

**MINUTES OF GREAT BARTON'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 16th APRIL 2012 COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM**

<u>Item.</u>		<u>Action</u>
	<p>Members Present : Councillor Philip Reeve in the Chair, together with Councillors Peter Fisk, Andrew Hill, Kate Trevitt, Roger Davison, Matthew Parker, David Mouncey and Robert Possnett.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by 37 members of the public.</p>	
<u>1.0</u>	<p><u>Election of Chairman</u> If the Chairman of the Parish Council is present at the meeting then he will act as chairman for the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Philip Reeve will therefore chair the meeting.</p>	
<u>2.0</u>	<p><u>Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence</u></p>	
<u>2.1</u>	<p>Councillor Philip Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ed Gibson and Derek Troth. Councillor Philip Reeve also gave apologies from David Ruffley MP who had been due to attend this meeting but had had to give last minute apologies.</p>	
<u>3.0</u>	<p><u>To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2011</u> Councillor Philip Reeve gave everyone time to read the minutes for the Annual Parish meeting in 2011. The minutes were then signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Mr John Roe, seconded by Mr Michael Brabrook. All councillors who were present at the meeting and some members of the public voted that they were a true record of the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2011.</p>	
<u>4.0</u>	<p><u>Chairman's Report</u> Councillor Philip Reeve gave a report from the last year. 3 new Councillors had joined the Parish Council bringing us back up to a full compliment of 11 Councillors, until Peter Bell unfortunately had to stand down. There have been many projects which have been completed in the last year. We are now nearing the end of the Bury Vision 2031 consultation, which proposes putting 1250 houses between Moreton Hall and Gt Barton. Thanks were given to the clerk for acting as the 'backbone of the council', diligently and with patience steering the council to ensure they are compliant in the many ways expected.</p>	
<u>4.1</u>	<p>Updates were given on the following topics: <u>Downing Drive/School Road link footpath</u></p>	
<u>4.1</u>	<p>Background information given and Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger provided the way forward in her report.</p>	
<u>4.2</u>	<p><u>Footpath from East Barton Road to the Bridleway by Ice Pits Wood</u> Deed of dedication received on 29th July 2011. The footpath goes North of the pillbox.</p>	
<u>4.3</u>	<p><u>Gt Barton Village Hall</u> The Renewable Energy Scheme at the Village Hall was completed. The access to the Village Hall through Elms Close remains a project to be carried through. There has been a rise in disturbances and damage to exterior fittings at the Hall recently. The Management Committee are still trying to secure the freehold of the Village Hall with the Parish Council remaining as Custodian Trustees.</p>	
<u>4.4</u>	<p><u>Provision of Services</u> Suffolk County Council has provided grass cutting services to Holy Innocents Church and the playing field, for the last 4 years and this will continue until 2015.</p>	
<u>4.5</u>	<p><u>Re-cycling Centre</u> This was a service requested through the response to the Parish Plan. A site at the Free Church has not been made available and the Village Hall car park is not suitable. So a site remains to be found.</p>	
<u>4.6</u>	<p><u>Playground</u> The extended playground is a well used facility by the children of the village. The tiles under the existing climbing frame require attention and the council are looking at providing a long term cost effective answer.</p>	

4.7	<p><u>Cox Lane</u> Liaison with Havebury Housing continues to provide the balance of a country lane with an acceptable road surface, but not so good that it is used as a 'rat run'. Repairs have been undertaken recently.</p>	
4.8	<p><u>Street Cleaning</u> Thanks were given to Derek Fell (who has now retired) for the years of service keeping our village respectable and clean. School Road and the A143 are now swept by St Edmundsbury Borough Council along with the emptying of litter and dog bins. The status of litter around the village in September and February this year has identified areas which could bring concern and are being monitored.</p>	
4.9	<p><u>Grants to Organisations</u> Grants were presented to Gt Barton Scout Group £2,000 for camping equipment and tents and Gt Barton Table Tennis Group, £520 for a new table tennis table and cover. The council were happy to assist the youth within the village by providing support in that area. Other groups invited to start the process of applying for grants by contacting the clerk.</p>	
4.10	<p><u>Planning</u> The number of applications has reduced over the last year and reflects the current economic situation. Thanks were given to the members of the planning committee.</p>	
4.11	<p><u>Parish Plan</u> The Parish Plan was completed and published in 2010. Many issues which were identified have been resolved and many started. Including East Barton Road footpath to Ice Pits Wood, facilitate energy savings schemes, the Parish Council's input towards Affordable Housing (which now relies on Icen Homes to progress. They have successfully secured the funding for the next 4 years, which includes Gt Barton but development in the short term will be entangled with other issues), the promotion towards the youth of the village in the short term is centred through assistance to the Scout Group and others. A Business Directory and village footpath map has been discussed.</p>	
4.12	<p><u>Street Lighting</u> From Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, there has been since March an initiative to switch off or dim street lighting between midnight and 5.00 am.</p>	
4.13	<p><u>Air Quality Monitoring</u> The Air Quality on The Street has been continually assessed and has shown monthly values which exceed statutory limits but in the last year have declined. St Edmundsbury Borough Council may now revoke the order.</p>	
4.14	<p><u>Ice Pits Wood</u> The Parish Council are awaiting the valuation of the wood from Suffolk County Council. Following the workshops last November and the Parish Plan, it is the wishes of the residents to retain this amenity for the benefit of the Parish. When the time arises the Council will review the best way of acquiring and managing this asset.</p>	
4.15	<p><u>Allotments</u> Following the offer of 3 sites in May 2011 (including Cox Lane), the Gt Barton Allotment Association considered these but due to their internal organisation and the continuing feelings around Cox Lane site, declined to proceed with any of the sites. The Council resolved to withdraw the Cox Lane site and asked Suffolk County Council to keep the other 2 sites available until September 2012. The Gt Barton Allotment Association has approached Suffolk County Council directly about alternative sites and Councillor Peter Fisk, their chairman, awaits a reply.</p>	
4.16	<p><u>Internal Operations</u> <i>Website</i> - The Gt Barton Village and the Parish Council website have been combined to www.greatbarton.onesuffolk.net Thanks were given to the clerk and</p>	

<p>4.17</p>	<p>Mick Brabrook for transferring the information and keeping the site appealing. <i>Newsletter</i> - This is a reference point for many residents. The Parish Council are mindful that it takes over 10% of the precept to run and have discussed ways to reduce costs. Opinions were asked for. Thanks were given to the editor, Councillor Ed Gibson. <i>The Precept</i> – Set in November 2011, this demonstrates empathy with the current economic situation and has therefore only increased by an inflationary rise of 4.7%. <i>Audit Report</i> – The external auditors had returned a complete and absolute unqualified report and thanks were given to the clerk. Other Concerns <i>Bus Route</i> – A change of collection service resulted in the bus route 304 coinciding with the Primary school drop off in the morning at 8.40am. This has resulted in a petition from the parents as the bus has to mount the pavement to get down School Road and there have been a couple of ‘near misses’. Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger will escalate this within Suffolk County Council. <i>Rural Vision 2031</i> – The Borough’s sites adjacent to the Pre-School along School Road and an area next to the Free Church, Mill Road have been amalgamated to have 2 x 20 dwellings next to the Pre-School. The Parish Council concluded that the infrastructure was poor for both areas. Additionally the 10 Affordable Homes under Icenii have favoured the School Road site too. <i>Bury Vision 2031</i> – The dramatic impact on the village of 1250 homes between 2011 and 2031 on the land between Moreton Hall and Gt Barton. There was then a discussion with the developer, Berkeley Strategic and the following were discussed: the number of houses, the area under consideration, the transport facilities associated with a major build, the infrastructure requirements of the developer, the time scales and the landscape proposal at Cattishall. Previously the Parish Council had stated the unsuitability of the area North of the railway line. To ensure that we have representation/support at Borough level we have the services of Borough Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, whose own ward at Rougham is affected by the Vision 2031. Councillor Philip Reeve then discussed the impact of the development, the expansion of the primary school and 50 extra dwellings on School Road. The Council have been considering where Gt Barton will be in 10-20 years. In order to avoid decline and become a dormitory village, the Parish Council took the opportunity to consult on the development of the Mill Road, School Road and A143 into a hub for the village which would encompass many aspirations from the Parish Plan and alleviate several concerns. Further comments were encouraged. Thanks were given to all Councillors for their work over the last 12 months in the service of the community.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Report from County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger</u> County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger gave a report on Suffolk County Council’s budget, the management of the library network and Children’s special care services. Following the Parish Council raising the issue of the 304 bus route, Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger is progressing the issue with Suffolk County Council and 2 new officers will be reviewing the case. The majority of the pathway on the Downing Drive/School Lane link footpath, has been completed. The project has now been re-assigned and Suffolk County Council will strive to complete it. The project to improve the access to the Village Hall has been supported from the locality budget.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Report from Borough Councillor Sarah Broughton</u> Councillor Sarah Broughton commented on the vibrant and active community in Gt Barton, the effects of the challenging budget setting and the £2 million of efficiency savings within the Borough Council. The challenge now is to keep front line services unaffected by the cuts. On 7th July 2012 the Olympic torch will pass through Bury St Edmunds.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman passed on apologies from David Ruffley MP who was unable to make the meeting and instead the Clerk gave her Financial Report for the year.</p>	
7.0	<p>Clerks Report on the Financial Status of the Parish Council</p>	
7.1	<p>The clerk gave the bank balances which were both in credit: Current Account £6,564.69 and Bonus Saver Account £46,630.76, Total £53,195.45. Details of the reserves held by the Parish Council were also given:</p>	
7.2	<p>Reserves at 31/3/12: Small projects fund - £7,051.00 (Earmarked : £4,000 Elms Close, £2,500 repairs to tiles in playground) = £551.00 Vision 2031 (Was Parish Plan) = £4,107.89 Elms Close £5,000 (+ £1,000 from Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger’s locality budget and £4,000 from unallocated if needed = £10,000) Village Hall £1,906.13 Youth Project £1,640.61 General Reserve £25,215.00 Total Reserves £44,920.63</p>	
8.0	<p><u>Presentation regarding the proposed development of North East Bury (from Moreton Hall to Cattishall and along the A143) from John Kelly, Berkeley Strategic Land Ltd – followed by questions from residents.</u> John Kelly reported on the following items: the design process; the traffic survey which has been undertaken but no results published yet; the town-wide programme of transport proposals; the pressure on the existing facilities; the character and identity of Gt Barton and Cattishall; the significant changes in levels of the undulating landscape; footpaths and bridleways; surface water drainage and sewage systems and tree belts. It is proposed to build 1250 houses ranging from 1 to 5 bedrooms both for sale and affordable tenures. There are 66 hectares of land, of which 20 hectares will be used for open space and community facilities. There was a discussion on the density of houses in Moreton Hall and Gt Barton, with Gt Barton having a low density of between 4 and 6 per acre. The programme of transport and the timescales were also discussed.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Village Matters (residents questions and comments)</u></p>	
9.1	<p>There was a discussion on how to find sustainable and appropriate housing density and manage its transition from the concentration on Moreton Hall to the relatively low density of Gt Barton.</p>	
9.2	<p>It was commented that the residents would like to see the framework for the development set out and then the housing fitting within the framework. John Kelly confirmed that the proposals are entirely appropriate for the capacity of the landscape. The Parish Council has put forward proposals for the buffer zone as it has concerns.</p>	
9.3	<p>The quantity of business units will be driven by demand.</p>	
9.4	<p>There was a discussion on protecting the existing settlement identity and supporting the local community and school.</p>	
9.5	<p>Questions were asked about the provision for buses and whether the developer would be involved in this? The transport proposals will be appropriate and credible and will develop in-line with the proposals. There is a requirement to manage the transport impact of the 2000+ extra cars using the A143. The Parish Council expressed their disappointment that the results from the traffic survey would not be available until after the end of the consultation.</p>	
9.6	<p>The issue of the 3 fold predicted increase in rail traffic from Felixstowe docks was discussed, along with the railway bridge at Ortewell Road and the single file traffic underneath it.</p>	
9.7	<p>There was a discussion on whether a ‘by-pass’ would be developed in the future when the economic climate was better, as the developer only has to ‘facilitate a by-pass at the present time’. Would land be available if there were funds? The regional impact on the A14 was discussed. There is a transport programme which</p>	

