

**THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 AT 7:30PM**

**Present: Mr Keith Drewrey, Mrs Pam Spicer,  
Dr Jo Dalton, Mr Rob Plom**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details</b>
1.	<b><u>Welcome:</u></b> The Vice Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.
2.	<b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b> There was an apology for absence from the Chairman and Mr Sparks.
3.	<b><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></b> There were no declarations of interest.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public**

Villager 1 advised on a non working street light on the entrance to Gaymer Close. The Clerk confirmed she would report this, and request it is fixed as required.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

<b>Item.</b>	<b>Details.</b>	<b>Action.</b>
4.	<b><u>Previous Minutes:</u></b> Previous Minutes of 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 meeting were approved and signed	Vice Chairman Clerk
5.	<b><u>Allotments:</u></b> The Clerk advised of new tenants on the allotment. The Clerk further advised that it looks as though another plot will become available soon, but that she needs to double check the situation, and if it does become available then she will look to advertise this.	Vice Chairman Clerk

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

	<p>The Vice Chairman advised he has been to visit the allotments, and has noticed a derelict shed, and also some untended plots. It was acknowledged that it has been difficult for some plot holders due to personal circumstances, and so the Clerk will look to send an email to see if any assistance may be required.</p> <p>There has been a complaint raised with regards to young children making a lot of noise on the allotments very early in the morning, and so the Clerk is going to look into this.</p> <p>A large tree on the allotment has been inspected and whilst it is acknowledged that the tree may need a trim back, it appears to be safe.</p> <p>Finally, there have been comments made in respect of rats on the allotment. This was discussed, and it was acknowledged that the allotments are backed by a crop field and furthermore, is in the middle of the countryside. There doesn't appear to be any more rats than usual, and most plot holders are used to 'sharing' their crops at this time of year.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Children's play area:</u></b></p> <p>The Vice Chairman advised that the required parts have been received, and he will put together a 'jobs list' to enable the work to be carried out shortly.</p>	Vice Chairman
7.	<p><b><u>Village Green:</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the basal growth and trimming of the trees is due to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 23.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p><b><u>Primary School Hedge:</u></b></p> <p>There were several Church Lane residents at the meeting wishing to discuss this item. It was discussed, and acknowledged that both the hedge and the grass verge underneath the hedge is growing upwards and outwards and needs to be addressed, as the lane is getting more difficult to navigate for cars. Lorries for deliveries and maintenance are refusing to enter the lane due to likely damage being caused to their vehicles, and the inability to safely reverse. This is causing great inconvenience and stress to the Church Lane residents.</p> <p>It was confirmed that a meeting is to be arranged in the near future with the Headmaster of the school and the Parish Council, Vice President. The Clerk confirmed that she would deal with this arrangement once dates are confirmed and further, that she would keep the residents updated on the situation.</p>	Vice Chairman Clerk

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

9.	<p><b><u>Churchyard:</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that the Church verge has still not been cut, and despite chasing there has been no update from Breckland in respect of this.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman confirmed that one of the Parish Council contractors has looked at the verge and agreed that, as a gesture of goodwill he will look to cut the verge as required.</p>	Vice Chairman
10.	<p><b><u>Community Orchard Meadow:</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council are looking to arrange a date to go through to the Kenninghall Orchard for information, and guidance on how their orchard is run, and to enable the Parish Council to start making plans.</p> <p>The issue of soil testing was raised, and the Clerk agreed she would contact Bidwells to query when this will likely take place, and when we will receive the outcome of these.</p>	Dr Dalton  Clerk
11.	<p><b><u>Village Community Hub:</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Spicer confirmed that the Community Hub has now joined the 'Warm Welcome Campaign' which is a nationwide campaign that provides much needed assistance and support.</p> <p>There is to be a food 'drop box' at the Community Centre to enable food donations. Hampers are to be put together for some of the Primary School Families.</p> <p>An application for funding has been sought from the 'Spark Fund', and they hope to hear about this shortly.</p> <p>Going forwards, and following a survey, the 'Community Hub' will look to have games for the tables, soup and a roll in the winter and films showing on the lead up to Christmas. Further activities are being considered for next Spring.</p>	Mrs Spicer  Clerk
12.	<p><b><u>Banham Primary School:</u></b></p> <p>The school are seeking donations for the forthcoming Christmas fete, and their raffle. The Parish Council discussed and agreed that they would donate £50.00 of shopping vouchers. The Clerk will inform the school.</p>	Clerk

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

13.	<p><b><u>Baby &amp; Toddler Group:</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the email received from Sarah Banks on behalf of the Baby &amp; Toddler Group. It was acknowledged that Sarah Banks has requested funds to assist with the running of the group, and its future success. The list of requirements of the group were reviewed, and the funds requested were discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council will donate £469.37 as requested. The Clerk will contact Sarah Banks and make the necessary arrangements for payments to be made.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p><b><u>Banham Wheels:</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that following the application filed for the transport grant, the Parish Council would receive funding of £500.00 for the proposed Banham Wheels project. Going forwards, the Parish Council will need to consider and decide on the criteria, and how the funds will be allocated, along with how the scheme will be advertised. This will be added to the November agenda.</p>	All
15.	<p><b><u>Highways/Street Lights &amp; Footpaths:</u></b></p> <p>It was advised that there is a tree along Kenninghall Road which has grown so tall, it is now starting to obstruct the street light situated above it. The Clerk confirmed that she has already written to the owners of the tree, and requested that the trees be cut back due to the obstruction of the road, but she will also contact Highways to report the issue in respect of the street light. There is a pothole in the centre of Gaymer Close, and the Clerk will report this to Highways. In respect of the non-working street light in Gaymer Close, the Clerk will contact our lighting contractors. The Clerk advised that there is no update with regards to the replacement street light going back up on Grove Road, but that she is keeping on top of this. The overgrown footpaths around Banham were discussed again. The Clerk advised that she has reported these, and is waiting for a reply, but that she would chase again. Going forwards, should the Parish Council look to fund the cutting of the footpaths? This is to be added to the agenda for a future meeting. The Clerk advised the Cemetery Hedge is becoming overgrown again, and the Vice Chairman will look to speak with the Chairman about the cutting of this.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Vice Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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

16.	<b><u>New Buckenham Road Application:</u></b>	
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	<p>The application was discussed, and it was raised that it doesn't appear that the actual intended use for the land has been confirmed within the application. Furthermore, the comments on the Portal as to the previous/present activity is very contradictory. The email received from the Breckland Planning Team was read out with regards to the use of the land, and the activity which has been taking place. The Vice Chairman advised there is little more that can be done at this time, but acknowledged the meeting which was due to take place on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Unfortunately, the Vice Chairman would be unable to attend the meeting, but advised that he would be very happy to have a meeting with the local residents and brief them on the nature of the meeting, and the points and comments which should be raised. The Clerk will contact the residents in respect of this and the Vice Chairman will prepare a list of questions to go to the agents in respect of what the land use intention is, and any further questions which need to be raised at this point.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman Clerk</p>
17.	<p><b><u>Accounts:</u></b></p> <p>The Vice Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was a unanimous agreement from the Parish Council in favour of payment of these as follows:</p> <p>To Pay:</p> <p>£ 44.00 – Street Light Maintenance – K&amp;M Lighting (DD)  £ 50.00 – Storage of PC Property – Mr Rob Bensley (DD)  £ 40.00 - Hall Hire - Banham Village Community Hub  £ 469.37 – Baby &amp; Toddler Group Donation  £ 64.40 – Payroll administration - £64.40 – TP Jones  £ 633.14 – Public Liability Insurance - £633.14 – CAS Insurance  £ 185.00 – Church and Green cutting – CA Luckham</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
18.	<p><b><u>Vice Chairman's Other Business:</u></b></p> <p>The Vice Chairman raised the subject of the village Christmas Tree for 2023, and advised that a price is being sought. The tree will again be provided by the 'Garden Enclosure'.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman</p>
	<p><b><u>Next Meeting:</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 – 7:30pm</b>  <b>Banham Community Centre, Small Hall</b></p>	

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