

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

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

### **Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Five members of the public  
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

### **Bpc54/23 Apologies**

County Cllr Kay Oakes

### **Bpc55/23 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation**

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

### **Bpc56/23 To Co-opt a New Councillor**

The Councillors unanimously agreed to co-opt Cllr Matt Harper and welcomed him to the council

### **Bpc57/23 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes of the meetings on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Bpc58/23 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes**

Cllr Oakes report was circulated to the councillors – (appendix 3)

### **Bpc59/23 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt**

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2) Mid Suffolk District Council are about to launch the Cosy Homes initiative to improve the insulation of homes. Details to be circulated when available. Free advice will be available for owners of Grade II listed homes.

### **Bpc60/23 Public Forum**

Some residents asked for an update on the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Willisham Road. Others expressed interest in the advice for grade ii homes insulation advice.

### **Bpc61/23 Planning Matters**

- a) The councillors have no objections to the APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/23/04520 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of 15No. windows. Location: Browns Farmhouse, Willisham Road, Barking
- b) The councillors have objections to the APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/23/04464 Proposal: Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Approval Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) DC/21/05579 (Allowed under Appeal APP/W3520/W/22/3296665) dated: 29/09/2022 - Details for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for erection of dwelling (re-submission of

- DC/23/01788). Location: Land At, Battsiford Road, Barking. These include drainage from the property to the road and downhill to the B1078 adding to the flooding problems there. There is no substantive change to the original application and the hard paving area for parking has in fact increased so drainage is a grave concern.
- c) The councillors agreed the street name for the New 9 Plot Development at Land to The North Of 1 Tye Green Barking as Bonnywood View. Clerk to inform MSDC
  - d) The councillors have no objections to the APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/05076 Proposal: Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension to house indoor swimming pool. Location: Bungeons Farm, Battsiford Road.

#### **Bpc62/23 Speed Limit at Willisham Road**

The councillors confirmed the agreement for three parties to pay the cost of up to £10,000 for the project. Barking Parish Council will contribute 19% of the cost, Cllr Oakes 51% and the three residents involved 30% to cover a final figure of up to £10,000. Robert Harper is willing to put the residents 30% with his solicitor as assurance. Clerk to ask Cllr Oakes to commence the project and set in progress.

#### **Bpc63/23 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 (appendix 1)
- b. The councillors approved the purchase of new defibrillator pads
- c. The councillors agreed to make the following local donations: Four Parishes magazine £100; St Marys Church £500; East Anglian Air Ambulance £100
- d. The Councillors agreed consider the draft budget at the January meeting
- e. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Risk Document
- f. The Councillors agreed to make an application for the Pride in Place funding of £250 to refurbish the benches in the village

#### **Bpc64/23 Speed Limit in Willisham Road**

The Councillors confirmed that the cost of up to £10,000 for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit past the three new houses will be funded 51% County Councillor Kay Oakes, 30% the three households and 19% Barking Parish Council. Robert Harper will lodge the 30% with a solicitor in readiness. The Clerk to check with Cllr Oakes about setting the process in motion.

#### **Bpc65/23 Renovation of benches**

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

#### **Pc66/23 Land North of The Tye Easement**

The Councillors confirmed that the ditch belongs to Ruby Homes and the hedge belongs to the parish council. Councillors to check through the draft easement and let clerk know any comments. Clerk to respond to solicitor on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Clerk to ask for a clear date for completion as the parish council is ready to move forward and Ruby Homes should be ready within 30 days.

#### **Bpc 67/23 Management of the Tye**

- a) Encroachment of the Tye at Cameron Croft – Clerk to write to the owner and request the close board fence and low fence at the front of the house is removed from the Tye
- b) Trees at Fox Meadow –the trees have been pollarded and look good. The householder is pleased with this

- c) Footpaths across the Tye and grass at the rear of the village hall cutting. Dick Nash has finished grass cutting. Need to find a new person to take on this job. Many thanks to Dick for his work helping the village.
- d) DEFRA - Clerk to have a meeting with Brown's to find out more about SFI's and future arrangements for the Tye

**Bpc68/23 Review of Polling Arrangements** – The councillors agreed that the polling station and arrangements in Barking are satisfactory. Clerk to report back.

**Bpc69/23 Village Hall Management Committee**

The village hall finances are tight so the hiring fee is to be increased for all users by 10%. There are problems with damp that need to be resolved. The ladies toilets have been repainted. Pre-school is very successful.

**Bpc70/23 Reports from Councillors**

Flooding – there were 1000 flooding incidents in Suffolk from Storm Ciaran. A big problem in Barking from the Nursing home to just beyond Ashburnham Barn. The pipe under the road is blocked so water has nowhere to escape. There are over 30,000 vehicles passing through each week on the B1078 so a very busy road. Clerk to ask Cllr Oakes to push Highways for a resolution and ask the Community Engineer to visit the site  
Cllr Fellowes to send the SEALINK consultation email to other councillors as they may like to respond.

**Bpc71/23 Dates for Parish Council Meetings in 2024**

Date of the parish council meetings in 2024 are: 18<sup>th</sup> January; 15<sup>th</sup> March; 16<sup>th</sup> May; 18<sup>th</sup> July; 19<sup>th</sup> September; 21<sup>st</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> April for the Annual Parish Meeting

**Bpc72/23 Review of pay for Clerk** – The councillors agreed to increase the Clerks pay in line with the annual pay increase of 3.88% on scale point 15

**Bpc73/23 Date of the Next Meeting**

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

**Appendix 1 Financial Report**

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 14.9.2023

Income Received since 14.9.23

MSDC	Cleansing grant	406.38
		<u>406.38</u>

Expenditure (movement since 14.9.2023) and invoices agreed for payment

M Smith	Hay on Tye cutting	468.00	102121	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
RM Holder	Flail after hay cut	168.00	102122	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10

R Nash	Grass cutting	100.00	102123	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
CAS Business services	Insurance	498.57	102124	LGA 1972
L Rogers	October wages	326.38	102125	LGA 1972
HMRC	October tax	81.60	102126	LGA 1972
L Rogers	October expenses	73.19	102127	LGA 1972
CAS Business services	Website hosting	60.00	102128	LGA 1972
NSK Landscapes	Grass cutting	344.57	102129	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
J Firman Trees	Trees at Fox Meadow	1,800.00	102130	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	November wages	326.38	102131	LGA 1972
HMRC	November tax	81.60	102132	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Back pay 1.4.23-30.11.23	606.66	102133	LGA 1972
L Rogers	October expenses	45.65	102134	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Back pay 1.4.23-30.11.23	242.66	102135	LGA 1972
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator pads	68.34	102136	Public Health Act 1936, s234
R Fellowes	Remembrance wreath	20.00	102137	LGA 1972
		<u>5,311.60</u>		

**Unpresented cheques**

HMRC	September tax	81.60	102119	LGA 1972
M Smith	Hay on Tye cutting	468.00	102121	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
RM Holder	Flail after hay cut	168.00	102122	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
R Nash	Grass cutting	100.00	102123	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
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L Rogers	November wages	326.38	102131	LGA 1972
HMRC	November tax	81.60	102132	LGA 1972
Cancelled cheque		0.00	102133	
L Rogers	October expenses	45.65	102134	LGA 1972
L Rogers	Back pay 1.4.23-30.11.23	242.66	102135	LGA 1972
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator pads	68.34	102136	Public Health Act 1936, s234
R Fellowes	Remembrance wreath	20.00	102137	LGA 1972
		<u>4,786.54</u>		

Balance

Account	Statement date		Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.10.23	£32,288.99	£27,502.45	£4,786.54
Base reward a/c	13.10.23	£34,509.84	£34,509.84	£0.00

Parish Paths Partnership a/c	13.10.23	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00
Active saver	13.10.23	£1.35	£1.35	£0.00
		<u>£66,883.83</u>	<u>£62,097.29</u>	

## **Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report**

### Storm Babet and Ciarán

Mid Suffolk District Council has been working to help residents in affected homes and businesses. Householders are being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council's reporting tool. The Government has announced some financial support and we are awaiting further information on how this will be distributed. Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) for full details.

### Solar and Low Carbon Energy Position Statement

MSDC's position statement on Low Carbon Energy was agreed at Mid Suffolks Council meeting on October 26th. In the absence of Government policy, the Council cannot make planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or solar PV on roof-tops. We can only provide a statement of intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. This statement is an interim stage prior to the adoption of supplementary planning guidance in the New Year.

### Your Community, Your Say!

The consultation to get residents' feedback on the planned priorities for the District is open until 15<sup>th</sup> November. We are hoping to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, on topics ranging from housing to promoting active citizenship. The survey can be accessed online:

<https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils>

### Sustainable Transport

At the same meeting it was agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. It is hoped to review this in relation to commencing schemes in villages in the district.

### Cosy Homes Initiative

Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including homes that are privately rented. Applications will be open from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Full details to be available soon. Households that are particularly vulnerable can continue to access help via the wider Suffolk scheme [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org)

### Council Housing Repairs

The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.

## **Appendix 2 County Councillor Kay Oakes Report**

### New highways services arrive in Suffolk as multi-million-pound partnership goes live

The new contract, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements, and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more.

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, was awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract back in February and since then has been working with Suffolk County

Council to mobilise the new contract ahead of it commencing on 1 October. When seeking a new highways partner, the county council wanted a keener focus on delivering greater social value, building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction, and protecting the environment, using local skills and talent, and giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector. The new partnership was built around six key contract objectives, which will form the basis for all that Suffolk Highways delivers going forward.

These objectives are:

- ☑ Collaboration and Partnership
- ☑ Social Value
- ☑ Environment and Net Zero Carbon
- ☑ Customer Communication and Engagement
- ☑ Commercialism and Enterprise
- ☑ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

#### Funding announcement for Ely and Haughley rail junctions

The Government has announced funding for upgrades to Ely and Haughley rail junctions today.

Developers risk "treating Suffolk communities with contempt" as the latest round of large-scale energy projects in Suffolk emerge

Energy developers who are bringing forward large-scale energy projects without speaking to councils or communities, were criticised heavily today (October 11 th ) by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council and Cabinet member for Finance and the Environment, following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity

#### (TEC) Register.

The TEC Register is a list of projects, which often end up as large nationally significant infrastructure projects (called NSIPs), that have secured the right to connect to National Grid's network if they are consented, under the Planning Act 2008 by government, not local councils. These connection offers, which form a legally binding contract with National Grid, are routinely published and made, prior to the development and consenting of electricity generation or storage projects.

The current list of connection offers published by National Grid shows that new projects have been offered connections at National Grid's sites in Suffolk, at Bramford near Ipswich, and at Yaxley, near Eye, in north Suffolk. These new projects are large-scale solar panel and battery storage proposals in the same style as the recent SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk, which is a proposal to create a 2500-acre Solar Farm on the Suffolk Cambridgeshire border.

Council seeks your views for next year's budget

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses, and local communities, as it decides how it will spend money next year.

An online consultation has been launched, and several focus groups will be held, to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

The council's budget setting process will consider the responses to the consultation, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk.

Results of the consultation will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2024.

#### More than 200 properties flooded by Storm Babet

Interim figures show more than 200 properties in Suffolk were flooded by Storm Babet.

The number of flooded premises, including businesses and homes, is expected to be higher as Suffolk councils and emergency planners work together to compile a full list.

On Wednesday, Communities Secretary Michael Gove and Environment Secretary Thérèse

Coffey announced several financial measures to support those who have experienced exceptional localised flooding. Under the measures announced:

☒ Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.

☒ Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.

☒ Small-to-medium-sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.

☒ Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

The support will be made available through a scheme known as the Flood Recovery Framework, which is used in exceptional circumstances to support councils and communities following severe flooding.

The full details of the scheme are yet to be announced by the Government, including where residents can apply and who is eligible. Suffolk County Council will share updates once received. To report a flood visit the report a flood in Suffolk page. Alternatively, you can call the customer service number on 0345 606 6171.

#### Suffolk Residents invited to help shape the future of library services

A public consultation has been launched today (Monday 30 October), encouraging Suffolk Residents to tell Suffolk County Council what they want from their library services in the future. Suffolk County Council's contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited, the independent charity that runs the library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025, with a new contract set to begin in June 2025. The Council is therefore seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract. The 13-week consultation will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the new contract is awarded in November 2024. To inform the consultation, the council has undertaken engagement with over 30 organisations including Suffolk's Libraries IPS Limited staff, key service users, schools, and partner organisations. A key focus of the consultation is the council's Library outreach services, which include three mobile library vehicles, serving more than 500 stops across rural parts of the county each month, for the pickup and exchange of books. The mobile library vehicles are coming to the end of their life and the council therefore needs to consider the best way to continue to deliver these services to people in rural areas of the county going forward. The council is keen to hear from people who currently use library services and those who do not, to better understand the needs across the county. This feedback will help to inform the requirements for the future contract. The value of the new contract will be £6.8m per year, increased from the previous contract value of £5.9m. The increase considers increased service costs, management of the Library Outreach service, and to allow for innovation in future years.

The term of the contract will be 6 years, with the option to extend for a further 6 years.

The consultation is open from today, Monday 30 October, until Friday 26 January.

Residents can have their say by visiting [www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation)

The results of the consultation will be considered by Suffolk County Council at its meeting of the Cabinet in March 2024.