

THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, THURSDAY 4th JANUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM

**Present: Mr Jeff Burrell, Dr Jo Dalton, Mr Keith Drewrey, Mrs Pam Spicer,
Mr Rob Plom & Mr Stephen Askew**

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

There was thanks and praise for the village green Christmas Tree provided by the Parish Council.

Mr Stephen Askew provided an update in respect of the Kenninghall Road housing application, advising that he had this referred to the Chairman's panel before Christmas, and argued for this to go to Committee as, although tests and findings had been reviewed in respect of water and flood projections, he wasn't happy with the potential issues that the new housing development may bring to the current flooding issues on Wash Lane. Mr Askew advised that the new development may not cause any issues at all to Wash Lane, but he wants to be absolutely sure that everything possible has been done to rule out any further, future potential issues. The Chairman's panel has agreed for the matter to be referred to Committee, and the matter will be 'heard' on the 23rd January 2024. Mr Askew simply wants to ensure that 'no stone goes unturned', and that if the housing development does go ahead, then all considerations have been taken into account. Mr Askew will be in attendance, and will ensure that all relevant points are raised, reviewed and concluded as required. Any other residents or members of the Parish Council that wish to attend are welcome to raise their points. The Chairman advised that, the issue with additional housing in Banham again comes down to the fact that Banham does not have the infrastructure in place to support more houses and Mr Drewrey advised that upon review of the application, he hasn't seen mention as to 'sewage'. The concern is that another 43 houses are due to be built, but Banham already has sewage issues, and a defective sewage pumping station. Anglian Water did admit to this problem during their investigations at the time of the last flood. The Chairman advised that the pumping station does fail regularly, and another 43 houses will just add to this problem. Mr Askew advised he will raise this point on the 23rd January.

Signed: Dated:

In respect of Lucy's shop, planning permission has been granted, and it is a case that work can be undertaken by the applicant. The applicant has 3 years to proceed, unless there is any issue with the previous enforcements. Mr Askew will look continue to review this and keep us updated.

Insofar as Wash Lane updates, Mr Askew acknowledged that a meeting had taken place with the relevant parties, and there seemed to be positivity with regards to getting the hedge out and ditch cleared. The Chairman advised that no works can continue until at least August/September because as it stands, the land is so wet, no machinery can be taken to the site, and furthermore, the surrounding field is full of crop and would be torn up getting the machinery where it needs to be. The Chairman advised that Mr Halls of Breckland has confirmed that they want to get all the work done in one go. This will either involve getting a new culvert under the road at the end of Wash Lane or getting the culvert that runs underneath Kenninghall Road increased in size or at least making it square instead of round to increase the capacity. The Chairman advised that we need to keep on top of Highways to ensure that everything required is being done to progress the work. Mr Askew advised that Highways are very busy at this time due to the flooding which is occurring in multiple places ,but that he will try to keep on top of matters.

Mr Askew asked about any other areas of Banham suffering with the floods, and the Chairman advised on the problems on Heath Road and Crown Street. The Chairman confirmed he had been to Heath Road and that there is a Culvert that leads into Butchers Pit which was flowing, but that the area is simply overwhelmed with the amount of water being distributed. The Chairman advised of a meeting with Mr Halls at Butchers Pit and it was discussed that there needs to be more exits for the running water to get into Butchers Pit. This is being considered by Mr Halls. Also the Clerk advised of an exchange with Highways regarding Heath Road whereby it was confirmed that the gullies would be cleared shortly, and further, that investigations are being made as to the owners of the surrounding fields to address the 'overflow' water coming from them. The Clerk confirmed she would send details of the Heath Road and Crown Street flooding over to Mr Askew.

Mr Askew reminded that, if flooding is imminent then the fire brigade should be called.

MEETING RECONVENED

<u>Item.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Action.</u>
4.	<p>Previous Minutes:</p> <p>Previous Minutes of the 7th December 2023 meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairman.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5.	<p>Allotments:</p> <p>Mr Keith Drewery advised that he has visited the allotments, and they are as expected for this time of year.</p>	<p>Mr Drewrey</p>

Signed: Dated:

6.	<p><u>Village Community Hub:</u></p> <p>Mrs Spicer confirmed they hosted the Christmas meal and this went very well with 52 people in attendance. Christmas Hampers were distributed. On the 3rd January there were more than 40 people in attendance at the cafe with soup being provided to 20 plus people. Soup was also sent home with some in attendance.</p>	Mrs Spicer
7.	<p><u>Cemetery Hedge and Roof Repairs:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised on discussions that have taken place in respect of repairs which need to be carried out to the Cemetery Roof, and advised that an estimate has been provided in the sum of £30,000.00. Funding is being sought from Norfolk Churches Trust, various charities, and a donation is being sought from the Parish Council in respect of this. The Chairman advised that the Cemetery is a civic responsibility, but is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, and unfortunately, there simply are not the funds to assist with this. The Parish Council have far more pressing, and urgent issues to deal with this year in respect of the flooding of people's homes, and the money that we do have must be directed to the ongoing and potential future 'emergency' issues.</p> <p>In respect of the Cemetery hedge, arrangements will be made for the Parish Council to fund the cutting of this during 'Spring' 2024, however due to financial restraints, and emergency funding needs, no further assistance will be given going forwards and it will be the responsibility of the church to continue with this. Mr Drewrey will deal with the arrangements for this. This was seconded by Mr Plom and unanimously agreed by the remaining councillors.</p>	Mr Drewrey Clerk
8.	<p><u>Banham Flooding:</u> ('See also Public Session')</p> <p>The Chairman advised on the need for emergency pumps on Wash Lane. It was confirmed that one pump can clear 2 tonnes of water a minute. An estimate for each pump is £300 .00 to £400,.00 and it was concluded that 2 would be required, one for each end of Wash Lane. The Chairman advised the pumps will also require pipe work, and this would cost around £10.00 per metre. The Chairman will look at acquiring the necessary measurements and estimates this will be 15 metres plus for each pump. The likely total cost for the pumps will be around £1000.00. The Chairman will discuss with the residents of Wash Lane the logistics of requirements and storage. The Chairman proposed an 'umbrella fund' of £1000.00 at this stage to be 'firmed up' going forwards. The proposal was seconded by Dr Dalton, and unanimously agreed by all councillors.</p>	Chairman

Signed: Dated:

	<p>The Chairman also advised on the potential use of 'flexible water diverters' which can be used to help divert water, and this may be something to consider to assist with the flooding on Heath Road and Crown Street. The Chairman proposed laying the items across the road at Cider Barn on Heath Road, and diverting the water away towards Butchers pit. This needs to be considered much more before a final plan is put into place but the Chairman will continue to think about matters going forwards.</p>	
9.	<p><u>January Litter Pick:</u></p> <p>The proposed litter pick was considered further following an email from Mr Gamble. It was decided that the litter pick would be moved to the final week before the Easter Holidays and that the PC would work in conjunction with teachers, The preferred day would be a week day and with the older year groups. The Clerk will revert back to Mr Gamble to finalise matters as required.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p><u>Play Area Maintenance:</u></p> <p>The maintenance work will start on the week commencing 11/03, preferably on a Thursday or Friday. The date will be agreed between the PC shortly.</p>	Chairman Mr Drewrey Mr Plom
11.	<p><u>2024 Christmas Tree:</u></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the proposal of a 'Flagpole' Christmas Tree for 2024. The Clerk will look into the cost of 7 metre Flagpoles, and the PC will utilise the Flagpole Grant which we received last year. Once this is dealt with then further consideration will be given to the final tree.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p><u>Banham Wheels Funding:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised that 1 volunteer driver has come forwards following an advert on the Banham Community Page. The Clerk confirmed that Harling Taxi's are willing to assist going forwards and once a definite plan has been put into place. So far as the £500.00 grant received in 2023, as this is a limited fund, it was decided that this should be ring fenced and put towards the final Banham Wheels scheme, as the logistics with regards to funding 'as we go along' for individual donations and travel are simply too difficult to overcome. The Parish Council went back and forth with numerous suggestions but simply could not come to a practical conclusion as to how to allocate the money. Banham Wheels will be considered again in next meeting.</p>	Clerk

Signed: Dated:

	<p>(Banham Wheels continued...)</p> <p>The Clerk will continue to look into other village car schemes so that we can continue making plans for the Banham Wheels scheme proposed.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Highways/Street Lights/Footpaths/Hedges:</u></p> <p>The pathway on Grove Road is in progress and should be completed shortly. The hedge will be replaced. Once this is done the replacement street light will be reinstalled.</p> <p>The speed sign on Kenninghall Road is not working and needs a replacement battery. The Chairman will deal with this.</p> <p>The Clerk advised of a fallen cable at Hunts Corner and Mr Drewrey advised he would look into this.</p> <p>The Clerk also advised of issues at The Appleyard, mainly a non-working light, and the car park which is 'riddled' with potholes. There is a 'walk through' leading from the car park into the Appleyard with a non working light. The 'walk through' has some standing posts and due to the darkness at night, without light people are walking into/falling over the post. It is only a matter of time until someone ends up with a nasty injury. In respect of the potholes, these are getting worse and again, it is only a matter of time until someone sustains serious damage to their car. The Clerk will contact the owner about this. The Chairman will look at pressing forwards with the Crown Street SAM Sign.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14.	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>There were no planning applications to consider.</p>	
15.	<p><u>Accounts:</u></p> <p>The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was a unanimous agreement from the Parish Council in favour of payment of the following:</p> <p>£44.00 – Street Light maintenance – K&M Lighting (DD) £50.00 – Storage of PC property – Mr Rob Bensley £40.00 – Village Hall Rent – Banham Community Hub £64.40 – Payroll Services – TP Jones</p> <p>2024 Precept – The updated budget was reviewed and agreed. The Parish Council will apply for the total amount of £21,200.00.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Signed: Dated:

	<p>The increase breakdown for residents is as follows:</p> <p>£2,200.00 / 1161 residents = £1.89 add council tax per person per year. This is the equivalent of 16p per month.</p> <p>£2200.00 / 621 Households = £3.54 add council tax per household per year. This is the equivalent of 29p per month.</p> <p>The Clerk will now complete the precept form as required.</p>	
16.	<p><u>Chairman's Other Business:</u></p> <p>Banham Community Centre: The PC discussed at length the potential assistance with funding for the BCC. The Chairman advised that we do want to help the Community Centre, but are unable to help financially. There are considerable funding opportunities out there, and these need to be considered and applied for by the BCC. In their email, the BCC mentioned potential funds being provided from housing developments in Banham, but this was discussed and it was advised that the Greyhound Lane development is providing a community space, and the Kenninghall development is providing amenities on site. The Chairman pointed out that given this, along with the emergency funding and requirements of the flooding along with Parishioners needs within Banham this year, we simply aren't going to have the funds to assist financially.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p><u>Next Meeting:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 1st February 2024 The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</p>	

Signed: Dated: