

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

**Present: Mr Brendan Sparks, Mr Jeff Burrell,  
Dr Jo Dalton, Mrs Pam Spicer & Mr Rob Plom**

Item	Details
1.	<b><u>Welcome:</u></b>  The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.
2.	<b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b>  There was an apology for absence from Mr Keith Drewrey
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 they were attending due to item 6 on the agenda relating to the primary school hedge. The Chairman advised this was on the agenda to allow the Parish Council to simply provide a summary and conclusion on this item being that, there was little else the Parish Council could do to assist in this regard as Highways had deemed the hedge to be of an acceptable standard, and also concluded that vehicles could use the lane as required. The Chairman advised that the residents of Church Lane could continue to communicate with Highways, but confirmed that the Parish Council have done as much as they can.

Villager 2 asked about enforcement of the 20mph speed limit, and the Chairman confirmed that there are 20mph speed limits in the village, and these are indeed enforceable, but sometimes it is difficult to prosecute due to the very low speeds, and the margins for this. Villager 2 asked about police presence in the village, and the Chairman advised that the SNAP team have looked at conditions in the village, and following some 'corrections' to some of the speed signs, we are waiting for SNAP to re-visit and do some speed reviews in the village.

Finally Villager 2 asked about any crime or burglaries in Banham. The Chairman advised that he gets notified of any criminal activity in the village and there has only been 1 or 2 burglaries in the last 15 years, and confirmed that Banham is a lovely and safe place to live.

Signed..... Dated: .....

**MEETING RECONVENED**

Item.	Details.	Action.
4.	<p><b><u>Previous Minutes:</u></b></p> <p>Previous Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairman.</p>	Chairman  Clerk
5.	<p><b><u>Allotments:</u></b></p> <p>Mr Keith Drewrey was unavailable to advise on the current situation in respect of the allotments, and so this will be discussed at the January meeting.</p>	Mr Drewrey
6.	<p><b><u>Primary School Hedge:</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman advised that we have heard back from Stephen Askew and Highways in respect of the Primary School Hedge, and confirmed that Highways have deemed the hedge to be of an acceptable standard. It was acknowledged that a hedge on the opposite side of the lane has been trimmed back following a request from Highways, but the Chairman advised that there is little else we can do given the review and conclusion of Highways.</p>	Chairman
7.	<p><b><u>Village Community Hub:</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Spicer advised that the daffodil bulb planting has been done around Banham. The Hub have been awarded a further grant through 'Hotspot'.</p> <p>Mrs Spicer advised of the Christmas Meal which is due to take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and advised that a very kind resident has offered his culinary skills free of charge for this. 15 Hampers are being donated to residents/families in the village. The Chairman proposed a donation of £15.00 for each of the hampers which will be used in Banham Butchers, Banham One Stop, and also the Banham Post Office. The Parish Council unanimously agreed the proposed £15.00 vouchers totalling £225.00. The Clerk will look to make contact with each of these businesses to advise of the proposal, and will also look to draw up a voucher. The Chairman will look to produce specific serial numbers for each of the vouchers.</p>	Chairman  Clerk

Signed..... Dated: .....

<p>8.</p>	<p><b><u>Banham Flooding:</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman advised that he, Stephen Askew, Steven Halls and Graham Hancy have walked the length of Wash Lane, and the matter has been discussed at length. Initially, there was suggestion to ‘dam’ the potential flood water at the end of wash lane, and hold the water back. The Chairman however provided an alternative proposal to Steve Halls to improve the culverts along Wash Lane, and particularly at ‘the mouth’ of wash lane. Discussions between the above have included a suggestion to improve the bridge situated underneath the road, and to widen the stream that runs alongside Pavillion Close. This is going to involve reclaiming the river that has been claimed illegally over time as people have narrowed the stream. Discussions have also included the area situated at the footbridge between Graham Hancy’s land and the land belonging to the Aldridges to be dug out right down to the meadows to enable any build up of water to be evacuated. There is to be a meeting between the Chairman, the Norfolk Tree &amp; Wildlife Officer, Steve Halls and Stephen Askew in respect of digging out the hedges to enable access to the ditches, as permission to do this has not been approved, despite attempts being made. Initially the authorities did not want to proceed in this manner, but it was insisted the hedge needed to go, and so the Norfolk Tree &amp; Wildlife Officer is going to review the area. There is hope that if this can be approved then emergency legislation may be used to enable the trees and hedges to be removed. Once definite decisions have been made then the Chairman will provide a further update. Substantial funding is being proposed by Norfolk and Breckland Councils, but this may not be enough to carry out all the required work when considering Council Service charges. As advised under ‘item 15’ this is why the Chairman is proposing an ‘emergency funds pot’ for the flooding in Banham, to ensure that there is hopefully enough money going forwards to get all the required work done. The Parish Council then continued to discuss the proposed emergency fund for the flooding. It was understood that this emergency fund would increase the precept by £2000.00, and so the Council Tax of Banham Residents would be slightly raised, but when considering the devastation and disruption this has caused to many Banham Residents, it was felt that this had to be worthwhile. It was suggested by the Chairman that, the funds would be ‘ring fenced’ by the Parish Council, and if not used in 2024, then the ‘ring fenced’ funds would be ‘paid back’ next year by reducing the precept meaning the council tax will be reduced. The Chairman understands this isn’t a perfect situation, and advised that the increase for each householder would be a minimal amount.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
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Signed..... Dated: .....

8.	<p><b><u>Banham Flooding continued:</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that, the Parish Council needs to be completely transparent on this matter, and so the Clerk will look to calculate the likely approximate rise of the Council Tax for each of Banham residents, and this will be advised upon going forwards. The Parish Council unanimously voted for the emergency funding to be put in place at the sum of £2000.00.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Winter Litter Pick:</u></b></p> <p>The proposed date for the litter pick was discussed. The Parish Clerk will contact the Primary School to see if this is something that they wish to be involved in. If so, the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> January was proposed. If the school doesn't wish to be directly involved then the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January was proposed. If the litter pick is to take place on the weekend then children and parents would be welcome to attend. The Clerk advised that a risk assessment needs to be carried out to obtain the necessary equipment. The Clerk will contact the school and then plans will proceed from there.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p><b><u>Highways:</u></b></p> <p>There is a street light out on Winfarthing Road. The Clerk advised that this has been reported to K&amp;M Lighting. At the time of writing the minutes, it is understood this as now been dealt with. In respect of Grove Road, the Clerk advised she is still awaiting confirmation from Clayland Homes as to when the replacement street light will be installed. Insofar as the Grove Road footpath is concerned, the work on this has begun but has since stopped again. It was asked how far along the path will be placed, and the Clerk advised she will look into this.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p><b><u>Banham Wheels:</u></b></p> <p>The issues of finding suitable drivers was discussed, along with the need for checks, insurance &amp; other potential issues. It was decided the Clerk would place an 'advert' on the Face Book and Nextdoor pages seeking drivers, and then further consideration would be given. In the meantime, it was acknowledged that we have the grant for £500.00 and that funds can be provided to those requiring travel assistance to and from appointments or necessary travel. The Clerk will contact East Harling Taxi's to see if they would be interested in assisting with travel and the logistics of this, and then matters will be discussed further.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Signed..... Dated: .....

12.	<p><b><u>History of Banham:</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council and Villagers in attendance reviewed the history of Banham which has been drawn up and proposed to be placed on the wall of the Guildhall. All in attendance agreed that the history was excellent and would be a welcome addition to the village of Banham. The Chairman will now look to seek quotes for a case for the history document and also printing costs. Once the quotes have been sought then these will be proposed at the January meeting.</p>	Chairman
13.	<p><b><u>Christmas Fair:</u></b></p> <p>The Christmas Fair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December was reviewed. It was acknowledged that the 'free' Santa's Grotto, funded by the Parish Council, had been a very welcome addition and very much appreciated by the parents and children alike. The Fair did not see as many people as usual but there were other events going on in local villages, and also the weather had likely kept people away. All in all, the event was a great success and enjoyed by all.</p>	
14.	<p><b><u>Planning:</u></b></p> <p><b>Ref: 3PL/2023/1098/LU – 7 Fallow Drive, Banham Erection of attached single storey garage to the side of the main dwelling.</b></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed/reviewed the application/documents and comments in place and approved the proposal as stated.</p> <p><b>Ref: 3PL/2023/1053/VAR – 'Stanmar' Grove Road, Banham Removal of conditions on 3PL/2020/0582/F</b></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed/reviewed the application/documents and comments in place and approved the proposal as stated</p> <p><b>3PL/2023/0992/HOU – 'Cobwebs' New Buckenham Road, Banham Removal of thatch material and replacement with clay pantile new timber supporting structure and enlarged new dormer window and new velux roof</b></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed/reviewed the application/documents and comments in place and approved the proposal as stated</p>	Clerk

Signed..... Dated: .....

15.	<b><u>Accounts:</u></b>	
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	<p>The 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>£ 44.00 – Street Light Maintenance – K&amp;M Lighting (DD)  £ 50.00 – Storage of PC Property – Mr Rob Bensley (DD)  £ 50.00 - Banham Village Community Hub  £ 75.00 – Breckland Council Elections fee  £ 50.00 – Sainsbury’s Gift Card (School Donation) – M Jones  £ 67.50 – 50% of Daffodil Bulbs (Total £135.00) – Mr P Banks  £ 36.00 – NALC Councillor Training for Rob Plom  £306.00 – Village Green Christmas Tree  £225.00 – Vouchers for Hampers (15 vouchers @ £15 each)</p> <p><b><u>2024/2025 Precept</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Valerie Plummer (RFO) attended the meeting and discussed the draft budget for 2024. Mrs Plummer advised on the contents of the draft budget summarised at £19,000.00, and felt confident this was an accurate reflection of the likely budget for 2024, though she acknowledged that the Chairman had proposed an emergency fund for the flooding in Banham. It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss the proposed emergency funding of £2000.00 and that the Clerk would revert to Mrs Plummer to advise on whether the proposed budget would remain at £19,000.00 or would be increased to £21,000.00. Once Mrs Plummer is aware of the final proposed draft budget then she would make adjustments if necessary.</p> <p>During discussions within item 8, it was decided that an additional £2000.00 would be included within the 2024 budget, and that the precept would be increased to £21,000.00 with the amount to be paid back in 2025 if not utilised.</p>	Clerk
16.	<b><u>Chairman’s other business:</u></b> No matters to discuss	
17.	<p><b><u>Next Meeting:</u></b></p> <p>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm</p> <p>The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</p>	

Signed..... Dated: .....