

THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM

**Present: Mr Jeff Burrell, Mr Keith Drewrey, Mrs Pam Spicer,
Mr Rob Plom**

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 Dr Jo Dalton
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There was a declaration of interest in respect of a payment owed to the Chairman with regards to payment of pumps and hoses purchased.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

There were no comments from the Banham residents in attendance.

MEETING RECONVENED

<u>Item.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Action.</u>
4.	<u>Previous Minutes:</u> Previous Minutes of the 7 th January 2024 meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairman.	Chairman Clerk
5.	<u>Allotments:</u> Mr Keith Drewrey advised that he had inspected the allotments, and gave an update on each of the plots. Many of the allotments are sitting 'dormant' at the moment. This is down to the winter months and the weather keeping people away.	Mr Drewrey

Signed: Dated:

	<p>Allotments continued.....</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the plots will be 'worked' in the coming weeks on the lead up to Spring and so hopefully, there will be a marked improvement going forwards. Mr Drewrey advised that the neighbouring farmer of the allotments has recently had to go out and clear debris from his fields, and this debris had come from a non maintained shed on the allotments. It was agreed the Clerk would write a letter to each of the plot holders to remind them of their obligations on the upkeep of the allotments, and any sheds/outbuildings as contained in the tenancy agreement.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p><u>Village Community Hub:</u></p> <p>Mrs Spicer confirmed that 'The Hub' now has steady number of people attending on a Wednesday, and they have also started doing flasks of soup for those that don't want to eat at the centre. Mrs Spicer also asked if the grant funds of £500.00 previously paid into the PC bank account could be released, and this was agreed and payment will be raised as required.</p>	Mrs Spicer Clerk
7.	<p><u>Banham Flooding:</u></p> <p>The Chairman brought the Parish Council up to date in respect of discussions taking place at this stage. There are definite plans in place to alleviate future flooding. Plans so far include clearing and widening the culverts on Wash Lane, and also the culverts leading from the bridge on the opposite side of the road down to the water meadows. There have also been discussions to increase the size of the culvert running underneath Kenninghall Road. The Chairman advised he is very involved with various departments of Breckland and Norfolk County Council, and will advise as to the progress, plans, and likely timescales going forwards.</p> <p>Pumps and hoses have been bought to assist residents which may experience flooding to their properties, though an issue has been recognised insofar as the hoses are concerned due to their sheer size and lack of durability. It was advised that the hoses are to be cut to a more convenient size, which will enable people to easily handle these and get them into vehicles to be taken to the necessary site. It was agreed that 'hose clips' and 'fittings' would have to be purchased by the Parish Council to then enable the hoses to be joined together when they are needed. The Chairman will look into the cost of this, and it was unanimously agreed that these should be bought, and this plan of action is the best way forwards.</p>	Chairman

Signed: Dated:

8.	<p><u>Spring Litter Pick:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised that she has been corresponding with Mr Gamble of the Primary School, and is waiting for him to revert with a date that is convenient for the pupils to assist with the Spring Litter Pick. Once a reply is received then notice will be given to the Parish Council. This will then be discussed, and finalised at the March meeting.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p><u>Village Green Flagpole:</u></p> <p>The Clerk presented numerous quotes for a new, second flagpole to be placed on the Village Green. The quotes varied from around £500.00 to more than £1200.00. It was decided that the previous grant received would be used to create a new base on the green to allow the current flagpole to be moved. The Chairman will look at the costs.</p>	Chairman
10.	<p><u>Baby & Toddler Group:</u></p> <p>The Clerk presented the email from the Baby & Toddler Group, advising on the change in purchases, and request to keep remaining funds to pay the insurance costs at the end of the year. The Chairman proposed this to the Parish Council, and this was unanimously agreed by the Council.</p>	Clerk
11.	<p><u>Banham Grass Cutting:</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised that the grass cutting in 2023 had deteriorated somewhat, and as such confirmed he had approached a villager to take over the grass cutting duties. It was explained that we need someone in the village to 'keep on top' of the cutting as due to the distance travelled by the previous 'contractor', the work was not always completed for some days, meaning the grassed areas were left looking shabby. The Chairman proposed Peter Campbell to deal with the grass cutting going forwards, and this was seconded by Mr Sparks and unanimously agreed by the other Council members.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p><u>Banham Footpaths:</u></p> <p>Given the lack of cutting in respect of Banham's Footpaths over the last couple of years, it was proposed that a voluntary footpath cutting group is formed. The Clerk agreed to advertise this, and then dates for work to commence will be discussed at April's meeting and advised upon thereafter.</p>	Clerk

Signed: Dated:

13.	<p><u>Community Orchard:</u></p> <p>Due to absence of Dr Dalton, the item has been deferred to March.</p>	
14.	<p><u>Banham Wheels:</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised she had spoken with Lorraine Varney at Breckland in respect of the grant previously provided to assist with travel in Banham. It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk would start to advertise the assistance which could be provided by the Parish Council. The grant funds will be used to pay for those within Banham who are having to cope without transport/funds to commute within a 10 mile radius (unless in exceptional circumstances), and arrangements will be made by the Clerk for a taxi service to be provided and funded as required. In respect of the Banham Wheels scheme, further advertising will be done in respect of volunteer drivers and applying for funding for this going forwards.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p><u>Highways:</u></p> <p>The Clerk raised issue with numerous potholes on Doe Lane, and will look to report these to Highways. An issue has been raised in respect of a street light on Winfarthing Road and the brightness of this, and the Clerk advised she had contacted K&M Lighting to deal with this. Mr Plom reported on a potential issue with a new kerb 'jutting out' on Grove Road, and the Clerk confirmed she would contact Clayland Homes to see if this could be corrected. The Clerk is also due to chase when the replacement street light will be reinstated on the Grove Road. It was acknowledged that some maintenance work had been requested to be carried out at 'The Appleyard', and an update was awaited from the owner.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p><u>Ref:3PL/2024/0090/F – Orchard House, Crown Street, Discovery House, Scrumpy Way</u></p> <p>The Parish Council considered the application made, along with supporting documents. No objection to the application made.</p> <p>Since the meeting, and above decision being made, the PC have been contacted by residents disputing ownership as presented in the Application, therefore until this is resolved, the Parish Council cannot make a judgement.</p>	

Signed: Dated:

	<p><u>Ref: 3PL/2024/0085/EU – The Old Telephone Exchange, Dam Brigg</u></p> <p>The Parish Council considered the application made, along with supporting documents, and advised they had no comments to raise.</p>	
17.	<p>Accounts:</p> <p>The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was 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 (DD) £276.00 – Replacement street light lantern, Winfarthing Road £ 50.00 - Banham Village Community Hub</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>Invoices /Payments requested since 27th January 24</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>£400.00 – AJ Forder – Cemetery Hedge Cut £950.91 – Mr Burrell – Pumps and Hoses for flooding £ 57.00 – Banham Butchers - Christmas Hamper Voucher costs £ 90.00 – One Stop - Christmas Hamper Voucher costs £500.00 – Banham Community Hub – Grant paid into PC account</p>	Clerk
19.	<p>Chairman’s Other Business:</p> <p>Meeting 2nd May to be re-scheduled to 9th May due to PCC elections.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thursday 7th March 2024</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</u></p>	

Signed: Dated: