

**MINUTES OF GREAT BARTON'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14th APRIL 2014 COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM**

<u>Item.</u>	Members Present : Councillor Philip Reeve voted to chair the meeting together with Councillors Peter Fisk, Andrew Hill, Kate Trevitt, Roger Davison, Matthew Parker, Ed Gibson, Michele Faiers, David Mouncey and Maggie Dunn.	Action
<u>1.0</u>	The meeting was attended by 7 members of the public.	
	<u>Election of Chairman</u>	
	The clerk proposed the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Philip Reeve to chair the meeting.	
<u>2.0</u>	<u>Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence</u>	
<u>2.1</u>	Councillor Philip Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Derek Troth.	
<u>3.0</u>	<u>To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2013</u>	
	All Councillors and members of the public were supplied with a copy of the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting. The minutes were then signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Kate Trevitt, seconded by Councillor Maggie Dunn. 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 2013.	
<u>4.0</u>	<u>Chairman's Report & Clerk's Financial Report</u>	
	Councillor Philip Reeve gave a report from the last year including updates on:	
<u>4.1</u>	Vision 2031 – the 2 nd consultation on the inspector's modifications are in progress. The Parish Council have been working with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council on the Rural and Vision 2031 programmes, to ensure Gt Barton remains unique and distinct and there is a buffer zone between the new North East development and Cattishall. Infrastructure is being closely monitored. The Parish Council is represented at Borough level by Councillor Sara Mildmay-White. The Parish Council are aiming to produce a site development brief for the development of the triangle of land bordered by School Road, Mill Road and the A143.	
<u>4.2</u>	Downing Drive/School Lane link footpath – arrangements are being made to complete the footpath and maintain the balance between the neighbouring properties and the protection of the Sycamore tree.	
<u>4.3</u>	Vandalism – Awareness of Neighbourhood Watch has increased and the amount of vandalism has reduced.	
<u>4.4</u>	Youth - Councillor Derek Troth has maintained a close link with the primary school. Facilities for the youth of the village are high on the Council's agenda and they are currently looking into the provision of a multi-use games area.	
<u>4.5</u>	Village Hall – The freehold of the Village Hall site has been obtained from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, with the Parish Council remaining the Custodian Trustees. Building work on the new foyer has now started. Thanks were given to the Village Hall Management Committee.	
<u>4.6</u>	Access to Elms Close - Plans to improve the access to Elms Close and extend the footpath from the A143 into the Close, are still in progress.	
<u>4.7</u>	Bowls Club – The Club are looking to expand and update their facilities. A lease agreement is being put in place.	
<u>4.8</u>	Emergency Plan – Gt Barton's plan remains highly regarded and annual updates are received. Thanks were given to the team.	
<u>4.9</u>	Village of the Year – in 2013 Gt Barton won the village of the year competition. Thanks were given to the steering committee.	
<u>4.10</u>	Playground – The facility is well used since it was extended and improved. The plans for this year are to replace the surface area around the swings, lay some new surface tiles next to the microphones and repaint the climbing frame.	
<u>4.11</u>	Cox Lane – There have been problems during the year with speeding and the lane being used as a rat run. Havebury have erected new signs.	
<u>4.12</u>	Street Cleaning – There has been little detrimental effect by not using a street	

<p><u>4.13</u></p>	<p>cleaner. St Edmundsbury Borough Council clean The Street and School Lane. As the Parish is now charged for emptying the rubbish bins, a reduction in the number of empties per month saves the Parish funds each year. The dog bins are still emptied weekly.</p>	
<p><u>4.14</u></p>	<p>Precept – Grants were presented to the Gt Barton Woodland Group and the Gt Barton Carpet Bowls Club. A grant will be made to the Gt Barton Scout Group and to The Den Youth Club, run by the Free Church. There has been a 4% rise in the precept this year by Gt Barton Parish Council and no rise from St Edmundsbury Borough Council or Suffolk County Council’s.</p>	
<p><u>4.15</u></p>	<p>Planning – There have been a similar number of applications to last year, 45. Thanks were given to the Planning Committee.</p>	
<p><u>4.16</u></p>	<p>Parish Plan 2010 – Successes from the plan have been the East Barton Road footpath to Icepits Wood, energy savings for the Village Hall, the Affordable Housing Project, which is due to start in June 2014. The council have looked into providing a re-cycling centre for the village but are unable to find a site.</p>	
<p><u>4.17</u></p>	<p>Icepits Wood – The Parish Council and Gt Barton Community Woodland are exploring the offer of a 99 year lease on Icepits wood from Suffolk County Council. The aim is to ensure it remains available to villagers without being a heavy burden on the precept.</p>	
<p><u>4.18</u></p>	<p>Street Lights – There was no feedback on streetlights being turned off between 12-5 am.</p>	
<p><u>4.19</u></p>	<p>Allotments – Congratulations were given to the Gt Barton Allotment Association on the success of the allotments. All the plots are now taken.</p>	
<p><u>4.20</u></p>	<p>Website – This is in the process of being updated and thanks were given to Councillor Ed Gibson and the Clerk.</p>	
<p><u>4.21</u></p>	<p>Newsletter – This remains a reference point for the village and thanks were given to the editor Councillor Ed Gibson . 10% of the precept is spent on this item. Some advertising has been included to stabilise costs.</p>	
<p><u>4.22</u></p>	<p>Speeding is a high priority for the police and the Parish Council. A mobile vehicle activated speed sign will be purchased in 2014 and moved around approved sites in the village. Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger kindly agreed to support the full cost of the sign and 4 of the mounting poles.</p>	
<p><u>4.23</u></p>	<p>Village Sign - Councillor Andrew Hill is looking to raise grant funding to provide a new village sign. Thanks were given to Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger and the Parish Council for their contributions.</p>	
<p><u>4.24</u></p>	<p>Projects in 2013 – New grit bins have been provided on 5 sites in the village; the dangerous situation regarding the school bus mounting the pavement on School Road has been dealt with and the double yellow lines on East Barton Road have been extended to make the junction safer.</p>	
<p><u>4.25</u></p>	<p>Councillors serving on committees – thanks were given to Councillor Peter Fisk and Councillor Andrew Hill for representing the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee; Councillor Ed Gibson for representing the Parish Council on the Emergency Plan committee, for editing the newsletter and for being the Chair of the youth committee; Councillor Peter Fisk and Councillor David Mouncey as the tree wardens and Councillor Derek Troth representing the Parish Council at the primary school</p>	
<p><u>4.26</u></p>	<p>New Councillor Michele Faiers was welcomed and that makes a full compliment of Councillors. Thanks were given to all the Councillors for their hard work.</p>	
<p><u>4.27</u></p>	<p>Councillor Philip Reeve gave thanks from everyone in the village to Derek Firth who had sadly passed away. Derek was a member of the Parish Council from 2003 – 2011 and Chairman for the later years. Warm regards were given to his wife, who lives in the village.</p>	
<p><u>4.28</u></p>	<p>A non-qualified audit had been received for 2012-13 and thanks were given to the Clerk for this and for her hard work managing the Parish Council procedures and finance.</p>	
<p><u>4.28</u></p>	<p>Thanks were given to Councillor Derek Troth for his leadership on the Youth Team and for being the Parish Council representative as a School Governor.</p>	

<u>4.29</u>	<p>Financial Report from the Clerk Bank balances as at 31/3/14:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Current A/C</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16,754.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonus Saver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£44,781.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£61,536.45</td> </tr> </table>	Current A/C	£16,754.58	Bonus Saver	£44,781.87	TOTAL	£61,536.45														
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<u>4.31</u>	<p>The clerk gave details of the cost savings put into place including changing her printer to a laser printer and gave details of new projects for 2014 including a new football net, new surfacing around the swings, maintenance work to trees on PC owned land, repainting the climbing frame and either replacing or repairing the 2 benches on the VHPF by the car park.</p>																				
<u>5.0</u>	<p>Report from County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger</p>																				
<u>5.1</u>	<p>Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger reported on the following items: Educational standards in Suffolk; changes to the 2 tier system; highways matters and the A14; partnership working with other councils and shared posts; fibre-optic broadband and home to school transport.</p>																				
<u>5.2</u>	<p>Suffolk County Council is freezing Council tax and figures were provided. Suffolk County Council is on the shortlist for the most improved Council. Direct work within the village includes the lease for Icepits Wood; speeding; school buses; a vehicle activated speed sign; new village sign; Multi-Use Games Area; Elms Close improvements and the village Hall foyer.</p>																				
<u>5.3</u>	<p>Questions raised included the sweeping of the A143/The Street and School Road. County Councillor Sarah Broughton agreed to look into the remit for this and the planned road works for Livermere Road and the disappointment regarding awareness, signage and non-adequate diversion signs.</p>																				
<u>5.4</u>	<p>Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger confirmed that Suffolk County Council is committed to projects in these financially challenging times.</p>																				
<u>6.0</u>	<p>Report from Borough Councillor Sarah Broughton County Councillor Sarah Broughton reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council is also freezing Council tax. St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Health District Council are sharing services and ambitions to provide the best opportunities for people in Suffolk; a locality officer will be appointed to each village; the travellers left the site on Ortewell Road before the temporary licence expired. County Councillor Sarah Broughton congratulated Gt Barton on winning the Village of The Year Award and described it as a vibrant and well run village.</p>																				

<p><u>7.0</u></p>	<p><u>Residents opinions sought on the Parish Council making donations to charities.</u> At present the Council makes 3 payments to local charities including St Nicholas' Hospice, Age UK Suffolk and the Ixworth Surgery Transport Fund. Members of the public agreed to supporting these charities.</p>	
<p><u>8.0</u></p>	<p><u>The A143 through Gt Barton – discussion with residents on how we can make The Street a more palatable road through the village</u> Councillor Andrew Hill is arranging a meeting with David Ruffley MP. Police assist with speed checks and the vehicle activated speed sign was a success. Community speed watch is not allowed on the A143. There is a need to keep a balance between the speed reduction methods and over urbanizing an area. Overgrown vegetation from the no-mans land between gardens and the footpath causes problems along with vegetation encroaching onto the footpath making it narrower. The question of the weight restriction on the A1088 was raised, causing lorries to come along the A143.</p>	
<p><u>9.0</u></p>	<p><u>Village Matters</u></p>	
<p><u>9.1</u></p>	<p>There was a request for a plan of the improvement works to Elms Close. This will be provided once the Council have approved the plans.</p>	
<p><u>9.2</u></p>	<p>Councillor Ed Gibson apologised that this meeting had not been advertised in the newsletter.</p>	
<p><u>9.3</u></p>	<p>The general consensus was that a re-cycling centre would be welcomed, there is just the issue of the location.</p>	
<p><u>10.0</u></p>	<p><u>Chairman's thanks</u> Thanks were given to Councillor Sarah Broughton and Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.05 pm and refreshments were served.</p>	
	<p>Sign & Print name</p>	
	<p>Date</p>	
	<p>CHAIRMAN OF THIS MEETING. Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>	