

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 14th September 2023

Present

Cllr M Tabberer (*Chair*), Cllr R Fellowes, Cllr A Ross, Cllr S Butler, Cllr M Anderson and Cllr M Bailey

District Cllr D Pratt

In Attendance

Three members of the public

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc38/23 Apologies

County Cllr Kay Oakes

Bpc39/23 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

Bpc40/23 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 20th July and 24th August 2023

The minutes of the meetings on 20th July and 24th August 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc41/23 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Oakes has just returned for a break so unfortunately no report is available

Bpc42/23 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2) Mid Suffolk District Council want to increase the tree canopy across the area and want to encourage planting on private land. They are working with the Woodland Trust and the More Wood scheme to provide volunteers and trees. To qualify, the area must be over one and half acres.

Bpc43/23 Mid Suffolk District Council – People and Place Plans

Elizabeth Ling and Jo explained the benefits of communities creating People and Place Plans to prioritise what is most important to them as a community. They are less technical, less time consuming and less planning focused. They are being introduced as part of the Levelling Up Bill. MSDC can supply templates, questionnaires and advice to help with the process. The new plans must be given regard to by planning when considering planning applications.

Bpc44/23 Public Forum

Some residents from Willisham Road asked for an update on the introduction of a 30mph speed limit

Bpc45/23 Planning Matters

No matters to be considered.

Bpc46/23 Speed Limit at Willisham Road

After discussion Cllr Butler proposed and Cllr Tabberer seconded that as there is no accurate estimate of cost for the project, they will work on the worst case scenario of £10,000 cost and Barking Parish Council contribute 19% of the cost, Cllr Oakes 51% and the three

residents involved 10% each to cover a final figure of up to £10,000. Clerk to write to the three households for their confirmation of this agreement. The councillors unanimously agreed this decision.

Bpc47/23 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the RFO Report authorise payments made since the last meeting and to be made; they noted any income received since the last meeting; reviewed the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statement
- b. The councillors approved the renewal of insurance with Ansvar at a cost of £498.57
- c. Ownership of the asphalt path at St Mary's Church is required in order to apply for grant funding. A quote of £4,950 has been obtained.
- d. The Councillors agreed to defer making any donations until the November meeting. Cllr Fellowes to ascertain the funding of the village magazine.
- e. The Councillors agreed to pay Mr Nash £100 for grass cutting (April - June)
- f. The Councillors agreed appoint Heelis & Lodge as the Internal Auditor
- g. The Councillors agreed for the annual playground inspection to be carried out
- h. Playground improvements – it was agreed to make an initial CIL application for play area improvements.

Bpc48/23 Request for metal detecting in Barking

The Councillors wish to ascertain if metal detecting is allowed on Common land and if such activity may affect the DEFRA agreement. Clerk to check

Bpc49/23 Renovation of benches

Cllr Butler to report back on the benches and say which ones need restoration or replacing

Bpc 50/23 Management of the Tye

- a) Encroachment of the Tye at Cameron Croft – waiting for maps from the Hold
- b) Strawson Easement on the Tye – Have a plan with measurements and want exact figures in the deed to confirm the interpretation of the drawing. Also what the surface will be. It was agreed that tarmac is the preferred surface to match with Tye Green. This should be ready to complete in two weeks as there is nothing outstanding and until the matter is completed, the contractor is not allowed access to the site across the Tye.
- c) Trees at Fox Meadow – it was agreed to have the trees pollarded at a cost of £1500.
- d) Hay on the Tye – It was agreed to send the parish council's thanks to Mike Smith for his help and assistance in cutting, baling, removing and tidying up of the hay.

Bpc51/23 National Grid East Anglia Green – Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's have all registered their opposition to overland pylons. Dan Poulter is holding a meeting at Offton village hall 12pm 15th September. The ESO review is still underway.

Bpc52/23 Village Hall Management Committee

The new fencing has been installed at the rear of the hall.

Bpc53/23 Reports from Councillors

It was agreed to hold a village social evening to welcome new people and aid village cohesion. To be organised in January/February.

The footpath away from the road at the Nursing Home corner needs cutting back. The pipe running under the road has not been cleaned out for many years so it now floods on the corner after heavy rain. The ditch has not been dug out for 5 years. Need a working party to keep it clear – add to November agenda

Someone is interested in being co-opted to the council. Cllr Butler to liaise with the Clerk.

Bpc54/23 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 16th November 2023

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Financial Report

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 20.7.2023

Income Received since 20.7.23

Barclays	Interest	73.68
DEFRA	Stewardship	1,928.72
MSDC	Cleansing grant Q1	406.38
DEFRA	Basic payment	924.10
MSDC	Precept	6,750.00
		<u>10,082.88</u>

Expenditure (movement since 20.7.2023) and invoices agreed for payment

Tye Farm Contracting	July grass cuts	252.00	102109	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	August wages	326.38	102110	LGA 1972
HMRC	August tax	81.60	102111	LGA 1972
L Rogers	July expenses	30.75	102112	LGA 1972
J Firman Trees	Trees on Tye work	1,746.00	102113	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
J Eaton	Litter picking May - August	182.00	102114	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Tye Farm Contracting	August grass cut	252.00	102115	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Mid Suffolk District Council	Election costs	133.89	102116	LGA 1972
Open Spaces Society	Annual Subs	45.00	102117	LGA 1972
L Rogers	September wages	326.38	102118	LGA 1972
HMRC	September tax	81.60	102119	LGA 1972
L Rogers	September expenses	58.40	102120	LGA 1972
		<u>3,516.00</u>		

Unpresented cheques

Tye Farm Contracting	June grass cuts	504.00	102104	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Tye Farm Contracting	July grass cuts	252.00	102109	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	August wages	326.38	102110	LGA 1972
HMRC	August tax	81.60	102111	LGA 1972
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L Rogers	September expenses	58.40	102120	LGA 1972
		<u>4,020.00</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	11.8.23	£28,690.30	£24,670.30	£4,020.00
Base reward a/c	11.8.23	£35,414.95	£35,414.95	£0.00
Parish Paths Partnership a/c	11.8.23	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00
Active saver	11.8.23	£1.35	£1.35	£0.00
		<u>£64,190.25</u>	<u>£60,170.25</u>	

Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report

Pride in your place campaign The Pride in Place campaign was launched last month with the aim to clean-up neighbourhoods, build community pride and tackle the doorstep issues that voters say matter to them. Under the scheme, parishes with a population over 1,500 are eligible to apply for up to £400.

New Business grants

Businesses in both council areas are set to benefit from a new round of funding thanks to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Mid Suffolk District Council was allocated £821,658 over the next two years. Grants are available between £5,000 - £10,000 per application and will fund a maximum of 50% of total project costs. Eligible projects include net-zero developments, agriculture and farm diversification, visitor economy business expansion as well as SME investment and diversification or investment in community facilities in our rural areas.

Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme

This scheme is open for applications that both help wildlife and have public access. Applications can be for individual trees, tree planting schemes, small community woods, hedgerows, community or scattered orchards and wildflower meadows. MSDC tree canopy cover across the district is currently well below the national average. We want to help get 30% of our land managed for wildlife by 2030 (30 by 30 national initiative). We are doing what we can on the council's land, but need help on other land to be really successful. This can include parish land, school grounds, recreation grounds, land open to the public regularly, millennium greens and community spaces.

Cost of Living support

The following support was provided for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who were struggling with the cost of living during 2022/23. One-hundred thousand pounds was awarded to tenants through the household support fund, £150,000 to households struggling with the cost of their rent through Discretionary Housing Payments and a reduction in council tax for low-income households. During last winter, a total of £110,995 was provided to 62 organisations through Winter Warmth grants. Over 588 homelessness applications were received in Mid Suffolk. Additionally, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice received a 30% uplift in funding.

Solar Farms

The appeal against MSDC planning decision for a Solar Farm at Burstall was successful as well as the appeal for costs. There are currently several other applications for similarly large-scale solar farms in the district and this appeal decision will be a material consideration