

**BARNHAM PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2017**  
**Held in Barnham Community Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Note: This meeting was held jointly with Eastergate Parish Council as a pilot exercise but the minutes are produced as minutes of the Barnham Parish Assembly only.**

**In attendance:**

Barnham Parish Council: David Phillips (chairman): Roy Whitby, John Robinson: Keith Ballard: Roy Hartrick: Sue Groome: Ella Simmons: Alison Crabb (Clerk)  
County Councillor, Derek Whittington: District Councillor, John Charles  
Others: Eastergate Parish Councillors: several members of the public. Inspector Marc Clothier: James Everett (Headteacher, Barnham Academy); Terry Bedford (Chairman, Barnham Community Trust

David Phillips, Chairman of Barnham Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting, including: Councillors from the neighbouring Parish of Eastergate; the guest speakers and interested members of the public. He explained that as the meeting was a joint meeting there would be some duplication of items, as indicated on the published agenda, as each Parish had to individually approve certain items.

**1. Minutes of Meeting of Annual Assembly held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

The parish clerk had distributed copies of the minutes of the previous year's Annual Assembly, held in Barnham Parish Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All present agreed that the minutes were a true record of the Assembly. The minutes were adopted and signed by the chairman.

**2. Annual Report by Chairman of Barnham Parish Council**

The Chairman of Barnham Parish Council, David Phillips, delivered a report of the Council's activities during the year. A copy of his report is attached.

**3. Local Policing – Presentation by Inspector Marc Clothier**

Following recent changes to local policing arrangements Inspector Marc Clothier gave a verbal presentation on some of the key elements of the new local policing arrangements and how they were working in practice. The following points were noted:

- Financial challenges were the main driver for change
- A balance was required to increase funding in key areas including: protecting vulnerable people and catching criminals; whilst maintaining a police presence to respond to other issues and it was felt that the best way to achieve this would be to reduce numbers of people (the largest cost to the authority) through different and improved ways of working.
- Resolution centres had been introduced to reduce the demand on front line services. These centres deal with calls and take the decision on what response is required based on an investigation framework. A grading is applied to each call and resources are then deployed or the call is filed for future reference.
- Response units are deployed from central points and the nearest team to the incident deals with it.
- New technology is being rolled out which will enable officers to enter data immediately without the need to return to their office based computer.

- The PCSO role has changed significantly with all PCSOs having to apply for their jobs. The role is still in evolution but is a much more flexible role.
- The new local policing plan is based on prevention
- Weekly meetings of key staff take place to review incidents from previous week to look at patterns of crime etc to enable decisions to be taken on deployment of resources.
- It has been recognised that lack of visibility is an issue and reassurance and confidence in policing needs better communication and this is something that is being developed.
- In conclusion new local policing arrangements are in place but still being developed and reviewed and this process will continue.

A couple of issues were raised by members of the audience including:

- Concerns about the perceived increased level of low level vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the area since the loss of the dedicated PCSO based at the Community Hall. Response was that these issues would be difficult to prioritise but all incidents should be reported through 101 or 999, if matter is one of imminent danger, to enable data and intelligence to be collated to see if further investigation of issue is required.
- Possibility of funding a Parish Warden was mentioned. Response was that ADC employed wardens in some town centres and would ask someone at ADC to make contact with the Parishes to discuss how this was working in practice.
- Parking issues were mentioned, particularly around the local schools. Response was that current resources and priorities would not enable parking issues to be addressed.

#### **4. Barnham Primary School – Presentation by Headteacher, James Everett**

Following the school's recent change to an Academy Trust Mr Everett gave an interesting and enthusiastic presentation about the school, the journey it had been on and future plans.

- James Everett is the Headteacher, as well as the Chief Executive, of the Oak Academy Trust, a multi-academy Trust currently with Barnham Primary School as the lead school.
- The school decided to move to an Academy to meet the needs of a growing community whilst still providing good education for children
- The Trust is based on the philosophy that every child has an aspiration and the Trust will provide the facility and resources for them to realise their potential
- A strong team has been put in place to design the future of the school with support from the families.
- Children still have to meet goals from government but the long term goal of the Trust is to develop and welcome other schools to join them to share resources and experience.
- The Trust wants to work with other sections of the local community and the Parish Councils and the Barnham Community Trust welcomed that aspiration.

#### **5. Barnham Community Trust, Terry Bedford, Chairman of Trust**

Terry Bedford gave a short verbal presentation on the merger of Barnham Community Centre Charitable Trust and BLADE to form Barnham Community Trust. He explained how the merger had taken place and the reason for it together with the plans for the future of the Trust in relation to the running of Barnham Community Hall and Murrell's Field and fundraising plans for future projects at the Hall, the Field and the wider community. The following points were noted:

- The Board of Trustees, that will meet twice a year, currently has 6 Trustees, with the ability to add more if required or if people come forward
- The financial year would now run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December and the Trust is in a healthy financial position
- As well as a Board of Trustees a General Operations Group has been established with representatives from the Board joining with members of the Hall Operations Team – the team that run the hall on a daily basis – and the Events/ Fundraising team – the team that organise and manage events that will raise funds for future projects at the Hall and the surround area. This Group will meet on a quarterly basis.
- The Trust is now employing 4 part-time staff
- Regular user groups of the Hall now number 29 and include a good mix of both community and commercial groups
- The aims of the ongoing fundraising events include: tarmacking of the car park; improvements to the interior of the hall (acoustic panels have recently been installed to the main hall); improvements to the field to provide sports facilities in liaison with the Parish Council and through expected developer contributions; and in the longer term the extensions to the Hall approved during the original planning application process.

### **Eastergate Annual Parish Assembly**

Apologies: Mr D New, C.I. Burtenshaw.

Attending: County Councillor Mr D Whittington, District Councillors Mr K Ballard and Mr C Hughes, Mr C Allington, Mrs L Ballard, Mr P Cramp, Mr R Marsden and Mrs H Kilroy. Eight parishioners and six members of Barnham parish Council.

#### **6. Annual Report by Chairman**

Mr Allington thanked Eastergate parish councillors for their hard work and help during a difficult year. The feeling was that there was too much planning and too little local matters dealt with, such as the village hall. The council was of the mind that the parish boundary line should be reconsidered but a formal merger of the two parish councils was not considered a priority. Housing numbers provided by the government were a problem and building on flood plains was irresponsible. Reference was made to the Dandara “call-in” and the continued fight to protect the validity of the BENP. It was expected that the Local Plan details would be coming out for consultation soon. It was considered likely that 3300 houses could be allowed in the BEW area, not allowing for appeal housing not already allowed. The Chairmens’ Newsletter was referred to and the volunteering list showed the clubs who were a significant part of the community. The need to keep the NP up to date was mentioned and a brewing storm surrounding the “packet treatment” plant failing at Brooks Nursery was considered to be a risk to raw sewerage running into the Rife. The general flooding potential was touched on. The Chairman thanked all for attending.

#### **7. Application for vote**

None

#### **8. Open Forum**

As opportunities to raise issues had arisen during the course of the meeting there were no issues raised under this item.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.