

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall Annexe at 7.00pm on Thursday 21st March 2019

Present: Cllr R Fellowes (Chair), Cllr A Smith (Vice-Chair), Cllr A Ross, Cllr M Lillie, Cllr M Bailey, Cllr M Smith and District Cllr A Killett

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and two members of the public

Bpc172/18 Apologies for Absence

County Cllr K Oakes – apologies accepted. Cllr A Smith arrived at 7.30pm

Bpc173/18 Declaration of Interest and Requests for dispensation

No declaration of interests declared or requests for dispensation had been received.

Bpc174/18 County Cllr Kay Oakes Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved On 14 February, Suffolk County Council concluded its budget setting process for this coming financial year (2019/2020). From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, Suffolk County Council will spend almost £10 million a week across all its services following approval of this budget of £519.3 million. Over the period 2011-12 to 2018-19 the Council has made over £260 million of savings in response to reductions in funding from Central Government and increasing demand for services. For 2019/20 the Council has proposed a range of savings totalling around £13 million. These savings are required to help balance the budget - something that the Council must do by law. Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas. The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends. General council tax will rise by 2.99% this year. The Council are also applying the final 1% of the six per cent Social Care precept allowed over the years 2017/18 to 2019/20. The overall increase in council tax is one per cent less than for 2018/19. The four-year investment in surface-dressing our roads continues into its third year and the Council will treat 1,000 miles of Suffolk's roads by the end of 2020 as promised. The Council has also maintained Suffolk Fire and Rescue's budget and protected Suffolk's Library services. The Council is looking to maximise the financial contribution from its medium-term programmes, which focus on transforming how the Council delivers its services and works with other authorities and public sector partners. The Council's transformation programmes have saved over £12 million in 2018/19 and £12-£13 million of savings are planned for 2019/20. **Funding agreed for Citizens Advice in Suffolk** On 11 February, it was reported that Citizens Advice in Suffolk will no longer see any difference in their funding for 2019/20. This is due to a collaboration between Suffolk County Council, NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group, Suffolk County Council proposes to reduce the funding given to Citizens Advice by 50% (£187k), in 2019/20. Under the joint agreement now in place with the CCGs, a total of £187k will be provided by NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk and NHS West Suffolk CCGs. So, funding for Citizens Advice in 2019/20 will remain the same as the previous year (£374k)

Important Information: Suffolk School Travel Changes from September 2019 Suffolk County Council (SCC) is implementing changes to its School Travel Policy from September 2019. The Council has already written to all schools and Town and Parish Councils with information about the policy changes and how they may affect families in their area

Bpc175/18 District Cllr Anne Killett

Latest situation on 5 year housing land supply District councillors at the full council meeting on Monday 18th March were told that the results of the consultation on the MSDC Housing Land Position Statement 2018/2019 were that the housing land supply can be evidenced to be 5.06 years. The review of the housing land supply position was triggered by the decision on a planning appeal concerning a development in Woolpit last August. If the 5 year housing land supply can be defended, then more weight can be given to local plans and policies in making planning decisions. **Neighbourhood Plans** Stradbroke Neighbourhood Development Plan and Debenham Neighbourhood Development Plan were both adopted

at the full council meeting on 18th March. With these in place and a 5 year housing land supply, the aspirations of these parishes for where and how development should take place in their communities should have more influence in the planning system. The District Council has committed £120,000 to support communities in the development of neighbourhood plans. It is a structured and time-consuming process but does bring influence. Communities can work together on Neighbourhood Plans.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Expenditure Framework CIL monies that are collected from developers must be spent on infrastructure. MSDC has a published list (known as the Regulation 123 list) that defines infrastructure that can have CIL funds spent on it. A Framework setting out how money could be bid for from the fund was approved last year and has just been reviewed after the first year. The review involved MSDC councillors, SCC councillors and the MSDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There will now be more notice to Parishes, with emails being sent out three months before each Bid round opens. There have been two rounds of bids so far, with £156,979 of £425,699 spent in round 1 and £78,938 of £712,151 in round 2. £633,194 will be carried forward to Bid Round 3.

Bpc176/18 Public Forum

A member of the public asked if there was room for negotiation over the easement to the land north of the Tye for 9 dwellings. The Chairman said the parish Council uphold their objection.

Bpc177/18 Correspondence

The Councillors signed the Deed of Grant of Easement for Cameron Croft; It was agreed for the hedge to be replanted at Tye Farm as it is within the owners curtilage; Clerk to request more details about the design of the windmill to be sited outside the village hall, possible vandalism and to ask about the grass verge being cut while the windmill is in place; following the discussion in the above item it was agreed for the Parish Council to form a sub-committee for the proposed footpath for the village.

Bpc178/18 Footway near Nursing Home Corner

Clerk to report to Highways that the vegetation has grown a long way over the path so it is now very narrow. Also Clerk to report the footpath from there to Needham Market has become very narrow as the earth from the bank has covered most of the path and difficult to use now.

Bpc179/18 Grass Cutting Contract

It was agreed to accept the revised quote from Vertas for £3,943.54 + vat by reducing the number of cuts to 14 for 2019/20

To help reduce the damage from strimming to the play equipment Cllr smith has fitted metal collars around the base of the some of the play equipment posts and wants to check their suitability before continuing – Clerk to liaise.

After considering the quotes to replace the mats below the adult swings and considering the effect the work would have on the Tye it was agreed to buy bark chips to put underneath the swings. Clerk to obtain quotes.

Bpc180/18 Village Beacon

It was agreed to make another sleeve so the beacon can be moved closer to the war memorial when it is to be used. Clerk to ask the Forge for a quote for the work.

Bpc181/18 Planning Matters – There were no planning matters

Bpc182/18 Village Hall Cupboard

The new cupboard will be ready to use soon.

Bpc183/18 Donations

It was agreed to make the following donations:

Stowmarket CAB £50

SARS £50

Neighbourhood Watch £50

Needham Market First Responders £50

East Anglian Air Ambulance £50

Four Parishes Magazine £80

Clerk to check with SALC what funds can be used to make a donation to the church to maintain it as a village asset.

Bpc184/18 Finance

a. The Cllrs noted the Financial Report

All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the Appendix were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget and the bank reconciliation against the bank statements. Agreed to move £1603 from Active Saver account to Community account

b. The Cllrs agreed the re-appointment of the Responsible Finance Officer

c. The Cllrs agreed to appoint Heelis & Lodge as Internal Auditors

d. The Cllrs reviewed and accepted the Risk Assessment for finance.

e. The Cllrs agreed to accept the Financial Regulations

Bpc185/18 Traffic VAS Sign

The VAS sign on the Nursing Home bend has been knocked down. Clerk to ask Highways if the sign could still be used and moved to the empty post opposite Parsons Lane. Also Clerk to report the pothole in the village hall driveway.

Bpc186/18 Weeding the Village Hall Carpark

Defer the formation of a weeding party for the village hall carpark until the next meeting.

Bpc187/18 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Bailey reported that the storage cupboards in the hall have been removed and the wall repainted. The Parish Council have some storage space in the cupboard and a lockable filing cabinet.

Bpc188/18 To Approve the Increase in the Clerk's Salary

Cllrs approved the new hourly rate of £10.57 per hour

Bpc189/18 Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Lillie reported back from a mapping seminar. Parish online would enable the parish to have a digital map of the village showing assets and it could be helpful to map the proposed footpath. If there are any events where Neighbourhood Watch can be promoted, please let Cllr Lillie know.

The County Lines film was very good at highlighting the dangers children face about drugs and is very concerning.

It was agreed to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting to Thursday 9th May to avoid holding it during the election purdah. Cllrs expressed their thanks to District Cllr Killeth who has moved and will not be standing in the May election.

BP190/18 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next scheduled meetings will be on: Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 9th May at 7pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.05

ChairmanDate

Appendix: Finance Report

Schedule of payments & receipts from 17 January 2019

Income received since 17.1.19

Grant from County Cllr Oakes	1500.00
MSDC Cleansing grant	306.15
HMRC VAT refund	347.60

Total 2153.75

Expenditure since 17.1.19

Community Action Suffolk	Insurance	679.31	LGA 2000 s101
Mid Suffolk District Council	Playground inspection	116.90	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
L Rogers	Nov wages	267.80	LGA 1972s112
L Rogers	Nov expenses	27.97	LGA 1972
Dick Nash	grass cutting	125.28	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
Jake Smith	litter picking	273.00	
L Rogers	Dec wages	267.80	LGA 1972s112
L Rogers	Dec expenses	20.00	LGA 1972
Environment Agency	General drainage	40.50	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
		<u>£1545.56</u>	

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

Heelis & Lodge	Internal audit	128.00	LGA 1972 s111
SALC	Election training	15.00	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	Feb wages	267.80	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	Feb expenses	133.80	LGA 1972
John Lewis	New printer	129.99	LGA 1972 s111
MJ Smith	Hedge cutting	120.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
J Firman	Tree work	450.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
J Firman	Tree work (Fox)	102.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
L Rogers	March wages	267.80	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	March expenses	27.96	LGA 1972
Total		<u>£1642.35</u>	

Unpresented cheques

MJ Smith	Hedge cutting	120.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
J Firman	Tree work	450.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
J Firman	Tree work (Fox)	102.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10
L Rogers	March wages	267.80	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	March expenses	27.96	LGA 1972
Total		<u>£967.76</u>	

Account	Statement Date	Statement balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques	difference
Community a/c	13.3.19	£11,555.28	£19,587.52	£0.00	£967.76	£967.76
Base reward a/c	13.3.19	£28,036.44	£28,036.44	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Active Saver a/c	13.3.19	£1603.66	£1603.66	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Parish Paths partnership a/c	13.3.19	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Total £41,279.03