

## Minutes of BARHOLM WITH STOWE Parish Meeting held on MS Teams, on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 8pm.

**In Chair: David Brown**

**1. APOLOGIES** - Chris Witcombe (part)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for both 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved.  
Proposed by Lizzie Young, Seconded by Jonno O'Shea

**3. MATTERS ARISING (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

- Hereward home path repair – trial patch being done by HHomes
- Events committee – postponed to post COVID
- Planter costs – no progress - CH
- Key box for defibrulator – complete DB+Jonathan (thanks noted)
- Hedge replacement in memorial field – consider with new gate works DB/CH
- Bulbs for the village
  - o CH quoted £20 for 300 bulbs
  - o Rosemary to assist with location and approval to plant – CH/RTB
- Litter Picking morning – postpone to post COVID
  - o Agreed that the village will buy 3 litter pickers for village use
- Village email address – completed DB

**4. VILLAGE PRECEPT**

The chairman advised that, as he had reported previously, the precept would be held at 0 for the 2021/22 year in light of the reduced activity with COVID  
The meeting approved this – proposed Jonathan Young, seconded Rosemary TB

**5. GRAVEL APPLICATION UPDATE**

The chairman reported that he had written the second letter in response to the resubmitted application  
No update has been reported since this point

**6. MEMORIAL FIELD GATE**

Thanks registered to Chris for the erection of the small pedestrian gate.

It was proposed that in part as a result of access issues with the memorial field in 2020, the main gate should be reinstated. This idea was accepted by the meeting – proposed David Hetherington, seconded by Anna Boulter

**7. BROADBAND SPEED**

This was seen to be a problem by most residents, and had got worse since the arrival of new houses. The advice from the engineers was that the old line was degrading, and only being mended as and when it broke. Hi fibre broadband is really required, but this is unlikely in the short-term due to the low number of houses.

The request for a letter to be written to BT Openreach to discuss improvement options was agreed – DB

Investigation on possible grant options was also suggested – Jonathan Young to investigate

## **8. TREE FELLING IN BANKS FARM STACK YARD**

Martin TB explain the plans he had submitted to fell the existing wood next to Banks Farm; and to replace this wood with a bigger wood on land down by the railway line. There would be a further intention to apply for further dwellings on the plot, post tree felling.

The Chairman opened the to the residents for comment, in summary:

There was pre-comment recognition given to the following:

- Martin for making the village aware of the plans prior to plan applications
- Recognition that recent developments in Banks farm looked good and fitted in ok with the village

There was significant concern regarding the felling and moving of the wood leading to the future use of the land for housing (to the point of full objection from some residents); although some residents did not comment. The main concerns over more housing were: insufficient village infrastructure; over-fast village size expansion; and residents for further planning permissions.

The specific response in relations to the wood felling/moving, were as follows:

There was a general concern from residents regarding over the loss of the wood, and its current benefits from the in-village location. The concerns were:

- The aesthetic value of the wood, and the visual covering role the wood plays on the eastern edge of the village. This benefit would be lost with the wood removal, making the visual appearance from the eastern approach, completely buildings.
- The distance of the replacement wood providing very little value to the village due to its distant location from the village, and only footpath access.
- Possible environmental effects of removing the wood, and the pond within the wood.

There was a recognition of the following in relation to the wood:

- It does not appear to be in a great state of health
- Felling is required to allow woodland regeneration on occasions

There were also suggestions that could be explored, such as moving the replanted wood to the eastern curtilage of the village, to retain the visual benefit and a location to suit all.

It was agreed that the chair would refer back to the electorate, if a final formal response to a planning application is required; however this may not be required for the Forestry Commission feedback.

## **9. AOB**

There is now a new village website and all are welcome to send Rosemary anything suitable to be included.

The Chairman thanked those present and closed the meeting at 21:10

