

BARHAM AND WOOLLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday 12th February 2019 DRAFT

Approved and signed minutes from the definitive legal record of council business. In the interest of early publication for residents, the notice board carries text of draft minutes awaiting approval. Draft minutes may sometimes be amended at the next council meeting before being signed. If amendments are made, this will be noted in the draft minutes of the next meeting.

Councillors Present: Mr N Grundy-councillor
Mrs Grove-Price-vice chair
Mr T Massey-treasurer

Mr P Harrison-chair

5 members of the public were present, 1 left the meeting after his presentation to the Council.

1. **Chairman:** The meeting commenced at 19.50 with Mr Harrison opening the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Mrs A King

The meeting was then suspended by the Chairman to allow Mr Ivor Watson to make a detailed presentation to the Council regarding the Barham Village Drain and septic tank outflows. A copy of his presentation has been annexed to the Minutes of the Meeting.

The meeting was reopened at 19.59 and Mr Grundy proposed, seconded by Mrs Grove-Price, that the letter Mr Watson mentioned that had been drafted to Mr Vara MP, be signed by the Chairman, Mr Harrison, supporting the requirement for mains drainage for Barham. A copy of the letter sent to Mr Vara has been annexed to the Minutes of the Meeting.

The meeting was suspended again at 20.00 to allow a short discussion on the septic tank issue, and the meeting was reopened at 20.03.

3. Minutes of the last meeting- Minutes have been circulated, no amendments were required. The Council moved to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by Chairman Mr Peter Harrison.

- 4 **Matters arising and drainage problems:** The clerk has heard via email from Gareth Guest , Project Manager for Bridges for Cambs County Council. His email of 8th October confirms that the bridge at Woolley that had the coping stones knocked off by an HGV had been reinspected and that structurally the bridge was still safe to take 40 tonne vehicles. The bridge has been put forward for works over the next 1 to 3 years, depending on priorities, to address the settlement issue in one corner. This would involve the full closure of the bridge for a number of weeks to allow the brickwork to be underpinned/rebuilt and the arch stitched together and or a concrete saddle constructed over. Regarding the well, again this has been reinspected and an order was proposed to be raised with Skanska to repair the damaged top section as soon as possible.

Drainage: HDC have mended the village drain finally. The Parish Council then moved on to discuss the points Mr Watson had raised, and firstly, the fact that the Parish Council were not aware of a meeting with Mr Vara MP that had taken place on 25th January 2019 at his constituency office. Mrs Grove-Price agreed that the suggestion of a perforated pipe in pea gravel would be an interim solution to the ongoing problem. Mr Grundy then stated that in 2011/12 the District Council asked that there should be a mains drainage plan for Barham & Woolley but this was deemed too expensive, along with Buckworth. Buckworth appealed and were then put onto mains drains. The

district Council then came back to Barham and told the village that there wasn't any more that they could do regarding mains drains.

Mr Grundy then proposed that Mr Varah be sent the letter that had been drafted by Jane Watson, and that Mr Peter Harrison would sign the letter on behalf of the Parish Council to show that they are fully behind the proposal to have the village put on mains drains. It is possible that the whole village may be made to buy new septic tanks initiated by the Environment Agency. Mr Grundy asked if a letter should be drafted to Mr Hay of the Environment Agency to see if they would be willing to pay for the septic tanks that they were possibly insisting on for perhaps a limited period if the village did subsequently get mains drains. Mr Grundy will draft the letter to Mr Hay.

Mr Massey proposed this as a way forward and seconded by Mrs Grove-Price.

Mr Grundy questioned the Treasurer about the £400 web hosting annual cost, and Mrs Grove-Price said that she also thought the cost high.

5. Pecuniary interest: None were disclosed concerning any of the Agenda items.

6. Correspondence: The Clerk had received an email from Viv Atkinson, Operations Manager at Cambs Community Foundation who administer the Woolley Hill Windfarm Community Funds. The Clerk had contacted the Foundation questioning being turned down twice for a Community Defibrillator and what the rationale was behind this decision, bearing in mind the small community that Barham and Woolley is and the need for nothing else that the village could ask the Fund for at the moment. Viv Atkinson asked that a member of the Parish Council attend the next Panel meeting in March/April, and that they would encourage more representatives from the local villages to attend. They would also re-visit the responsibilities and limitations of the panel members, as the Fund themselves had self imposed the fact that they would not fund medical equipment from the Fund, this had not been imposed by RES who initiated the fund from their windfarm in the first instance. It was also decide by the Fund that although we had not put in a 3rd application by the 1st Feb 2019 deadline for funds, they are exploring the possibility of re-considering it at the next panel, although obviously our representative would not be able to vote on our own application. They were also going to review past awards.

Mrs Grove-Price will attend the next panel meeting as Barham and Woolley representative.

She also pointed out that there is a Community Heartbeat Organisation that will help to adopt a telephone kiosk and put a defibrillator inside so we could look to them if all else fails with the Community Fund.

7. Treasurers Report: The Treasurer had distributed a balance sheet to all Councillors. He pointed out that the money for the pond was still ringfenced as it had not been used. He will also look into the £400 cost of the web page hosting as we only have approx. 9-12 items added to the page a year, being Agendas and minutes for meetings, at the moment. He also advised that he still has some money left over from the grant for new IT equipment and he agreed to purchase a laptop for the use of the Clerk, along with 2 passport hard drives to back up the Clerks and Treasurers laptops.

Mr Grundy proposed these purchases, seconded by Mrs Grove-Price.

The Clerk gave the Treasurer an Invoice for £100 for her services 2018-19, the amount already having been agreed at the AGM in 2018. It was also agreed that membership be renewed to CALPAC which is the Local Parish Council advisory service that we are a member of. Mr Massey proposed these items be paid and Mr Grundy seconded.

The £800 precept request for 2019-20 had been acknowledged by HDC.

8. Any other business: None

9. Time, place, date of next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 19.45 at St Giles Church, Barham.

Meeting closed at 20.38

Signed by the Clerk..... Date.....

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....
Barham and Woolley Parish Council

