

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON
MONDAY 29th APRIL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

<u>Item.</u>	Councillor Philip Reeve chaired the meeting. 50 members of the public were present.
<u>1.0</u>	<u>Chairman's Welcome</u> Councillor Philip Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<u>2.0</u>	<u>To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting</u> The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 th April 2018 were approved. Proposed Councillor Sarah Broughton, seconded Councillor Nick Ellis, unanimous decision.	
<u>3.0</u>	<u>Chairman's summary of the last year</u> Councillor Philip Reeve explained the split in Councillors with the Severalls Ward, being 9 representatives from Gt Barton Village and 2 from the North Ward, Barton Severalls, once the houses are occupied. New Councillor Nick Ellis was welcomed and Councillor Diana Boys was welcomed back onto the Council. Thanks were given to the Clerk for her 6 th unqualified audit. The Council have reviewed 41 planning applications. Fornham Road safety assessment is still underway. Livermere Road flooding is being looked into. The litter pick was cancelled due to the snow and finally undertaken in April. Councillor Maggie Dunn organised a 'poppy trail' with the primary school, with a 'there but not there' statue and a '100' plaque covered in poppies drawn by the children, being displayed on Elms Close, to commemorate the World War 1 celebrations. A grant application to clean the war memorial has been submitted. A new dog bin has been installed at Conyers Way. The Mill Road pedestrian crossing point has been installed. A tree will be planted on Conyers Green to remember Ronnie Whiting's services to the village. Thanks were given to Eddie Gibson for the 10 years he edited the village newsletter. There will be a phased opening of the West Suffolk Operational Hub later this year. Concerns are being raised regarding traffic speeds approaching the site and the visibility from the A134 roundabout. Thanks were given to Councillor Matthew Parker for the Parish Council's entry for the Christmas tree competition. The unexpected visitors on Hall Park this summer were discussed and thanks given again to West Suffolk Council for their quick removal. The Parish Council have been offered the chance to look after the new community building on The Severalls development. This development is the only one of the 5 around Bury St Edmunds that does not have a strategic relief road. The number of houses on the development of 'around' 1250 could mean up to 1500 new homes. Plans for the Downing Drive/School Road link footpath are still unresolved.	
<u>4.0</u>	<u>Report from Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger</u> Councillor Hopfensperger reported on the following items: Suffolk County Council's budget of £519.3 million has been approved and 70% of this will be spent on adult and children's services. 3 new specialist schools have been approved. £4.4 million will be spent on smart street lights. A new initiative for electric cars called 'Plug in Suffolk' is being launched. Thermal patching technology is being used to help with the issue of pot holes. Local issues: The Fornham Road safety assessment has been delayed until the traffic lights are removed. Residents have raised concerns regarding an increase in the volume and speed of traffic on East Barton Road. Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger is reviewing the need for a traffic and speed survey, following a request from residents to lower the speed limit. The flooding outside the Village Hall and on Livermere Road are being worked on, with gullies being jetted. Young families on Cox Lane have raised the issue of cars using it as a cut through. The Children are designing some speed signs.	

<u>5.0</u>	<p><u>Report from Councillor Sarah Broughton</u></p> <p>Councillor Sarah Broughton reported that Bury St Edmunds is the no.1 place to live in Suffolk. There have been many meetings and training to prepare for the merging of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council into the joint West Suffolk Council. 2 new benches have been purchased for Hall Park Green and thanks were given to Councillor Kate Trevitt who had organised volunteers from the village to tidy up the copses on the green. A grant has been made to help support the Bowls Club. Following air quality issues, West Suffolk have secured funds to replace the pedestrian crossing on the A143 and relocate it. Thanks were given to the Parish Councillors for their work this year.</p>
<u>6.0</u>	<p><u>Update on the Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working party gave an update on the plan, since it was started in 2016. Following the housing needs survey, residents who responded felt that ‘the triangle’ was the best place for development in the village. A grant has been obtained by the Parish Council to support the Neighbourhood Plan. The Housing needs assessment has been received. Berkeley Homes should provide 370 affordable homes on the Severalls development. There is a need for smaller homes and care homes in the area. Policies are being put together for the draft plan, which should be ready summer 2019. Thanks were given to everyone on the Neighbourhood Plan working group.</p>
<u>7.0</u>	<p><u>Community Speed Watch</u></p> <p>Although funds have been put aside to support this initiative, we have been unable to find a volunteer co-ordinator.</p>
<u>8.0</u>	<p><u>Hall Park Wood Clearance</u></p> <p>2 copses have been cleared this year following specialists from West Suffolk meeting Councillors Kate Trevitt and Sarah Broughton on site. Residents and the Gt Barton Community Woodland Group carried out work to make a cleared area to allow access to the copses, which have become overgrown in the last few years.</p>
<u>9.0</u>	<p><u>Working with the primary school</u></p> <p>Councillor Maggie Dunn reported on the 2 projects where the Parish Council and school have worked together : the poppy trail to commemorate the end of World War 1, where a wreath made by the children was taken to the Menin Gate in Ypres, and the ‘Take Your Litter Home’ sign competition. The school is collecting crisp packets which can be recycled to make street furniture.</p>
<u>10.0 & 11</u>	<p><u>Issuing of Grants and talk from the Bowls Club</u></p> <p>A grant of £1500 was presented to the Bowls Club to go towards the improvements on their club house. The Club was founded in 1932 and has a 99 year lease. There are 54 members aged from 12 to 90! from Gt Barton and the surrounding villages. An energy audit recommended insulating the old building and updating the energy efficiency with new heaters. Thanks were given for the support from the Parish Council and Councillor Sarah Broughton.</p>
<u>12.0</u>	<p><u>Talk from the Great Barton History Society</u></p> <p>A talk was given on Great Barton with information dating back to the Norman Conquest.</p>
<u>13.0</u>	<p><u>Update on topical issues from the Police Community Engagement Officer</u></p> <p>Community Engagement Officers deal with low level crimes and anti social behaviour. Information was given on the numbers of crimes in the area, a home security checklist, fraud prevention, the police connect messaging system and the County Lines drug programme. The Speed Safety camera team has increased in the last 2 months.</p>
<u>14.0</u>	<p><u>Village Matter</u></p> <p>The issue of the extra housing on the Severalls development and the buffer zone was discussed. There are no plans for a bypass around Gt Barton.</p> <p>Thanks were once again given to the Parish Councillors, Councillor Nicky Crouch who is leaving the Parish Council but continuing her work on the Neighbourhood Plan, Councillor</p>

Sarah Broughton and Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger for their contributions to the village, the speakers this evening and members of the Neighbourhood Plan working group,

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

.....Sign & Date

.....Print name.

CHAIRMAN

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

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