

BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF BARROW VILLAGE HALL ON Monday 1st September 2025

Present:

Cllr Pearson Cllr O'Brien Cllr Bragg Cllr Pettitt (left at 08:00pm) Cllr Welbourn Cllr Wesley	Cllr Holmes Cllr Rawlings Cllr Cousins	Clerk in attendance: Minutes taken by Rachel Chilton
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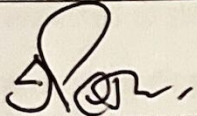
Minute Ref	Action	Action
6813	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Ford Cllr Soons Cllr Holder Cllr Steer	
6814	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None.	
6815	PUBLIC FORUM: 6 members of the public present Member of the public: On the planning portal for the Barrow Hill site application there have been a few comments taken off. There is a discrepancy as some submissions appear to be fraudulent. West Suffolk Council are investigating. The Parish Council have not been notified of this specifically. Member of the public: Just in response to why there is an extension on the application, this is because West Suffolk Council asked for an extension to their decision-making process which leaves the chance for people to respond. The extension has not been made public. The extension is until 5 th September 2025.	
6816	Minutes of the last meeting Proposed: Cllr Welbourn Seconded: Cllr Bragg	
6817	To receive the County Council Report Not in attendance.	
6818	District Council Report Not in attendance. The Chairman read out the report received from Cllr Holder as noted below. Please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting. Not too much, ex what we read in the local papers, going on in the District. There is a lot of noise & heat within WSDC and SCC surrounding the forthcoming Government concerning Suffolk/Norfolk Devolution. WSDC vote on the option chosen by the majority Groupings, which I suspect will be passed for a 3 area Unitary Council, at the Council meeting 23 September. The SCC have already voted for a One Suffolk. Hopefully, the Government will decide at or before the Mayoral elections scheduled for May 2026.	

JP

	I will be asking how much the litany of propaganda both Councils are pumping out is costing local council tax payers. The consultation has been concluded and is to be presented to Government this month – it is central government which will make the decision not the three Districts nor the SCC.	
6819	Community Police Report Please see attached.	
6820	Community Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing matter with Suffolk County Council. b) Outstanding quotes to be obtained from local stonemasons. Clerk to follow up to see if anyone further can quote. c) The headstone in the churchyard cemetery has been dealt with. d) We've entered into a new agreement. The delivery of the bin will take place and stickers to be ordered once arrived to clarify what waste should go in what bin. e) Cllr Bragg and Cllr Welbourn to move forward with specification in order to seek quotations. f) This has been done, straw bales have been ^{WILL BE} placed in the ponds. g) Sadly the damage has been done by UKPN contractors. The Parish Council will inspect the trees and see if any further work is needed to tidy up the poor maintenance they received. h) Cllrs to assist with a snagging list to show the extent of the poor state of the footpaths/roadways where Citifibre have been working. The Parish Council will prepare a schedule. i) Following inspection, there are 12 benches in total within the village. 9 in good condition. 2 to be removed from the cemetery and 1 from Brittons Crescent to be repaired. j) Footpath in Barrow needs better signage and the farmer needs to reinstate the path. Footpath in Denham – Clerk to chase regarding the outstanding re-routing and works required. 	Clerk to follow up JP
6821	Community Facility Date for planning meeting has been secured for 2 nd September 2025.	
6822	Community Awards Sadly our entry was not successful this year. We will re-enter again next year.	
6823	Neighbourhood Plan and West Suffolk Local Plan See attached report. 3 Options put to the Parish Council for our Neighbourhood Plan to vote: Option 1 – no support. Option 2 – Proposed 5 with 2 abstentions Option 3 – no support. The response drafted is proposed: Cllr Holmes Seconded: Cll rO'Brien – 5 in favour	
6824	SALC Nothing to report. Elections in October for the Board – Cllr O'Brien has been proposed to join.	

JP

6825	Financial Matters To approve accounts. Approval proposed by Cllr Welbourn seconded by Cllr Bragg Payments accepted; proposed by Cllr Cousins seconded by Cllr Wesley Invoices approved – confirmed.	
6826	Planning Applications for Considerations DC/25/1159/LB – No comment. DC/25/1158/HH – No comment.	
6827	Planning determinations DC/25/1044/HH – Approved. DC/25/0516/P3QPA - Prior approval required & refused. DC/25/0939/CLP – Approved.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 6 th October 2025 in the Committee Room of Barrow Village Hall at 7:15pm. The meeting was closed at 8:43pm	

Signed:  (Chairman) date: 6/10/25

Barrow-cum-Denham Neighbourhood Plan Update – Presented at Parish Council Meeting 1st September 2025

WSC – Local Plan

1. The Local Plan was adopted in July 2025.
2. This means that the development of the 165 dwellings will be on the Bury Rd site and Denham Lane site.
3. As previously reported, due to changes made by Central Government to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) in December 2024, WS are having to accommodate a further 6500 dwellings.
4. WSC current Local Plan, and our NP, were based on the numbers of the previous NPPF.
5. WSC will be undertaking the task of producing a new Local Plan and expected to start next year.

Government Funding

1. Government funding has been withdrawn from Neighbourhood Planning which in effect means it is highly unlikely that communities will be in a position to produce them.
2. From our point of view, it is important that we have a NP to give us some protection in going forward.

NP/Examiner Report

1. The Examiner recommenced work on our NP and has sent to us, via WSC his initial draft, entitled **Fact Check Report**. As it implies, both WSC and us, simply need to check for grammatical errors, typos and that the facts as stated are correct. WSC have completed this and we concur with them.
2. The Examiner will then issue the Final report. We understand that there will be no further examination of the plan.
3. The Examiner has made recommendations for amendments to be made to the plan, which in effect brings it into alignment with WSC Local Plan, this includes the removal of the Barrow Hill site from our plan. Should we accept these recommendations then our NP can proceed to referendum.
4. Whilst we can agree with these recommendations, we do have concerns on 3 of the policies which relates to Spatial Strategy (BCD1 and BCD2)

and the wording in effect means that we would be prevented from attracting new employment opportunities to the village; and BCD11 which refers to Protection of Local Heritage Assets, the whole policy was removed. In addition, we have made comments regarding the process and the timeline.

5. We have produced a response to address these concerns, which will be sent to West Suffolk Council (no doubt they will pass onto the Examiner)
6. Copy of the Examiners Fact Check Report and our proposed response draft has been circulated to all of you.

Next Steps

1. We need to agree on the course of action we wish to adopt.
2. We will then inform WSC accordingly.
3. In the event we proceed to referendum, then we have to agree with WSC the modifications to our NP so that a revised referendum version of the NP will be put onto the council's website.
4. As we understand, it will be in discussion with WSC that the areas we have concerns in regard to the above mentioned policies will be raised.
5. This work will need to be completed by 30th September as they are aiming for a Polling date of the 13th of November 2025. On the basis the plan passes referendum then the plan can be made at WSC meeting in December 2025.

Our Options

1. **Walk away from the Plan** – this would mean that we would have zero protection in going forward and on that basis alone, should not be in considered.
2. **Accept the Examiners Recommendations** – this would enable us to go to referendum, as it would be in compliance with the Local Plan. This would ensure we have some protection albeit limited in the future as any infill development would be within the settlement boundary. As we will be discussing with WSC to agree the modifications we would hope that the concerns regarding our Spatial Strategy (prevents us from attracting new employment opportunities) and Protection of our Local Heritage Assets (we do not understand why this has been deleted) can be incorporated into the revised plan.
3. **Proceed with our Plan for Barrow Hill Development** – this would mean that the benefits that would come can be maintained, we would need to

add to the plan those areas of the village we would wish to protect from future development. **However**, this would double up on the housing we would have (330) as it would be considered **additional**. Whilst we have always been opposed to WSC site selection, we have always stated that we would **not** subject our community to having both sites at the same time.

4. **Vote** – we need to vote this evening on which option we prefer, which in effect is between options 2 & 3.

Letter

1. Apart from raising our concerns regarding the above, we are also mindful of WSC challenge to accommodate a further 6500 houses.
2. We know, by talking with them, that they will be starting a new Local Plan and that **ALL** communities will be affected. As we are a key service centre it is highly likely that we will have to absorb more development.
3. We want to ensure that meaningful consultation between WSC and ourselves occurs and that sites and numbers are not imposed on us as before. Which we also raise in our letter.
4. Do we agree to proceed with this?

Ralph Rawlings

1st September 2025

COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT – 1st September 2025

MESSAGES CASCADED - NONE

REPORTED CRIME FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025 = 5

Burglary – 1

V & S – 1

Other Theft - 2

Other Crime – 1

All recorded crimes are on or near the location mentioned below.

CATEGORY	LOCATION	TIMELINE/ACTION
Burglary	The Street	N/A
V & S	Cedar Rd	N/A
ASB	The Street	N/A
Other Theft (not defined)	MacDonald Way	N/A
Other Theft (not defined)	Barrow Hill	N/A

REPORTED CRIME FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025 = 4

CATEGORY	LOCATION	TIMELINE/ACTION
V & S	Johnson Road	N/A
V & S	Orchard Farm Barns	N/A
Criminal Damage & Arson	Little Mill Lane	N/A
Other Theft (not defined)	Green Farm Lane	N/A

Note – as at date, no details published for July or August

Police presence at Fete - Feedback

PC McDuff (our Community Police Office) attended the fete on the 13th July, together with her colleague. Her feedback is below.

I really enjoyed myself and felt it went very well. My colleague and I were actually very busy. A lot of children came over to look and sit in the police car (we did have fun putting the lights and siren on), and many participated in doing the fingerprint key rings. We brought a selection of hats, a stab vest and belt for people to try on and a shield to play with....all went down well.

Many adults also came over to have a look at the kit, ask questions and have a general chat. We stayed until the last event, the tug of war and then left, so a good couple of hours.

To be honest nobody raised any concerns about issues in the village it was more about what we do and our personal policing backgrounds.

If there are future community events planned, please let me know and I will do my best to attend.

Ralph Rawlings

1st September 2025