

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL ON
MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM**

<u>Item.</u>	<p>Members Present : Councillor Philip Reeve chaired the meeting together with Councillor Nicola Crouch, Maggie Dunn, Peter Fisk, Eddie Gibson, Matthew Parker and Kate Trevitt. 1 member of the public was present.</p>	
<u>1.0</u>	<u>Public Session</u>	
<u>1.1</u>	No items were raised under the Public Session.	
<u>2.0</u>	<u>To receive County Councillor's report from Rebecca Hopfensperger</u>	
<u>2.1</u>	Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger reported that she has taken up the issue of the pot holes on School Lane with Suffolk County Council.	
<u>2.2</u>	Suffolk County Council will provide costs relating to the signs requested by Montana Care Home. Councillor Hopfensperger may be able to contribute.	
<u>2.3</u>	The vegetation encroaching over the footpath along the A143 will be cut back within 14 weeks. Suffolk County Council has put Conyers Way on a 5-6 week cleansing schedule due to the flooding in the area.	
<u>2.4</u>	Details were also given of the 5 year NHS Sustainable Transformation Plan for Suffolk and North Essex; there was a discussion on the possibility of setting up an Accountable Care Organisation with a possible medical room which would be manned for sessions and providing health care in the area with the additional 5000 homes.	
<u>2.5</u>	The cat's eyes are being replaced on Mill Road. The junction lineage was reported as being poor.	
<u>3.0</u>	<u>To receive Borough Councillor's Report from Sarah Broughton</u>	
<u>3.1</u>	Councillor Sarah Broughton reported that Guy Smith from Suffolk County Council will be meeting with the West Suffolk Operational Hub liaison group once the vehicle movement figures are available. The planning application for the WSOH is due in the Spring and ground investigation work is being carried out before then.	
<u>3.2</u>	Local organisations were advised that Councillor Broughton has funds available in her locality budget.	
<u>3.3</u>	The devolution plan has been rejected but West Suffolk and St Edmundsbury Borough Council are still in favour.	
<u>4.0</u>	<u>Chairman's welcome, reminder about the filming of meetings and to receive apologies for absence</u>	
	Councillor Philip Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Michele Faiers.	
<u>5.0</u>	<u>(i) To receive members Declarations of Interest – Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached &, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item. (ii) Council to consider any new written requests for dispensation and/or requests which have been received prior to the meeting</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.	
<u>6.0</u>	<u>To sign the minutes of the council meeting on 21st November 2016 and the Iceptits Wood committee meeting on 17th October 2016, to stand as an accurate record.</u>	
<u>6.1</u>	The minutes of the Council meeting on 21 st November 2016 were signed to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Councillor Kate Trevitt, seconded Councillor Peter Fisk, unanimous decision.	
<u>6.2</u>	The minutes from the Iceptits Wood committee meeting will be signed at the January Council meeting.	LJH
<u>7.0</u>	<u>Chairman's Report</u>	
<u>7.1</u>	Councillor Philip Reeve reported on the meeting with British Sugar, Steve Lumley Planning and the 3 villages directly involved with the West Suffolk Operational Hub. There has been an extension to the archaeological survey. There was a discussion on the 2 'T' junctions proposed for Fornham Road with a ghost lane. Concerns have been raised with HGV pulling out slowly. There is a provision for a footpath but no provision for street lighting.	
<u>7.2</u>	A meeting will be arranged for the 5 villages having large developments under the V2031 strategic plan. The site in Fornham All Saints has started ground works.	
<u>7.3</u>	Councillor Nicky Crouch advised the council that she is working for Bloor Homes on the Mareham	

	Park development at Fornham All Saints.													
8.0	<u>Items arising from November's Council meeting:</u>													
8.1	<u>(i) Following a resident raising concerns, the Clerk had contacted National Power Network regarding the tree branches touching the main electric cables overhanging the A143. They have been out to visit and requested some trimming for Spring 2017. The Clerk was advised that there is no maintenance programme for the trees and they rely on good citizens reporting any issues. The Council agreed to add this to their annual risk assessment from June 2018, to check if any trees are touching the cables and advise the Power Network.</u>	LJH												
8.2	<u>(ii) (7.2) Update on trimming the vegetation encroaching onto the footpath along the A143 – Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger – this had already been covered.</u>													
8.3	<u>(iii) (12.6) Councillor Philip Reeve – update on the potholes on School Lane following discussion with Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger – this had already been covered.</u>													
8.4	<u>(iv) (12.7) Update on the Allotment Associations aspirations for the site on Green Lane and confirmation of the details in Suffolk County Council's letter</u>													
	A letter had been received from the Allotment Association confirming that Suffolk County Council are willing in principle to extend the lease on the allotment site for a further 5 years. The Association confirmed they are 'a successful and going concern with demand for the allotments beyond 2017'. It was proposed that the tenancy would cover exactly the same area as at the moment and the terms would be fundamentally the same, with a change to the rent payable to reflect the market conditions. Detailed discussions were to started in Spring 2017. The Association have expressed their wishes to hold a longer lease which would enable them to find a more efficient solution to the issue of water availability, possibly a bore hole, which is not feasible on a 5 year lease. They also have the opportunity to buy the storage container, which would be worthwhile on a longer lease. The feeling from the Association is that they could plan the future more effectively with a longer lease. The clerk will contact Suffolk County Council to see if it is appropriate to start negotiations sooner.	LJH												
8.5	<u>(v) (18.2) Details of the street lights in relation to the footpath on Thurston Road – Councillors are aware that there are no street lights on the same side of the road as the footpath from the Bunbury Arms along Thurston Road.</u>													
9.0	<u>Council to consider the following planning applications :</u>													
9.1	<table border="1" data-bbox="352 1167 1418 1688"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="352 1167 525 1198">Address</th> <th data-bbox="525 1167 735 1198">Application No.</th> <th data-bbox="735 1167 1418 1198">Application details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 1198 525 1332">Brookmead House, Thurston Road</td> <td data-bbox="525 1198 735 1332">DC/16/2358/H H</td> <td data-bbox="735 1198 1418 1332">Detached Summerhouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 1332 525 1525">1 Forge Bungalows The Street</td> <td data-bbox="525 1332 735 1525">DC/16/2411/VA R</td> <td data-bbox="735 1332 1418 1525">Variation of condition 2 of DC/16/0517/FUL for the use of revised drawings TL.3611.16.1B Existing Floor Plans, TL.3611.16.3B Existing & Proposed Elevations and TL.3611.16.2B Proposed Floor Plans for the Planning Application - Single storey rear extensions including associated alterations</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 1525 525 1688">Land on the West side of Barton Road, Thurston</td> <td data-bbox="525 1525 735 1688">4386/16</td> <td data-bbox="735 1525 1418 1688">Erection of 138 dwellings. Construction of new vehicular access and provision of cycle/pedestrian link to Barton Road. Provision of road and drainage infrastructure, landscaping and open space</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Address	Application No.	Application details	Brookmead House, Thurston Road	DC/16/2358/H H	Detached Summerhouse	1 Forge Bungalows The Street	DC/16/2411/VA R	Variation of condition 2 of DC/16/0517/FUL for the use of revised drawings TL.3611.16.1B Existing Floor Plans, TL.3611.16.3B Existing & Proposed Elevations and TL.3611.16.2B Proposed Floor Plans for the Planning Application - Single storey rear extensions including associated alterations	Land on the West side of Barton Road, Thurston	4386/16	Erection of 138 dwellings. Construction of new vehicular access and provision of cycle/pedestrian link to Barton Road. Provision of road and drainage infrastructure, landscaping and open space	
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9.1	The Parish Council had no objections to the application for Brookmead House, Thurston Road.													
9.2	There were no objections to the application for 1 Forge Bungalows, The Street. It was noted that condition 4 on the original permission requires the provision of parking including cycle storage, which is now altered by this latest revision (application no. DC/16/0517/FUL). The planning application states 4 parking spaces are allocated but it is a provision of parking not an allocation. This was raised to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.													
9.3	The Parish Council had been asked to comment on the outline planning application for 138 new homes which will border the Parish of Gt Barton, in Thurston. They discussed a junction vehicle assessment for Bunbury crossroads , which is currently used by approximately 16,000 vehicles per day. It is often mentioned in documents that this works because of the courtesy of drivers.													

The development of 1250 homes by Berkley Homes in Gt Barton was not taken into account or the future housing developments in Thurston, Ixworth and Stanton. The Council felt they should have been included. The density of housing is 10.7 properties per acre. The issue of schooling was raised with Thurston already being at saturation point.

The Parish Council submitted the following response:

Great Barton Parish Council (GBPC) has read and supports the concerns raised by Thurston Parish Council. GBPC also objects to the application for the following reasons that are of relevance to this parish:

1. The Transport Assessment (TA) submitted with the application fails to take into account the committed schemes within Bury St Edmunds, Ixworth and Stanton. These committed schemes will alter the baseline traffic flows along the road network that the TA has reviewed for this scheme. It is inappropriate to ignore these committed schemes and means that the true impact of this development is likely to be far worse;
2. The TA also ignores the proposals coming forward in Thurston, which although not yet approved will give rise to cumulative impacts if approved. The Council must understand the potential cumulative impact of these possible schemes before determining this application. Failure to do so will mean that mitigation measures to address this cumulative impact will not be fairly divided between the developments and may not be reasonable to request.
3. The findings of the TA suggest that the junction on the A143 adjacent to the Bunbury Arms does not require mitigation. This is a heavily congested junction that causes delay along the A143. It is inconceivable that the proposal does not impact on this junction - with or without other schemes.
4. Thurston Community College is the secondary school serving Great Barton. As such, schemes that influence the capacity of that school have a direct impact on the residents of Great Barton. This school is operating at capacity and SCC's latest Directory of Schools in Suffolk confirms that the school had more applications than places available last year. This is a school that has recently expanded to take on extra students during the previous education reorganisation. GBPC is concerned that school does not have sufficient capacity to support significant new residential development within its catchment area with a direct and negative consequence for the residents of Great Barton.
5. The boundary of the application site is adjacent to the parish boundary with Great Barton. That boundary is currently the rural edge of both Thurston and Great Barton. The character of this edge will be eroded by the proposed development with a negative impact on the rural character in this area. The proximity of housing to this edge provides insufficient space for meaningful landscape and variation in plot depth to mitigate this impact.

GBPC believes that the scheme in its current form is unacceptable and should not be approved. For the reasons given above GBPC considers that the proposal is contrary to the NPPF and that the benefits of the scheme are significantly and demonstrably outweighed by the impacts identified. The proposal is not considered to represent sustainable development and therefore does not benefit from a presumption in favour of permission.

GBPC is also concerned that this proposal is undermining the Neighbourhood Plan-making process that Thurston Parish Council is currently undertaking. It is important that the Council gives this matter careful consideration and adequately addresses this point in its decision-making.

9.4

The council had previously objected to the following application :

Treetops, Livermere Road	DC/16/2340/TPO	Fell 1 Ash
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Their comments were upheld including the following : The tree should not be felled as it has a good vertical form and there are no visible signs of leaf deterioration or loss from lower branches to the top of the tree when visited in .If this tree has been visited in the last few days, which will have been after the majority of leaf fall this Autumn, there would not have been the opportunity by the Arboricultural Officer for SEBC to make that assessment. If the arboricultural officer and SEBC will accept this opinion then this Ash Tree should lay in abeyance until full leaf cover of 2017 and then reviewed. When assessing safety to others and exercising judgement through a risk assessment the likelihood of a branch failure will more often happen when in full leaf. Therefore the delay in making a decision to the Spring of 2017 is a sound, safe and a considered proposition.

10.0

Council to consider their budget and precept for 2017/18 along with any requests for grants, following recommendations from the finance committee including the grant request from the Scout and the Woodland Group

10.1

Councillors had been given the minutes and recommendations for the precept from the finance

	<p>committee. Grant requests had been received from the Scout Group for up to 6 tents costing £160 each, the Community Woodland Group for sending 2 people on a first aid course costing £280 and The Den Youth Club for table football £100, folding tables - 10 @ £40, Sports equipment £100, Wii/Xbox games £100 and a gazebo £300 .</p> <p>The Council had allocated £1,500 to community grants and split the requests pro-rata offering The Scouts £642, The Den £669 and the Community Woodland Group £187. These will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2017.</p>	LJH																																																						
10.2	<p>The council resolved to request £32,360 precept from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Proposed Councillor Philip Reeve, seconded Councillor Maggie Dunn, unanimous decision. This was calculated using the following expenditure:</p>																																																							
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11.0	<p>Council to review the draft lease and title documents for Icepits Wood</p> <p>This will be reviewed by the Icepits Wood committee who will then put forward proposals for the Parish Council's February meeting.</p>	LJH																																																						
12.0	<p>Council to consider the pedestrian crossing point on Mill Road following the guide quote of £4,500 to £5,500 and the response from the Freedom Church on the increased cost. Parish council to then confirm their increased contribution and where it is to be allocated from. Councillor Philip Reeve to give an update on pursuing a quote from another company.</p> <p>The Freedom Church confirmed they would be willing to raise a further £500 if it was necessary. The Parish Council will confirm their contribution once a further quote has been received.</p>	LJH																																																						
13.0	<p>Maintaining/cutting the roadside verges in the village – Council to review Suffolk County Council's specification</p> <p>Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger will chase for a copy.</p>	LJH																																																						
14.0	<p>Updates on village projects/matters:</p>	RH																																																						
14.1	<p>I. Progressing the School Lane/Downing Drive link footpath – Councillor Philip Reeve is collating the information to be passed to a resident to review.</p>																																																							
14.2	<p>II. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan – (i) the Council resolved to approved the following</p>																																																							

documents : Communication and Engagement and Evidence Gathering. Proposed Councillor Eddie Gibson, seconded Councillor Nicky Crouch, unanimous decision. (ii) The Councillors also noted the document Project Planner (to be approved at January's meeting) and the Action Points for the Neighbourhood Plan working group meeting of 9th November 2016. (ii) It was noted that Joshua Vallance has resigned from the working party. Councillors agreed that all items posted on the website should be approved/noted by the Parish Council.

LJH

15.0 Councillors Reports

15.1 The newsletter co-ordinator had agreed to continue organising the delivery for winter and spring, when an advert for a new co-ordinator will be put in the newsletter.

16.0 Clerk's Report

16.1 Members were reminded to update their Register of Interest forms and for Councillors with responsibility for money, to keep themselves informed about known risks and threats and any new legislation, aware of the Data Protection and Information Security Policy and their responsibilities under the Act.

16.2 The notice board on Livermere Road is damp inside the glass. The Clerk will purchase some silica gel.

LJH

16.3 Councillor Philip Reeve is arranging for the VAS case to be bent back into shape.

PR

17.0 Finance

17.1 a) Payment of Accounts – The Council resolved to pay the following accounts. Proposed Councillor Maggie Dunn, seconded Councillor Eddie Gibson, unanimous decision.

Details	Chq no	TOTAL INVOICE	VAT
H M Revenue & Customs	1900	£ 337.98	£0
S A Deare-NP Clerk	1901	£ 232.00	£0
L J Harley - Clerk's salary & expenses	1902	£ 935.02	£0
SCC extra grass cutting footpath	1903	£ 73.30	£0
R Whiting-grass cutting Conyers Green	1904	£ 65.00	£0
Total		£ 1,643.30	£0

17.2 b) To receive a financial report from the Responsible Financial Officer including details of reserve budgets and spending against them

The clerk reported the bank balances at 31st November 2016 as:

Current A/C	£50,342.53
Bus Reserve	£40,377.62
TOTAL	£90,720.15

Other Credits received	None
Business reserve account interest	None

RESERVES	BALANCE
Small Projects	£10,487 – (Items paid this month: £100 Suffolk Cloud website trf) earmarked : £3,000 School Lane footpath, Mill Rd crossing from PC £2,250 & from Freedom Church £1,250 = £3,987)
Neighbourhood Plan	£5,407– Items paid this month : S Deare NP Clerk salary £232, (earmarked : S Deare salary £2,468 and L J Harley extra hours £95, £400 drop-in event 21/1 = £2,444)
Youth Project	£1,038
General	£25,595

Allotments	£ 377 (Paid this month: £50 rent to SCC, received £100 from Allotment Association for rent for year)
Asset maintenance	£ 4,425
Asset acquisition	£5,956
Village Sign	£444 balance earmarked for restoring the old sign.
Icepits Wood	£16,443 (earmarked : £15,000 pump track)
Total reserves	£70,172

Amounts to nearest '£'

The Direct Debit has been set up for NEST to pay pension contributions.

Arboriculturalist's have been contacted to check the trees on 4 pieces of land owned by GBPC to see if any maintenance work needs doing.

17.3

c) Councillor Kate Trevitt had checked the bank reconciliation for November 2016.

17.4

d) Consideration of risk assessments including confirmation of which assessments have been carried out –weekly playground assessments are carried out.

17.5

e) There were no extra hours claimed by the clerk for work carried out for Neighbourhood Plan

17.6

f) Consider interest rates on notice savings accounts and the Clerk confirmed the cost of certifying address and ID was £10.50 per person. This will be discussed further in January.

17.7

g) Council resolved to allocate an additional £500 for the Mill Road pedestrian crossing point if needed. Proposed Councillor Maggie Dunn, seconded Councillor Kate Trevit, unanimous decision. Funds to be taken from Small Projects reserve.

17.8

h) Councillors will consider purchasing a second VAS once further information received from Philip Reeve on the display variations for Westcotec.

17.9

i) Council resolved that the Clerk could attend a website training course. Proposed Councillor Kate Trevitt, seconded Councillor Maggie Dunn, unanimous decision.

17.10

j) Council resolved to pay the cost of £100 to transfer the website from One Suffolk to Suffolk Cloud. Proposed Councillor Kate Trevitt, seconded Councillor Maggie Dunn, unanimous decision.

17.11

k) Council resolved to set up a direct debit to HMRC to make PAYE payments. Proposed Councillor Philip Reeve, seconded councillor Eddie Gibson, unanimous decision.

18.0

Planning

18.1

(i) Council to sign the committee meeting minutes from 5th December 2016 to stand as an accurate record of the meeting.

This meeting had been cancelled and the applications discussed under item 9.

18.2

(ii) Council to consider the completed planning applications from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for November 2016.

Councillors considered the following applications which had been approved:

35 Conyers Way	DC/16/1973/TPO	(i) 1no. Yew all round crown reduction by 1 metre; (ii) 1no. Field Maple (4 on plan, within area A1 on order) remove lowest East limb back to main stem; (iii) 1no. Maple (5 on plan, within area A1 on order) fell; (iv) 1no. Redwood (6 on plan, within area A1 on order) prune in any extending branches in line with the natural shape of the tree, to a maximum of 1 metres; (v) 1no. Ash (7 on plan, within area A1 on order) pollard at 5 metres; (vi) 1no. Cedar (8 on plan, within area A1 on order) all round crown reduction by 1.5 metres (reduce height and prune of Laurel and mixed species hedge do not require permission as not covered by Tree Preservation Order)
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<p><u>19.0</u></p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u> No items of correspondence had been received.</p>	
<p><u>20.0</u></p>	<p><u>Urgent Business</u> A report had been prepared by a resident detailing the condition of the signposts for footpaths in the village. This will be forwarded to Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way department.</p>	<p>LJH</p>
<p><u>21.0</u></p>	<p><u>Closing Public Session</u> No further items were raised.</p>	
<p><u>22.0</u></p>	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> The next meeting will be on Monday 16th January 2017.</p>	
<p>There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.30 pm.</p>		
<p>.....Sign & Date</p>		
<p>.....Print name.</p>		
<p>CHAIRMAN Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>		

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