

BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF BARROW VILLAGE HALL ON Monday 4th November 2024

Present:

Cllr Pearson Cllr O'Brien Cllr Welbourn Cllr Holmes Cllr Bragg	Cllr Wesley Cllr Ford Cllr Rawlings Cllr Cousins	Clerk in attendance: Rachel Chilton
--	---	--

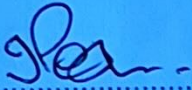
Minute Ref	Action	Action
6665	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Steer – Vice Chair Cllr Pettitt	<i>JS</i> <i>TB</i>
6666	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None.	
6667	PUBLIC FORUM: 7 members of the public present Member of the public – Newslink – could it be put in about the extra parking for the GP surgery. Council noting this is not for patients this is for staff parking. Member of the public – The Forge right hand side of pallets that has been there for almost 2 years, it is an accident waiting to happen. Whose responsibility is it to get this removed? Council noted that we took what we could for bonfire night, it is on private land. The Parish Council could approach the landowner. Suggested if they feel it is dangerous to approach WSC Public Health Department with any concerns. It should be noted that this is not on a public footpath. Member of the public – Speed sign on Barrow Hill – have you bought one and will you install it? Council response it is noted on the agenda later. We have purchased but to be clear this will not be a situated in one permanent spot, it will rotate with the others. Chairman noting that the Neighbourhood Plan is not on the agenda for tonight's meeting, it has been submitted to West Suffolk Council.	
6668	Minutes of the last meeting Proposed: Cllr Ford Secoded: Cllr O'Brien One amendment at 6654 Re accounts payment for wood related to bench raised in previous meeting – this is for the COVID memorial bench.	
6669	To receive the County Council Report Not in attendance.	
6670	DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT Neighbourhood Plan has been sent through to WSC. The next step is the referendum. Noted the fireworks night was a success.	

JP

	<p>Not much happening at the moment with the Council. The budget will have an impact on the Council, National Insurance increase will mean more costs to the Council.</p> <p>General discussion on the impact of the budget on housing, school and facilities in the village. It is the Parish Council's understanding that West Suffolk Council will be working to a mandated housing target. Cllr Holder was unsure if this was correct and will ask the question.</p> <p>Cllr Bragg – there is a number of properties standing empty in Autumn Close – please could you find out why they are empty. Cllr Holder to request information on empty properties.</p>	
6671	<p>Community Police Report</p> <p>See attached.</p> <p>Cllr Rawlings noted it has been difficult to contact the officers dealing with our area. Cllr Rawlings to bring to their attention regarding the arson issue in the village.</p>	
6672	<p>Community Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 applications received. Deployed – does use more battery power as it has the additional message. Intention is to collect speed data. Bus stop and signs have been cleaned recently and look good. Not looking to dredge at this moment in time. Unlikely to receive funding – see attached correspondence. 	
6673	<p>Barrow Parish Website – Hosting and email addresses</p> <p>Denham Councillors to set up their email addresses.</p> <p>Luke to be added as an Admin for the website.</p>	
6674	<p>Changing Facility – update</p> <p>Please change heading to reflect what it is – Community Facility.</p> <p>Cllr Rawlings has sent out a brief to several companies to put forward a quotation. Hopefully these will be received prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>General discussion over specification.</p>	
6675	<p>Newslink</p> <p>Distribution list to be updated – we need new/more volunteers to distribute around the village.</p> <p>Potential to do an organised litter pick.</p> <p>We need more content for the next edition, wedding and birth announcements, events, clubs etc. Councillors to reach out to the Parish for content.</p>	
6676	<p>Bio-diversity policy</p> <p>Has been circulated to the Councillors. A sub-committee need to be created to deal with this and a separate meeting to be held. The draft to be reviewed by all Councillors before comment.</p> <p>General discussion over the new estates in Barrow, the Parish Council are not responsible for the green areas, and some are being left and look untidy. It is something the Parish Council need to be on top of with any further new development in the village. For clarification Cox Landscapes are not employed by the Parish Council and we do not manage any residential roads in the village.</p>	
6677	<p>Village fete 2025</p> <p>We are planning a fete for 12th and 13th July 2025. We require volunteers.</p> <p>Flower show on Saturday, traditional village fete on Sunday. Lots of ideas discussed at the meeting. Time to be spent getting volunteers and information together. Local businesses to have an input and also consideration to be given regarding Health and Safety.</p>	

JP

6678	2025 Precept Discussed the budget at the last meeting and reviewed with the Chairman.	
6679	SALC No updates given.	
6680	Financial Matters To approve accounts. Approval proposed by Cllr Ford seconded by Cllr Cousins Payments accepted; proposed by Cllr Rawlings seconded by Cllr O'Brien Invoices approved. Insurance renewal discussed and agreed payment.	
6681	Planning Applications for Consideration None.	
6682	Planning determinations None.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 2 nd December 2024 in the Committee Room of Barrow Village Hall at 7:15pm. The meeting was closed at 9:00pm	

Signed:  (Chairman) date 2/12/24

Correspondence

8e. Hi

I am following up my campaign to get better safety for crossing The Street in Barrow.

I have now been in touch with our MP Nick Timothy and he has followed up my query and in turn I have had a reply which I have attached for your information and I hope as a Parish Council you will take their advice to request another police speed survey s they have requested..

I have spoken to Trevor Bragg who suggested I forward this to you to discuss amongst yourselves and hopefully take the appropriate action as soon as possible.

I would be grateful if you could confirm you have received the email and let me know what action you take as I probably not come to the Parish Council meeting myself as because of my sight

Disability I dot go out in the dark.

Thank you for contacting Nick Timothy to highlight the village concerns regarding speeding traffic in Barrow. Whilst Nick was unfortunately unable to attend the Parish Council meeting on 2nd September he has contacted Suffolk Highways to raise this issue.

Please find their response below.

From: Paul West (SCC Councillor)

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 5:10 PM

To: TIMOTHY, Nick (MP) <nick.timothy.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: RE: (Case Ref: NT00088) Barrow - speeding and concerns re crossing the road safely CR 486762

Dear Nick

Thank you for your email dated 23 August regarding the issues raised by your constituent in Barrow and their concerns over speeding through the village and the dangers of crossing “The Street”, particularly in the vicinity of the village shop/post office. I apologise for the delayed response.

Although these are somewhat linked, I will address each of these separately:

Speeding.

We are unaware of any recent reports of speeding issues on The Street in Barrow.

- The Suffolk County Council (SCC) Safety and Speed Team were last contacted in 2020. This was concerning traffic entering the village from Colethorpe Lane in the vicinity of the school and resulted in SCC installing a post to mount a Temporary Vehicle Activated Speed sign (TVAS) to combat speeding traffic entering the village 30mph zone. However, this is on the opposite end of 'The Street' to the village shop/post office.
- The SCC Survey Team have not carried out a speed survey in the area for quite some time. The last was undertaken in 2015 that showed an 85th percentile speed of 33mph. Although slightly over the 30mph limit, this is still within the tolerance given by Suffolk Police when considering Enforcement (speeding tickets/points etc) – which is traditionally 10%+1mph of the limit.

In your email it mentions that the Police are aware of the speeding issues in Barrow. We have spoken to the Traffic Management Officer at Suffolk Police who has commented that the most recent data that Suffolk Police holds for The Street was taken in 2020 (this was in the vicinity of the village shop). This survey recorded traffic flow in both directions.

Their data is a little more detailed than our own:

- Between 27/07/2020 and 03/08/2020 there were 27190 vehicles recorded passing through the survey point (13162 travelling from Barrow Hill direction, 14028 from Colethorpe Lane direction).
- Of these the average vehicle speed was 23mph, with an 85th percentile of 28mph.
- 5.9% of vehicles were exceeding the 30mph limit. However, only 1.3% of vehicles were travelling fast enough to warrant any Enforcement Action (344 vehicles total).

Suffolk Police are not aware of any more recent issues here and this location is not one that is known to them as a site with excessive or prevalent speeding.

We recommend that any residents that have concerns over speeding traffic, to raise this with their respective Parish Councils in the first instance – and for the PC's to contact Suffolk Police directly on the below email address:

SafetyCameraTeam@suffolk.police.uk

Proactive speed enforcement only takes place in Suffolk at locations or stretches of road where there is an on-going risk of collisions, based on collision data at each site over the past five years – or where there have been substantiated complaints from local people.

Locations where proactive speed enforcement takes place will be reviewed regularly by senior officers and are displayed weekly at www.suffolk.police.uk

The Community Enforcement Officer's role will be to visit those more rural locations across Suffolk where data has shown there are accident or speeding issues. The aim of the officer is to prevent speeding by enforcement – thus making the roads safer.

Requests for the officer/van will be taken to a monthly tasking group where deployment is decided upon by priority – based on data and or specific requests from local parish councils/communities.

We would recommend that Barrow Parish Council consider funding a speed survey in the vicinity of the village shop to ascertain the current level of speeding here. Given that the data from 2020 shows a decrease in overall speeding from 2015, it would be useful to see if this trend continues or if driver behaviour has worsened. County Councillor Karen Soons has a dedicated local highways budget that could be used to fund this survey. I would suggest that the Parish Council make contact with her to ask if she would support this request.

I must stress that a speed survey does not guarantee that any form of speed limit reduction or traffic calming would be considered or even appropriate for this site. Many surveys that SCC have undertaken show that, whilst there are a few miscreants, the majority of drivers are obeying the posted speed limit and resident concerns are more perceived than actual.

An up-to-date survey will show SCC exactly the extent of the problem. Depending on the results, it would either reassure residents that the speeding is not as extreme as they fear – or serve to support the Parish requests for more regular visits from Suffolk Police. Should the data show behaviour has worsened and the speeding problems are more significant, SCC would then review to see if any resolution would be considered, such as enhanced road markings, possible traffic calming etc. However, SCC's response would be based on the results of any survey carried out.

Request for a pedestrian crossing.

Whilst the cost of a pedestrian crossing is undeniably a factor in deciding on the provision of these (50-100,000 for a zebra crossing, £125,000+ for a pelican crossing), please let me assure you and your constituent, this is by no means the sole criteria for these.

There are many issues to consider when assessing the need for formalised pedestrian crossings. This includes: the recorded crash history, vehicle speeds, whether there is a defined desire line in a suitable location. Most importantly the numbers of vehicles compared to the number of pedestrians to ascertain whether there is enough regular conflict between the two to justify having a crossing (in essence, how many pedestrians cross versus how long they wait).

Without this demonstrable conflict the crossing could be infrequently used for large periods of the day and weekends with regular road users/commuters becoming complacent and accustomed to the crossing not being in use which can lead to unsafe driving and sudden stopping manoeuvres when the crossing is eventually used. This is guidance set out by the DfT which underpins decisions on whether to implement crossings of this nature.

The overall speed of traffic has not been confirmed (previous data shows there was no particular issue – hence the recommendation for an up-to-date survey).

Whilst there is a 'desire line' in the vicinity of the village shop/post office, the physical limitations of the area mean that it is not possible to install any form of crossing here – there are multiple driveways and access points, as well as the shop frontage to contend with.

There are likely to be very small numbers of pedestrians throughout the day – the only expected 'peak' times would be during school start/finish times.

There is also an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point a short distance away from the village shop, next to the chapel. I've attached some pictures taken from Google Street-View that show this in relation to the shop: This is approximately 50mtrs away from the shop itself. While I concede that this is a slight detour this is no different to that found in many locations (and far less distance than would be encountered in towns with pedestrian crossings) the shortest line between point A and point B may not be the safest place to cross.

This is echoed by the rules in the Highway Code for pedestrians when crossing roads:

“First find a safe place to cross and where there is space to reach the pavement on the other side. Choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Try to avoid crossing between parked cars (see [Rule 14](#)), on a blind bend, or close to the brow of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.”

This crossing point also alleviates the danger of crossing in the vicinity of the parked cars outside the village shop and the concerns over crossing the road at the slight bend in the road here which, I must add is the reason this uncontrolled crossing was installed originally.

I understand that this response is unlikely to be what was hoped for by your constituent. However, I hope this helps to explain SCC’s decisions and policies better to them. Please let me know if you have any further questions or would like any more information on the points raised.

Kind Regards

Paul West

County Councillor for Bixley Division &

Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding

Suffolk County Council

They have asked if the Parish Council could contact Suffolk Police on SafetyCameraTeam@suffolk.police.uk and also County Councillor Karen Soons.

Nick will continue to monitor this and please let us know if you would like his further support.

Kind Regards

Wendy Kitchin
Senior Caseworker to
Nick Timothy
MP for West Suffolk

House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA | 020 7219 6191

UK Parliament Disclaimer: this e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. This e-mail address is not secure, is not encrypted and should not be used for sensitive data.

COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT – 4th NOVEMBER 2024

MESSAGES CASCADED - NONE

REPORTED CRIME FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024 = 6

CATEGORY	LOCATION	TIMELINE/ACTION
V & S	On or near Ley	No data available
Criminal Damage & Arson	On or near McDonald Way	No data available
Criminal Damage & Arson	On or near Papeley Meadow	No data available
Criminal Damage & Arson	On or near Orchard Farm Barns	No data available
ASB	On or near Poplar Close	No data available
ASB	On or near McDonald Way	No data available

Suffolk is in the top three counties in England and Wales where people are least likely to be victims of crime, according to figures released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

The total recorded crime covering the 12 months to the end of June 2024 show that there were 59.9 crimes per 1000 people, a decrease of 7.4% compared to the previous 12 months. The national year on year decrease for England was 3.8%.

The figures saw further drops in crime types across the board with knife crime, stalking and harassment, public order, robbery, theft and drug offences, as well as violence against the person, sexual offences and residential burglary among those seeing a decline.

Based on the ONS figures, Suffolk Constabulary is ranked third for the lowest levels of recorded crime in the country. The latest figures show continued improvement. The last set three months ago put Suffolk ranked as fourth lowest and just under four years ago, Suffolk was in 13th position in terms of its crime levels.

(Data from Police Connect publication October 2024; issued by Suffolk Police)

Ralph Rawlings

4th November 2024

