

**THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE, THURSDAY 3rd August 2023 AT 7:30PM**

**Present: Mr Jeff Burrell, Mr Keith Drewrey, Mr Brendon Sparks, Mrs Pam Spicer,
Dr Jo Dalton, Mr Rob Plom & Lorraine Varney of Breckland Council
8 Members of the Public also in attendance**

Item	Details
1.	<u>Welcome:</u> The Chairman welcomed Councillors, members of the public, and Lorraine Varney of Breckland County Council.
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> There were no apologies for absence.
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

Villager 1 raising the fact that there is no playing field in Banham, and asked whether or not the land next to the Community Centre could be utilised for this. Various areas in the village were discussed. It was deemed that the land next to the Community Centre would be most suitable. The state of the land was discussed as to its suitability and it was agreed that the owner would be contacted to see if they would be happy to donate the land as a playing field.

Villager 2 raised concern in respect of the school field hedge on Church Lane. This is getting somewhat overgrown and further narrowing the church lane causing problems for passing vehicles. It was confirmed that the school had been contacted by the PC, and a request had been made for this to be cut urgently, though it was also pointed out that cutting cannot take place until after the 15th August due to the breeding season.

Villager 3 advised on an overgrown hedge on the Kenninghall Road on the approach to the Rosary Farm. It was agreed that this would be checked and a request made to the owners to cut this back.

Mr David Griffiths attended to speak in respect of the local food bank following a request from the PC to learn more about how we can help our villagers. Mr Griffiths advised that food is donated along with financial contributions, which then pays for the purchase of food, and this is taken once a week to food banks in Waveney or Thetford. Waveney distributes North from there, and around Suffolk. Thetford distributes to Watton and Attleborough. People requiring assistance in Banham can either travel to Thetford or Attleborough. Thetford is open Wednesday evenings and Attleborough, Tuesday evenings. Mr Griffiths suggested that it is preferable for the person to be taken to the food bank, at least in the first instance, so their preferences are known. A box of staple food is provided to individuals//families, and other needs can be considered in respect of pet food, cleaning and sanitary products. The package provided lasts for around 4 days.

Signed..... Dated.....

To receive assistance, people can contact the Parish Council or speak with David who will take full details of the individuals, and the needs in place. Information is then provided to the Trussell Trust. All information is confidential and will assist in reviewing the overall situation and to see if further assistance can be given. If individuals are unable to travel, then assistance can be given in taking them to the food bank so that specific needs can be met. Alternatively, food can be collected and dropped off to the individual. Food is available between the days advised upon if urgent assistance is required.

Lorraine Varney of Breckland advised that the Community Team at Breckland can also be contacted. If assistance is required then the Household Support Fund may be able to provide assistance up to £300.00, and we could either assist in referring individuals to that scheme or they can be contacted directly. Also, there is a list of food banks and details of 'A little bit of kindness', based in Attleborough who are able to provide assistance with food contributions also.

MEETING RECONVENED

Item	Details	Action
4.	<u>Previous Minutes:</u> Minutes of the 13 th July 2023 meeting approved and signed.	The Chairman
5.	<u>Allotments:</u> Mr Drewrey advised the allotments are in a satisfactory condition for this time of year. In respect of the cutting of the hedge at the entrance, a quote has been sought at £200.00 and was proposed for agreement. This was seconded by The Chairman and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. Mr Drewrey will look to arrange for the hedge to be cut shortly.	Mr Drewrey The Clerk
6.	<u>Play Area:</u> Mr Drewrey advised he had requested a quote for the required parts and was awaiting a reply. Once this is received then arrangements will be made for the necessary maintenance to be undertaken.	Mr Drewrey
7.	<u>Dog Waste Bins:</u> The Chairman advised he has the posts required, and will be installing the final bin at the Church Hill 'kissing gate' shortly.	The Chairman
8.	<u>Village Green:</u> The Chairman is making efforts to speak with the owner to have a 'general chat' about maintenance and 'needs' going forwards.	The Chairman

Signed..... Dated.....

9.	<p><u>Churchyard:</u></p> <p>Mr Drewrey advised that the basal growth has been cut from the trees. In respect of the church verges, the Clerk advised that she had been in touch with Highways, and they have confirmed that the verges will be cut within the next 3 weeks. Once this has been done then arrangements will be made for the inner and outer hedges to be cut.</p>	Mr Drewrey
10.	<p><u>Community Orchard (Greyhound Lane):</u></p> <p>It was decided that before any plans or considerations are put into place, a visit to the site needed to take place to determine whether the land would be suitable for a community orchard. A meeting was arranged for Sunday 6th August 2023.</p>	All
11.	<p><u>Village Community Hub:</u></p> <p>Mrs Pam Spicer advised the Banham Community Hub is back on after a 2 week break, and attendance had been excellent. There are 3 more 'Eat well, waste less' cookery classes booked up to December, and a further one will hopefully be held at the Banham Primary School in the future. Consideration is being given to a 'Kids Breakfast Club' being set up next year for the summer holidays. For Winter, consideration is being given to 'Soup and a roll ' being provided, along with the provision of free Sanitary items. A request is going to be made to the allotment plot holders to see if they might be prepared to grow a little more for donation of fruit and veg to the Community Hub. There is thought going into becoming a drop off point for food donations, and also working with the school to identify if any assistance could be provided to families by way of a hamper. The 'Hub' is working with 'Food Savvy', Nourishing Norfolk and Waveney Food Bank to see if donations can be made. Also, they are applying to the Alzheimer's society to look into training being provided for the staff to assist in making the Hub dementia friendly. In respect of Banham Wheels, can consideration be given into assisting people getting to The Hub? Mrs Spicer has been looking at gaining funding from Breckland, but due to the lack of bank account has asked if assistance can be given by way of the funds being paid into the Parish Council account to be held and accessed when needed. Unanimous agreement of this from the Parish Council members. A discussion was had in respect of the 'spare plot' at the allotments and whether this could be set up for food growing for the hub. The Hub can also be used as a place to provide information to Parishioners about sources of support, such as the Food Bank. The Clerk will look into this.</p>	Mrs Spicer
12.	<p><u>Banham Parish Council Website:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised that a meeting had taken place between the Parish Council members, and all ideas had been drawn up & will be presented to Mr Dye to allow for the website to be built and hopefully launched shortly.</p>	The Clerk

Signed..... Dated.....

13.	<p><u>Banham Wheels:</u></p> <p>Lorraine Varney attended on behalf of Breckland Council.</p> <p>The Chairman advised we want to revive Banham Wheels, but are faced with problems in respect of the lack of drivers, and how to get things started.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that the way the council runs, is to provide a budget for Community Car Schemes. The proposed schemes put in a bid for a certain amount of money based on the previous years' spend, and the funds are then provided.</p> <p>From this years budget, there has been an underspend, and so an opportunity is being given for villages to bid in respect of this. For villages who have no volunteer drivers, or are in very early stages of setting up a scheme, they are allowing the opportunity for a bid to be placed for say £500.00, which would be held on account by the PC. This fund could be given to people in the village to help to pay for public transport services or petrol costs for individuals who wouldn't usually be able to afford to travel. The scheme would be available to assist people in getting to appointments and for well being needs and could also be given to individuals taking someone to hospital or to assist with car parking charges.</p> <p>Whilst we are looking into setting up the Banham Wheels Scheme, or if drivers cannot be sought, this fund gives another way for travel assistance to be provided within the village without having a full scheme in place.</p> <p>General discussions were had with regards to the needs for the scheme in respect of what is required of the drivers for insurance, DBS checks. Medicals, risk assessments etc. Lorraine advised she would ask a colleague to help us clarify these requirements.</p> <p>Lorraine suggesting for now, we apply for funds to simply hold on account for readiness of assistance with travel needs in the village, and she will send over the relevant information so we can then look to apply for funding.</p>	The Clerk
14:	<p><u>Highways/Street Lights/Footpaths/Hedges:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised she is continuing to chase in respect of the date for the installation of the replacement street light on Grove Road, and will keep on with this. A large pothole has formed on the Grove Road/C142, 100 yards along on the left. The Clerk will report this to Highways as required.</p>	The Clerk

Signed..... Dated.....

15.	<p><u>Speed Signs:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised she has provided to Highways, quotes for the Hunts Corner road sign, and is waiting to hear from them in respect of possible funding at this time. The Chairman is arranging for a "spigot" to be made for the mobile speed sign intended for Crown Street.</p>	The Chairman The Clerk
16.	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>3/PL/2023/0525/F – Land to the South east of Ivy Farm, New Buckenham Road.</p> <p>Matter reviewed. There were no consultations, and the planning application looked to be in order. No comments or objections raised by the public or local residents. Application approved.</p>	The Clerk
17.	<p><u>Accounts:</u></p> <p>The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. Unanimous decision in favour.</p> <p><u>To Pay:</u></p> <p>£740.00 – CA Luckham Grass Cut £150.00 – AJ Forder Basal Cut £ 50.00 – Storage of Parish Council Property £ 44.00 – K&M Lighting Street Light Maintenance</p> <p>It was agreed that the Recycling payment of £339.55 would be split and donated to Banham Community Centre and the Banham Community Hub.</p>	The Clerk
18.	<p><u>Chairman's other business:</u> – None</p>	
19.	<p><u>Next Meeting:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7:30pm The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</p>	

Signed..... Dated.....