

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.00pm
on Thursday 9th March 2023

PRESENT:

Cllr Marcus Tabberer– Chairman, Cllr Mike Anderson, Cllr Ann Ross and Cllr Mike Bailey

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Rogers - Clerk

2 members of the public

BPC 01/23 APOLOGIES

Cllr Rosamund Fellowes, Cllr Steve Butler, County Cllr Kay Oakes, District Cllr Dan Pratt, Kate Griffin (Art Group), Shelley Symonds and Sue Marsh

BPC 02/23 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 3rd March 2022 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

BPC 03/23 BARKING PARISH COUNCIL –Cllr Marcus Tabberer (Chairman)

I would like to start by thanking Lucinda, our Parish Clerk, for her diligence and dedication that she puts into the role and enabling the parish council to function effectively and efficiently within the governance framework(s) that exist. This sentiment is shared by all of our parish councillors.

Secondly, I'd like to express thanks to my fellow councillors for all the efforts and hard work during 2022 and 2023. I am extremely grateful for good natured support I have received in the last 12 months the support whilst I have been in the role of Chair. A special mention to Rosamund who has provided both advice and cover for my role as chair when I have not been available.

I would like to thank both Dan Pratt, our District Councillor, and Kay Councillor Oakes, our County Councillor, for their commitment to Barking Parish Council and helpful advice and guidance on a number of matters during the last 12 months. Barking is fortunate to have access to Dan and Kay and the wealth of knowledge and the benefit this brings.

Unsurprisingly the majority of the efforts of the Parish Council over the last 12 months has been regarding the management of the Tye and common areas. On going and longer-term management is our key focus to make sure we can meet the future with a sustainable plan, for Tye, trees and hedges that meets both budgetary constraints and the needs and wishes of the wider village.

The continued management of our tress, play equipment benches and other village assets also continues with further ongoing surveys and maintenance being planned for 2023.

The parish council are working under very tight financial constraints that has led to an inflationary increase in the 2023 precept. We have, however, been successful in working within our stated budget, and maintain adequate financial reserves to give contingency for unforeseen events.

Whilst the negotiations of the easement for the potential development of the land

north of Tye Green have been successfully with the developer (DAB) we are still traversing the legal permissions and challenges made by the Open Spaces Society and await the final position. Hence, I find myself reporting that the PC is still evaluating the construction of a footway as funding generated by the easement will be key to funding this activity. The survey conducted previously has shown a large majority of respondents are in favour of this. I sincerely hope that within 2023 timescales we will be in a position to publish further plans on the development of the footway to the wider village.

The PC has been actively engaged in lodging objections to the proposed Nation Grids 'East Anglia Green' project. After seeking input from the parish there is no appetite to embrace the proposed placing of pylons that would impact the village significantly. This will continue to be a major focus for the parish council during 2023 coordinating the overwhelming objections to the proposed scheme.

The Parish Council continues to look to recruit new councillors to enable us to work with a full complement. We welcomed Mike Anderson this year and our thanks to him for volunteering. The PC will make continued efforts to look for an additional member during the forthcoming months.

BPC 04/23 INVITED REPRESENTATIVES:

St Mary's Church, Barking - *Sue Marsh's report was read by Cllr Tabberer*

There is little change to report in the last year. We remain one of eight Parishes with the Reverend Daniel Harrison as their Rector. However, we were delighted to welcome Annie Profitt as a new member of the Church Council. Joining the Rector, Rosamund Fellowes, Vanessa Edwards [Secretary], myself and Danny Clifford our Treasurer. We are also very grateful to Brenda, our organist, and Phil and his team of bell ringers, who not only ring for services but also on special occasions such as the Jubilee and the late Queens death, when we had the church open with a book of condolence, for a week

We still have a Communion service with hymns on the 4th Sunday every month to which all are most welcome. This year we hosted the Benefice Service for the late Queens Jubilee, as well as a joint Harvest Service Our Carol Service On Christmas eve attended by many people both from the Parish and elsewhere. We had one Baptism and two funerals during the year as well as a number of interment of ashes in the new graveyard. which the right of every resident in the parish.

Little progress has been made with the continuing works necessary to the Church and paths. We have been unable to obtain any grants for resurfacing the paths, so a limited improvement to those, from the Car park to the North and South doors, is now planned and work should start soon. There is still need for further works on the roof and upper storey windows but we are held up by the Diocese, regarding approval of architect and his plans. Unfortunately, this is a common problem, and is also affecting the plan to lower and possibly change the heaters in the Church, although we have an estimate, funds and plans in place. Looking after such a large Grade one listed building is not easy (to put it mildly!) We are grateful to the Parish Council for their grant towards the mowing of the Old and New graveyards done by Will Pratt.

We are also very grateful to all who support our, [seemingly endless] fundraising, Harvest Supper. Craft Fair and Take Away Valentines Teas The Trianon Strings concert with Dan on the 'Cello was a Benefice event held in our Church and very well attended in May and we benefited with our 1/8th share of the funds. Shortly afterwards we were

delighted to be a part of the successful Jubilee fair on the Tye with a Tombola. In spite of all your support, gift aid and collections we struggle financially to pay our share to the Diocese for the Rector, his expenses and the maintenance of the Church. So, for your diary, there is to be a general knowledge quiz in the VH on Saturday 13th May with refreshments. We need you!

Barking Chapel –Pastor Graham Steward: Looking back over the past 12 months we have much to thank God for. Our attendance on a Sunday remain pretty consistent although we do have a number of members who have not been able to join us recently due to health issues. We were particularly encouraged by some of our services and events over the Christmas period. Afternoon tea and carols (with a proper high tea) and carols by candlelight were particularly well attended. We are blessed to have a number of families worshipping with us regularly, although the number of children who go out for their own teaching session during the adult sermon is now quite small. Some of our youngsters are now teenagers and they are able to assist with the technology as we project words onto a screen and also run Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Apart from our more conventional services, we still do an early evening café church a few times a year and when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, the morning service becomes a family service geared for all ages.

We look forward to sharing the Easter morning sunrise service with some of our Anglican friends. However, cold it might be on the Tye, the Chapel will be warm for breakfast afterwards. Looking forwards, we are exploring the possibility of taking on a ministry trainee who could gain some practical experience with us alongside doing a Bible College course. If this comes together it would be an exciting new development for the church.

One of the challenges we face at the moment is that, due to changes in Charity Commission requirements, we are having to set up a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation which makes quite a bit of the kind of work which has to be done but we would rather not do. We will get there in the end. Over all, the Church is in good heart and we look forward to seeing how God's work here will develop in the future

Village Hall Management Committee & Community Council – Mike Bailey

At the start of the year, like Wee Willy Winky, the village hall management committee woke from a long Covid enforced sleep when the hall had been necessarily gated and closed. Now reinstated for a year, the management committee, like others, conducted business by Zoom and for safety reasons continue to do so. Following the lengthy closure, the Committee resolutely dealt with accumulated breakdowns and organised necessary repairs which were exacerbated by significant flooding of the kitchen and connecting passageway. From our perspective at the time these seemed of Biblical proportions. The cause has been thoroughly and professionally dealt with by major external drainage upgrading. The internal damage is the subject of an ongoing insurance claim and the kitchen and passageway floor still needs to be replaced but seems safely useable. Upgrading and realignment of the long run of roof guttering also remains outstanding. Until this is dealt with, people passing through the fire doors during heavy rain ought to watch out for a quick hairwash. Also until the roof guttering is sorted, there is little chance of seeing any Biblical ravens in the car park. As to other works, most of the outside woodwork has been painted and a thorough clear out of the rear storage area has been undertaken. Also beneath your feet you will notice the excellent refurbishment of the hall floor. I am sure it will tempt everyone to wipe their collective feet when entering.

So what has been happening on the human side? Unfortunately, two of the village mainstays – the Women’s Institute and the Art Club have sadly closed. Nevertheless, other organisations are still with us. We also have what seems a viable and active martial and self defence club. Otherwise, many of the regular events are again making use of the facilities, though the informal First Friday meeting would need more attendance to make it viable and many people are missing Flicks in the Sticks.

Worthy of mention is the village hall application for a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) grant for ongoing development. There has been some difficulty in answering the question of football at the village hall. In that respect could I ask all of you to encourage more use of this great facility.

I have avoided mentioning any names but may I say that when the committee was reconvened, we had difficulty in getting a volunteer chairperson. Adrian Carpenter not only filled that vital role for the year but our thanks also go to Adrian for expertly organising the vital contractors for much of the essential works.

Barking Art Group –*Kate Griffin’s report was read by Cllr Tabberer*

As you might be aware, the Barking Art group closed in August 2022 due to the aftermath of the pandemic and the failing health of many of the members.

There is no report to give except to say that any left over money that we had was given to St Elizabeth Hospice following the wishes of our remaining members.

Barking Pre-School – *Shelley Symonds report was read by Cllr Tabberer*

Barking Pre-school continues to be a highly respected Early Years Provider in Suffolk. We are pleased to report we are running at full capacity and have a waiting list of children wishing to join us. We currently provide childcare to children from Barking, Ringshall, Somersham, Elmsett, Battsford, Needham Market and Stowmarket. We employ 7 members of staff and have extended our opening hours to accommodate the increase in children needing places and introduced a Breakfast Club for families requiring an earlier drop off. We now provide childcare Monday 8.30am – 12.30pm and Tuesday – Friday 8.30am – 3.30pm.

We are seeing an increase in the number of children attending the setting with additional needs, particularly speech and language delay and with the NHS services being under immense pressure and strain at the moment, the pre-school has paid for all staff to undertake an in-depth speech and language course to support the children we care for. Although our setting is full, we still need to raise a minimum of £2000 per term to cover the shortfall in low Government funding. Unfortunately, the government advertises “Free childcare” but do not cover the full cost of providing high quality childcare and will not allow providers to charge parents additional fees as a top up. Next term, we have 5 children who currently pay for their sessions who will be eligible for government funding (the term after they turn 3yrs old) and with these 5 children alone, we will lose £52 per week. In addition to this we will have to increase staff wages to the new minimum wage of £10.40 per hour and this equates to £126 extra in wages per week. The pre-school made £8000 loss last year due to the inability to raise funds by organising large fundraising events during the Covid Pandemic. We are very fortunate to have some supportive parents behind us and we have managed to raise just over the £2000 needed for this term already which is incredible. The pre-school has very good working relationships with all primary schools in the area and always aim to

support children as they transition in to their new settings. We welcome help and support from other early years professionals and healthcare workers to ensure each child receives the very best experience during their time with us. The pre-school is always looking for people to help organise fundraising events if anybody has any free time, please feel free to give us a call.

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities – Shaun Cochrane

A REMINDER OF OUR PURPOSE

The “Town Lands” and “Almshouse” charities are restricted by charity law to make grants that only benefit residents in Needham Market town and the parishes of Barking & Darmsden. They are registered with the Charity Commission and managed by eleven local trustees. The principal objectives of Town Lands are: to relieve residents’ need, hardship or distress, and to provide relief for old age or sickness in the area, including convalescence, and to use any balance of income for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants as the trustees think fit.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Full details will be found in the independently-examined Annual Report and financial statements, which will be available from the Charity Commission website in due course.

Trustees continue to support the local minibus, administer the historic Camping Land as a public amenity, and manage the allotments on Quinton Road. Trustees also oversee 4 flats within Orwell Housing’s Drift Court sheltered housing scheme.

Town Lands grants this year have focused on supporting individuals and families distressed by cost of living issues. Trustees continue to prioritise those in need, and are ready and able to commit additional funds if required. The major Almshouse project is now coming to fruition, with Exchange of Contracts completed for the building of 6 new almshouses locally. Unlike Drift Court for use by the elderly, the new buildings will be adaptable to other sectors, including younger people and disabled. So we will have another busy year ahead. Barking Parish Council should put forward two representatives to this charity.

Theobald’s Foundation – Shaun Cochrane

For those present who might not be aware of what the Theobald’s Endowed Foundation Charity is I thought I would start by giving a very short summary of its background and aims. The scheme in its current form came into being in 1986 following a donation from Needham & Barking Charities and a very generous bequest from Mr Eric Lacey Theobald of over £30,000 in 1983. However, the Foundation itself can trace its history right back to 1632 with the endowment of a Free School in Needham Market. The school developed over many years to the point where in the 19th Century it had achieved considerable status and reputation, details of which can be found in the History of Needham Market by the late Hugh Paget. However, following the eventual closure of the school, the Foundation was governed by a new Trust deed established in 1911 enabling the Trustees, still called Governors, utilising a limited endowment, to give restricted financial assistance to a small number of applicants for the continuation of their education. The Foundation in its current form was approved by the Charities Commission and established in November 1986 replacing the 1911 Trust Deed. Direction of the Foundation lies with 9 Trustees, of whom 2 are nominated by Needham Market Town Council and 2 by Barking Parish Council the remaining Trustees are co-opted. The beneficial area is the civil parishes of Needham and Barking and the potential beneficiaries are young people under 25 proceeding to Higher

or Further Education and the schools in Needham or Ringshall, this being to help provide facilities otherwise not available from usual County resources. It is the role of the Trustees to make grants to qualifying individuals and manage and maintain the charitable fund through investment. Written applications for grants are welcomed from individuals within the qualifying parishes and these are generally reviewed annually at the Foundations February meeting. Applications are considered in line with the request made by each individual against a set of qualifying criteria and scale of grant available. A written thank you from fund recipients is expected by the Trustees, although sadly not always received, and will be taken into account should the applicant approach the Foundation in subsequent years for further grants. In 2023 grants have been given to 18 applicants totalling £3,175, including students from the Parish of Barking. These funds typically assist the young students in the purchase of books, study materials and specialist equipment pertaining to the area of studies they are engaged in. As in previous years as we approach the annual grant cycle we will be promoting awareness of the Foundation to local students moving into, or continuing in, further education and inviting them to apply.

BPC05/23 Proposed Footway on the Tye

A quote for the work of £55 per metre and fees of £5,000 have been obtained from Gill Associates. They can project manage and carry out the work and would be able to give a precise cost once the requirements are firmed up.

We also have a quote of £3,000 from GH Bullard for an engineers design and assistance with obtaining Planning Permission and Highways approval.

These figures are to make a footway from Ashworth to the garage. A second phase would continue the footway from the garage to Michaelmas Bungalow and would be carried out at a later stage.

The Clerk has made an application for CIL funding and we await Mid Suffolk District Council's decision.

The negotiations for the easement for the nine houses continue but is hopefully nearing conclusion.

BPC06/22 Public Forum

Ragwort on the Tye: we need an organised event to pull the ragwort and combine it with a social evening in the village hall with food such as fish & chips. Clerk to find out how and where to dispose of the ragwort.

Signage on the Tye is not preventing cars from parking near Walnut House at the play area side. Add to next agenda for discussion.

For sale board on the Tye has been placed on the Tye not within the curtilage of the house. Clerk to inform estate agents

Memorial to John Dickerson and memorials to people to be added to next agenda to clarify the process.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Chairman..... Date.....