that although the PC believed that the final plans were much improved on earlier versions, they still objected to the overall density of the site, and the huge subsidy that Binham was delivering to other parts of the District by the imposition of an unnecessarily large number of market houses. Clive Brady and Pennie Alford were then invited to give their impressions of the meeting. Clive said that he found the meeting well-attended and well-chaired although he was surprised that no announcement was made of the result of each discussion. When he read the statement, he found the members of the committee to be attentive and appeared to be interested in what he had to say. Pennie reiterated his comments but said that she noted that the developers did not try to justify either the density or subsidy issues. She believed that the Parish Council had done all that they could on behalf of the village.

DF said that other issues were the apparent withdrawal of an offer to pay for the moving of the 30mph zone on Hindringham Road further south, and a total ignoring of alternative schemes put forward by the PC which would have reduced the number of market houses. It was also disappointing that after the first planning committee meeting in February, DF had asked the planning department for the opportunity to work with them and the developers in formulating a new scheme that would be acceptable to all. There had obviously been talks between NNDC and Broadland, but Binham Parish Council were not included.

Vincent FitzPatrick had not attended the planning committee meeting, but as the local member was entitled to give his views and sent a letter to the committee (which was read out) saying that he approved of the plans. Subsequently DF had asked him to explain this action to the Parish. He explained that he had tried to understand the Parish Council's views and had spoken to the case officer and the developer. It had been his suggestion that the land be marked out with canes and tapes before the site meeting to show the disparity between the proposed land available for affordable and market housing. He said that as a member of NNDC he was not beholden to the views of the Parish Council and had to act on his conscience. Not everyone in Binham was against the scheme and he believed that it was in the public interest for it to proceed.

Simon Hester is a member of the planning committee as well as being a local member. He supported the views of the Parish Council and spoke against the development at both the committee meetings. At the most recent meeting he said that there was a vibrant debate, with most committee members wanting to speak. He had done his best to sway the arguments but there had been much pressure from District Council leaders to accept the scheme and in the end it was narrowly agreed to by seven votes to five. He compared this defeat with the recent rejection of a scheme to build a large number of houses in Sculthorpe. He believed that the large numbers of villagers attending the committee meeting and protesting had made a difference in this instance and said that NNDC needed to see "the voice of the people" in such cases. He praised the enormous amount of work done by David Frost during the whole process.

DF said that we now had to look to the future, and said that he would still like to see a liaison committee set up under the auspices of the Parish Council to work with the developer and their contractors to ensure that the building process operated as smoothly as possible.

#### **10) To discuss a request for support from the North Norfolk Town and Parish Forum**

DF and KL had attended the inaugural meeting of this body at Cromer in February. There were about 100 people attending from Parishes all over North Norfolk and a small committee was formed to carry the work forward. They had various aims, but the main one was an attempt to get "second homes tax" to be remitted directly to Parishes rather than District and Borough Councils. They were now asking for a letter of support. It was agreed that we send one.

#### **11) Accounts for settlement**

A bank reconciliation had been circulated with agendas. The following were agreed for payment:

Zurich Municipal Insurance	annual insurance policy	323.07
Kier Environmental Services	brown bin collection from the Priory	44.20
Clifford Hudson	grounds' maintenance	225.00
Norfolk Association of Local Councils	annual subscription	101.23
Mike Gates	internal audit	30.00
Keith Leesmith	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter salary and expenses	453.60
HMRC	PAYE on above	109.40

#### **12) Minor Items**

SH asked if a noticeboard could be provided for Priory Crescent. When this was raised before it was deferred in the hope that it might be paid for by Broadland as part of the Section 106 obligation. It was early days, but there was perhaps still a possibility of this.

SH said that the cottage to the south of the junction with Priory Crescent and Hindringham Road had a lot of ivy growing on it, which was obscuring the view of traffic pulling out. KL would write to the owner asking him to trim it. There was a similar problem on the Field Dalling Road. Pennie Alford would supply KL with the details.

DF was asked what the current position was with the apparent development at the Marsh. He said that he had had discussions with NNDC but the matter was complicated by the fact that a new officer was now dealing with the matter. NNDC had undertaken some action, but no satisfactory conclusion appears to have been reached so far. DF would however keep the matter under review.

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

Confirmed as Monday 18 July 2016.

**14) To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Administration of meetings Act) 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude members of the public and press during consideration of item(s) regarding confidential matter(s).**

KL explained that although the public (and press) normally had the right to attend and view Parish Council meetings, there were a few instances where the Council could discuss items in private. One of these now occurred – the Parish Council intended to discuss the co-option of a new Parish Councillor. A vacancy had arisen following the removal from the district of Mike Chapman.

In order to not inconvenience the public in this instance however, instead of asking them to leave, the Council would re-locate to the committee room at the Hall.

**15) To discuss the co-option of an additional Parish Councillor**

Proposed and unanimously agreed that Pennie Alford be co-opted. She had previously agreed that she would be happy to accept nomination.

After the above, the Councillors returned to the main hall, and DF announced the result and closed the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 2115**