

BARSHAM AND SHIPMEADOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Barsham and Shipmeadow Village Hall on 10th May 2017

Present: Mr N Smith Chairman, Mrs P Midwinter Vice Chair, Mr D Adcroft, Mr J Bumpus, Mrs J Howell, Mr M Smith

32-0517 Election of Chairman – Mr M Smith proposed Mr N Smith as Chairman,

Mr J Bumpus seconded, all agreed

Mr N Smith signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before proceeding with the meeting.

33-0517 Election of Vice Chair – Mr D Adcroft proposed Mrs P Midwinter as Vice Chair,

Mr J Bumpus seconded, all agreed

34-0517 Apologies: Mr P Holmes – Holiday, Waveney District Councillor Mr K Springall

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11th May 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

35-0517 Financial Report for Year Ending 31st March 2017:

The Financial Report and Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2017 were formally approved by the Parish Councillors at their meeting held on 12th April 2017 and recorded as minute references 29-0417 and 30-0417. The Parish Council has provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors rights in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Zane Blanchard who has again agreed to carry out the internal audit.

The external auditor BDO's certificate and report for 2015/16 enclosed an issues arising report. The issue being the reserve balance, which appeared high and had been building up over the years. BDO recommended the balance should be reduced to a more appropriate level.

Before receiving this report the PC had taken action by reducing the precept for the year 2016/17 from £1850 to £1250.00. It remains the same for 2017/18. The reason for the reserve was reported in the previous AGM minutes. *(It had been necessary to build up the bank balance to cover the cost of £2415.52 which would be owing to WDC if two separate contested elections took place in May 2015. Not enough residents were prepared to stand for election and therefore no contested elections took place. The cost for two uncontested elections amounted to £252.84 payable to WDC.)*

At present the PC is in the process of purchasing the BT Red Kiosk in Barsham. The reserve will be reduced when this important village landmark is transformed into hopefully an asset for the parish. WDC have approved plans for inside toilets with disabled facilities for Barsham and Shipmeadow village Hall. The PC has discussed using some of the reserve by giving a donation towards this project which the Village Hall Committee is undertaking.

35-0517 Financial Report for Year Ending March 31st 2017 continued:

Receipts: Precept 1250.00, Transparency Funding 528.00

Total 1778.00

Payments: Insurance 358.48, SALC Membership 161.48, Village Hall Hire 96.00,

Village Hall Heating 10.00, 2 Poppy Wreaths 37.00, Stationery and Postage 71.21,

Barsham Village Sign Repair and Painting 449.08, Web Site Fee 60.00,

Laptop and Equipment 571.57, Transport Expenditure (SCC meeting Ipswich) 51.40

Total 1866.22

Summary

Balance Bt/Fwd 31st March 2016

4852.61

Receipts to 31st March 2017

1778.00

6630.61

Payments to 31st March 2017

-1866.22

Total Balance C/Fwd

4764.39

36-0517 Chairmans Report:

Neighbourhood Plan – Barsham and Shipmeadow parishes have withdrawn from the Beccles

Neighbourhood plan after advice from WDC, Sotterley, Ellough, Willingham and Shadingfield parishes have also withdrawn.

B1062 Beccles to Bungay Speed Limit – The Speed Limit Panel decided in April 2016 to reduce the speed limit to 50mph. Objections from Bungay Town Council and a Bungay resident were received. BTC reconsidered and their objection was withdrawn. Parish Councillors attended Suffolk County Councils Rights of Way meeting in January 2017. The speed limit reduction was passed unanimously. It is now moving forward and will be implemented hopefully this year.

Transparency Code Fund – Our application was successful and £528.00 was granted to purchase a laptop and equipment.

Bus Service – A representative from BACT community transport attended a PC meeting to promote their service to rural areas, also Border Bus and Anglian introduced services through Barsham, Shipmeadow and Mettingham. Anglian have since withdrawn their 81 service, Border Bus have recently issued a new timetable and are running a regular service through the three villages.

Barsham Sun Sign – Maintenance and decorating work took place in July 2016.

Vacancy – Outstanding for a Councillor to represent Shipmeadow parish.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed:

Dated: