

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday
16th March 2023

Present

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

In Attendance

Four members of the public
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc101/22 Apologies

Cllr M Anderson and County Cllr Kay Oakes

Bpc102/22 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc103/22 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 19th January 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc104/22 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Oakes report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 3)

Bpc105/22 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2)

Bpc106/22 Public Forum

Some residents raised their concerns about the reduction in the speed limit on Willisham Road.

Bpc107/22 Speed Limit at Willisham Road

The parish council need to find out if Cllr Oakes is willing to contribute to the estimated cost of £10,000 to introduce a 30mph speed limit. The parish council support the introduction of the speed limit but have to consider their financial resources and other projects and commitments.

Bpc108/22 Planning Matters

- a. Application for a Non-Material amendment relating to DC/21/00193 - Inclusion of Phasing plan 5485/28 Rev B as an approved document at Location: Land to The North Of, 1 Tye Green, Barking. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the solicitors to ask when the easement money will be paid as the developer has commenced work prior to the agreed easement.
- b. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/04838 - Condition 3 (Fenestration)
Location: Ashburnham Farm, Needham Road, Barking,
- c. Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/21/3286408 Land North-West of Moat Farm Barns, The Tye, Barking The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- d. against a refusal to grant planning permission. The appeal is made by Mr & Mrs H Ruffle against the decision of Mid Suffolk District Council. The application Ref DC/21/03800,

dated 3 July 2021, was refused by notice dated 24 August 2021. The development proposed is described on the planning application form as 'Change of use of land - Erection of 1no, two storey, self-build/agricultural workers dwelling, integral office/garage/store utilising existing vehicular access.' Decision: The appeal is dismissed.

Bpc109/22 Finance

- a. The councillors approved the RFO Financial Report and authorised payments made since the last meeting and those to be made; they noted income received since the last meeting; reviewed the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statement
- b. The councillors considered and approved the Financial Risk Document for 2023-24
- c. The councillors agreed to instruct Brown's to represent Barking Parish Council for the 2023 Basic Payment Scheme and DEFRA application.
- d. The councillors approved the CIL Statement for 2022-23
- e. It was agreed to defer any decisions about grants to local organisations until the May meeting. Clerk to let St Marys Church know

Bpc110/22 Footway along the B1078

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. There is a need to factor in land from the garage to the bust stop to be able to build a path. Clerk to write to Cllr Oakes.

Bpc111/22 Management of the Tye

Play Area ROSPA Report – It was agreed to replace the litter bin near the play area at an approximate cost of £100. Clerk to obtain quotes to repair and restore the wooden benches in the village in need of improvement.

Bpc 112/22 Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons action group – the councillors agreed to join the group. Clerk to ask Fisher German for a response to their reply for access for a survey

Bpc 113/22 Management of the Tye –

- a) **Tree Work** –The urgent tree work has largely been carried out. Clerk to obtain quotes for the less urgent 6 month work and to ask for the trees close to Cameron Croft to be added to the inspection.
- b) **Encroachment of the Tye at Cameron Croft** –It appears there is encroachment of the Tye. It was agreed to write to the owners to ask them not to carry out any development at present until the boundary of the Tye is clearly understood. Clerk to get a Land Surveyor to mark the boundary so it can be understood. It was agreed to update the easement policy with the type of surface of the easements
- c) **Ragwort pulling session** – Cllr Bailey plan the day. Ragwort to be removed to improve the hay.
- d) **No Parking Signage on Tye** – it was agreed to put new signs on the Tye near Walnut House to say do not park but do park at the village hall. A3 size, black writing Clerk to get quote for signs
- e) **Ponies on the Tye** – this is being dealt with by Mid Suffolk as they have the Management Scheme for the Tye. They will decide what action after 3rd April.
- f) **Moles on the Tye** and damage to the Tye at Fox Meadow – it was agreed to monitor and liaise with Will Pratt

- g) **Planting/Replacing Trees on The Tye** –It was agreed to wait to decide about planting any new trees until the footway route is decided. Clerk to get quote to remove the stump of the tree opposite Shillings.
- h) **To consider a Parish Biodiversity Action Plans & Ecological Assessment** – It was agreed to ask Graham Hart to the next meeting to learn more and Richard Parmee to look at the Tye.

Bpc114/22 Memorials to People in the Village – It was agreed that any memorial is up to friends and family to suggest and provide as not suitable for councillors to decide. Clerk to ask Mr Cochrane what would he propose.

Bpc97/22 National Grid East Anglia Green – National Grid will have to have another review following Rosie Pearson’s work. She is pushing for a co-ordinated response not a piece meal route. The electricity systems operator has to consider other options.

Bpc115/22 Village Hall Management Committee

Claire Anderson is the new Secretary for the management committee.

Bpc116/22 Reports from Councillors

Gudgeons Invoice for advice to be queried

NMBWC – the councillors agreed they felt there is no value in attending the meetings

Bpc117/22 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next parish council meeting will be the Annual Meeting at 7.00pm on Thursday 18th May 2023

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Financial Report for March 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 19.1.2023

Income Received since 19.1.23

VAT Refund	869.15
Cleansing grant	370.50
	<u>1,239.65</u>

Expenditure (movement since 19.1.2023) and invoices agreed for payment

Josh Eaton	Litter picking	156.00	102069	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
	Jan expenses + annual storage	198.88	102070	LGA 1972
L Rogers				
Cancelled cheque		0.00	102071	
HMRC	February tax	26.40	102072	LGA 1972, s111
Tye Farm Contracting	Dec-Feb cuts	554.00	102073	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Play inspection	62.47	102074	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10

L Rogers	February pay	381.38	102075	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Litter picking trolley	154.49	102076	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	February expenses	34.20	102077	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	March pay	381.58	102078	LGA 1972
HMRC	March tax	26.40	102079	LGA 1972, s111
		<u>1,975.80</u>		

Unpresented cheques

Suffolk Macs	Laptop repair	120.00	102061	LGA 1972, s111 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Josh Eaton	Litter picking Jan exoneses + annual storage	156.00	102069	LGA 1972
L Rogers	February pay	198.88	102070	LGA 1972
L Rogers	February pay	381.38	102071	LGA 1972
HMRC	February tax	26.40	102072	LGA 1972, s111 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Tye Farm Contracting	Dec-Feb cuts	554.00	102073	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Play inspection	62.47	102074	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	February pay	381.38	102075	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Litter picking trolley	154.49	102076	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	February expenses	34.20	102076	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	March pay	381.58	102078	LGA 1972
HMRC	March tax	26.40	102079	LGA 1972, s111
		<u>2,477.18</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.2.23	£28,358.87	£25,881.69	£2,477.18
Base reward a/c	13.2.23	£35,297.46	£35,289.38	£0.00
Parish Paths Partnership a/c	13.2.23	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00
Active saver	13.2.23	£1.35	£1.35	£0.00
		<u>£63,741.33</u>	<u>£61,256.07</u>	

Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt January Report

MSDC Budget 2023/24 At last week's full Council meeting the administration agreed the Green-Lib Dem group's amendment to put aside £2M to help residents most in need with energy-saving measures. The MSDC council tax freeze was also confirmed. The housing revenue account budget was also agreed, and this includes a 7% increase to council housing rents, just to try to keep pace with costs for some service soaring by almost 40% and to enable continued investment into repairs and maintenance. Proposals put forward for a new Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Depot Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils have agreed to provide a total of £12 million to improve the depot facilities. This is likely to end up with a single joint depot for the two councils. Currently, the depots at Stowmarket, Sudbury and Gt Wenham are no longer fit for future purpose, and are unlikely to meet the needs of the Council and residents in the medium term. People and Place plans Babergh and Mid Suffolk are to be part of a Government pilot project which aims to get more communities shaping the places they live with a new approach to planning. People and Place Plans are simpler

than full Neighbourhood Plans and should be a more accessible way to highlight local planning priorities. Pylon Action Group meeting On Thursday 9 th March the Essex Suffolk and Norfolk Pylon action group hosted two MPs and speakers including the X-links CEO Simon Morrish who talked about his project to deliver electricity generated by renewables from Morocco to the UK via a 3,800 km undersea cable. Derek Wyatt made a presentation about an offshore grid and energy island projects involving Denmark and other European countries. One of the key messages of the event was that a 'coordinated offshore grid' akin to Denmark's plan would be more cost effective in the long term compared to our current 'piecemeal and pylons' approach. Our MP's reassured us that East Anglia GREENs plans will be reviewed by the Electricity System Operator's (ESO) and Offshore options will be considered in this review and community input will be sought.

Overview of Locality Budget
The fund for 2022/23 is now closed. This year there was more demand than ever for the fund and a range of projects benefited. The fund contributed to the upgrade of audio-visual equipment in Offton and Willisham Village Hall, improvements to the beer garden the Battsford Punchbowl CIC, equipment for a sensory wellbeing garden at Ringshall Primary School, and tree planting and new benches for Battsford's recreation ground. The next round of locality funds will open in May 2023.

Appendix 3 Cllr Kay Oakes January Report

More funds confirmed for children's services, adult care, and the environment The £687.6m package was approved at a Full Council meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023, with a focus on children's services, adult care, and the environment. In an online survey, Suffolk residents said that they would like to see more spent on adult services and children's services, and these areas will receive an additional £35.7m and £13.5m, respectively. In addition, the council's net zero carbon budget, which had previously been approved by Cabinet, sits alongside the financial budget. It is a report on how the organisation is progressing to its ambitious target of being net zero by 2030, enabling the council to measure its carbon emissions, monitor its environmental impact, and identify actions and costs needed to reduce those emissions.

Your money, invested well
Column by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment
Probably one of the least welcome bits of paper to land on doormats up and down the country is the annual Council Tax bill. A quick glance at social media around the time bills arrive is all the reminder we as Councillors need. At Suffolk County Council, the Conservative administration only increases Council Tax when it's necessary. This year, setting our budget was much more difficult. Like everyone at home, and businesses and organisations across Suffolk, we are having to pay more for the goods and services we use. We are not immune to the huge inflationary pressures that followed the pandemic and were made even worse by Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. In the Summer of last year, we feared a 'budget gap', this the difference between what we have and what we need, upwards of £50 million. Fortunately, in no small part due to the lobbying efforts of Suffolk's Conservative MPs, the money we received from the Government is more than expected. We still faced a gap, but it was not as large. In our budget approved on Thursday 9 th February, we made savings of £15 million. Many of these relate to changing the way we work, what we call transformation, while some related to staffing, including reducing the contribution we make to council staff's pensions. They won't see a reduction in pension but because our fund is well managed, we can pay in less. Importantly, none of these savings will reduce any of the services we provide. In fact, we allocated more money to key services; an additional £36 million for Adult Social Care and another £13.5 million for Children's Services. Alongside this, was another £500,000 for Highways Maintenance, £110,000 for Tree Management, and £45,000 more per year for Suffolk's Citizen's Advice Bureaux. All of this, despite the challenges we face, contributed to

a net increase of £62 million being spent on our services, taking our total budget to £688 million. To achieve this, without reducing services, we needed to increase Council Tax. As Conservatives this is something we never do lightly. Our Budget Consultation, to which over 2,600 residents responded, told us how important Adult and Children's Care is to local people. It also told us that given the challenges we face – namely more people needing our help and rising costs - that many of you accepted Council Tax would need to increase. Therefore, we took the difficult decision to increase the general part of Council Tax by 1.99% and the Adult Social Care element by 2%. This is below the maximum increase open to us and means that a Band B property, the most common type of property in Suffolk, will pay an extra 86p per week from April. As Conservatives, we never forget that the money we collect in Council Tax is your money and we always ensure it is invested well. We know that Adult Care and Children's Care, particularly Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, are your priorities. They are ours too. Such is the need for these two areas that 75p in every £1 we spend now goes on people's services. Everything else, from roads and pavements to Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, and our work to protect the environment comes out of the remaining 25p. We know value for money is important too. We work hard to keep the amount of money we spend on staffing and administration down, in fact Suffolk is nearly the lowest spending County Council in this respect, so that we can ensure more money goes directly on the services we all use. This year, for the third year in a row, the Green Party and Liberal Democrats tried to increase Council Tax bills by even more. However, for the third year in a row your Conservative led County Council rejected their attempts to hike bills even further. We know that many people are struggling with rising bills and Council Tax is just another bill on that pile. We will always invest where it's needed but our first instinct is never to reach for your pockets. We will continue to innovate, work differently, reduce overheads, and cut administrative costs so that the bills you pay are the best value possible. New highways services arriving in Suffolk as multi-million-pound contract awarded Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023. Following an extensive procurement exercise, Suffolk County Council has confirmed Milestone will be its new contract partner for up to 20 years. The new partnership, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will be delivering highway projects and improvements across Suffolk, including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing, and gritting. When searching for its new highways partner, the county council worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace, and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk. The council wanted the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment. A rigorous procurement exercise was carried out over many months, with various stages of discussions with service providers, to evolve their solutions to meet the various contractual requirements and deliver an effective and efficient highway service for Suffolk. Final submissions were evaluated and extensively moderated before the final winning contract was awarded.