

**THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE, THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM**

**Present: Mr Keith Drewrey, Mr Jeff Burrell, Dr Jo Dalton,
Mrs Pam Spicer & Mr Rob Plom**

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>
1.	<u>Welcome:</u> The Chairman welcomed members of the Parish Council and the public.
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> There were apologies of absence from Mr Brendan Sparks
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There was a declaration of interest from Rob Plom in respect of a cheque payment for grass cutting costs.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

There were 3 Village residents present. The first villager is part of the Banham Community Speed Team, and was there in order to provide the data for their work in Banham during 2024. During 2024, there were 22 speed watch sessions in Banham with a total of 133 speeding vehicles being recorded. All of these vehicles have been reported to the police. The Community Speed Team are looking for new volunteers, and the PC will pop details of this on their website, and also on the notice board.

MEETING RECONVENED

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>Actions:</u>
4.	<u>Previous Minutes:</u> Previous Minutes of the 5 th December 2024 meeting and extraordinary minutes of 10 th October 2024 were approved, and signed by the Chairman.	Chairman Parish Clerk
5.	<u>Allotments:</u> Mr Drewrey advised that the majority of the plots are being maintained, and are as expected for this time of year. The waste has been cleared and the fallen tree has also been dealt with. It was acknowledged that notice has been given on Plot 15, and the Clerk will let the next person on the waiting list know. Insofar as Plot 1, it was acknowledged that there has been very little maintenance during 24 and no annual rent has been paid. With this in mind, a 7 day notice will now been given to the plot holder.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 9th January 2025

6.	<u>Banham Christmas Fair:</u> The Fair went well and the committee had received good feedback and appreciation for Santa's Grotto, and the 'free' gifts given to the Children.	Dr Dalton
7.	<u>Banham Community Hub:</u> Mrs Spicer advised that the Movement for Wellbeing classes have gone very well so far and have seen numbers of around 11 per class. Soup & a roll has started again, and is served until 1:00pm. The Hub have also been giving out hot water bottles and blankets to those who need them, and the Bingo night is due to take place on the 6th December. The Christmas Bags of Joy have been put in place, and there are 99 people booked for the Christmas dinner with 2 deliveries also taking place.	Mrs Spicer
8.	<u>Banham Newsletter Donation Request:</u> The Parish Council discussed the donation request received, and after having considered the figures provided by the newsletter committee, the Chairman proposed the figure requested at £340.00, but suggested providing as a loan with the full amount to be paid back within 6 months. This was seconded by Dr Dalton and unanimously by the PC. The Clerk will draw up the necessary documents and revert to the Newsletter committee as required.	Parish Clerk
9.	<u>Update on Banham Flood Defences:</u> The Chairman advised that the ditches situated downstream from the footbridge on Kenninghall Road have been cleared, and are much more prepared for potential flood water over the coming months. Insofar as Wash Lane is concerned, discussions are taking place between the residents with regards to updating and improving the culvert running beneath Wash Lane to again assist with the flow of water when flooding occurs.	Parish Clerk
10.	<u>Hunts Corner Safety Sign:</u> It was acknowledged that Highways have offered to place a further 'warning' sign on the approach to Hunts Corner at an extortionate cost, and the PC concluded that this seemed fruitless when considering that the sign will spend months covered by vegetation, and be ignored as per many other signs in Banham by road users. Therefore, moving forwards, the PC will consider further more effective options for safety and to reduce accidents at the Hunts Corner junction.	Parish Clerk
11.	<u>CAN Affordable Housing update:</u> The Clerk provided an update as per an email received from Lisa Davis at Flagship Homes. Whilst the likely site layout is still to be confirmed, Lisa confirmed the survey had identified the following needs: 4 x 1 Bed Houses, 4 x 2 Bed Houses, 4 x 2 Bed Bungalows M4(2) (Adaptable and Accessible) suitable for older people and those with reduced mobility, 6 x 3 bed Houses and 2 x 4 bed Houses. The Clerk will update further once she receives any further information.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 9th January 2025

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>Actions:</u>
12.	<u>Cemetery Hedge:</u> The Parish Council acknowledged the request received from St Mary's Church for assistance with funding of cutting of the cemetery hedge. This is a matter that comes up often at meetings, and the PC are torn between providing assistance, and the rules that bind them, namely: 'The Local Government Act 1894' which "prohibits us from from spending money on maintaining or improving church property (open churchyard)". On this occasion, the Chairman proposed giving a charitable donation to the Church to deal with this, but does not want to set a precedent going forwards. This was seconded by Mr Plom and agreed by the PC as a whole.	Parish Clerk
13.	<u>Highways/Street Lights/Footpaths & Hedges:</u> The Clerk advised that she has received notification of 3 'faulty' lights from a couple of Banham Residents, and she has reported these along with a 2 others to the lighting contractors recently. A pothole was reported on the road alongside the green, and one on the entrance to Grammar School Yard on Church Lane. The Clerk will contact Highways as required.	Parish Clerk
14.	<u>Planning:</u> Ref: 3PL/2024/0867/FMIN - Rosary Farm, Kenninghall Road, Banham Proposal: Proposed construction of four new dwellings Having reviewed the documents, the PC advised no objection to the proposal..... Ref: 3PL/2024/0585/F - Fen Farm Barn, Quidenham Road, Banham, Proposal: Proposed Installation of 24.No off ground mounted solar panels in a 12 x 2 array. Panels located on a frame with ground screws. Having reviewed the documents, the PC advised no objection to the proposal. Ref: PL/2024/0928/VAR - Applewood Countryside Holidays Kenninghall Road, Proposal: Removal of condition 5 attached to 3PL/1995/0097/CU. Having reviewed the documents, the PC advised no comment to the proposal. Ref: PL/2024/0865/VAR - Fen View, The Fen, Banham, NR16 2BU Proposal: Removal/variation of a condition following a grant of planning permission. Having reviewed the documents, the PC advised no objection to the proposal. Ref: PL/2024/0990/PAPW - Land East And West Of Haugh Farm, Haugh Rd Proposal: Creation of forest roads on land to the East and West of Haugh Farm, Banham to allow safe access and turning by timber wagons and other operational vehicles at a woodland creation site. Having reviewed the documents, the PC advised no objection to the proposal.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 9th January 2025

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>Actions:</u>
15.	<u>Budget 2025/2026:</u> The Parish Council acknowledged the Budget Review and recommendations of the RFO, Mrs Valerie Plummer. The Parish Council acknowledged the proposed precept amount of £21,000.00, and felt that when considering the ongoing flood defence needs, along with the costs to date and going forwards that this was reasonable and approved. The Clerk will now complete the necessary precept request forms as required.	Parish Clerk
16/17.	<u>Accounts:</u> The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was unanimous agreement from the Parish Council in favour of the following: Balance of Current Account as of 15^h November 2024 - £24,254.91 Balance of Savings Accounts as of 15th November 2024 - £8,246.09 To approve payment of following items: £ 48.00 – Street Lighting – K&M Lighting £ 50.00 – Storage of PC items – Mr R Bensley £400.00 – Bags of Joy donation – Banham Community Hub £ 72.00 – Hall Rental – Banham Community Hub £340.00 – Donation Request – Banham Monthly Newsletter £100.00 – Clearing of allotment waste – A.J Forder £180.00 – Grass Cutting Costs £ 50.00 – Tree removal (allotments) AJ Forder £ 7.19 – Adaptor Plug for Christmas Tree – Michelle Jones	Parish Clerk
18.	<u>Chairman's Other Business:</u> The Chairman advised he had inspected the defibrillator, and whilst it appears that there is power going to the device, he would like this to be checked by Harling Electrical to ensure that all is working as it should be. The Clerk will make arrangements. Also, it was acknowledged that there was damage to the new flagpole and as such the Clerk will contact the provider in respect of a replacement.	Parish Clerk
18.	<u>Next Meeting:</u> <u>Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7:30pm</u> <u>The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</u>	

*The Banham Parish Council would like to wish
all Banham Residents a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy 2025.*

Signed: Dated: 9th January 2025