

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 19th January 2023

Present

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

In Attendance

Three members of the public
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc84/22 Apologies

There were no apologies

Bpc85/22 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc86/22 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th November 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 17th November 2022 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc87/22 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

The full Report is appendix 2 to the minutes and covers the following:

- Keeping people in Suffolk warm this winter
- Solar farm proposal “not anywhere near acceptable”
- Historic half a billion-pound devolution deal hands Suffolk regeneration and skills powers to level up.
- Council to protect frontline services and increase funding in budget proposal
- Cabinet to give an additional £45,000 to assist with newly planted tree and hedgerow maintenance

Bpc88/22 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

The full Report is appendix 3 to the minutes and covers the following:

- Waste Fleet - The new fleet of 22 waste tankers are now in service.
- Solar Carport at Stowmarket Leisure Centre
- New Tenancy Policy
- Fees and charges
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Locality Funding

Bpc89/22 Public Forum

Concerns about the 279 houses in Needham Market planning enquiry. Needham Market surgery has no room for new patients. A recent planning enquiry at Gt Bricett was overturned. Needham Market town council have employed a planning expert to speak on their behalf.

Thanks to Cllr Oakes for her help with the reduction in the speed limit on Willisham Road. Suffolk County Council have agreed to the introduction of 30mph for the 450m stretch of

road to join in with the 30mph either side of it. The final costings are unsure and funding will need to be secured.

Bpc90/22 Planning Matters

- a. Mid Suffolk approved Planning application DC/22/04917 – Erection of two bay timber framed garage (following demolition of existing lean-to store) at Bonnywood Farm, Willisham Road, Barking
- b. Mid Suffolk approved Planning application DC/22/04761 – Erection of a roof mounted vertical axis wind turbine at Alma Cottage, Needham Road, Barking
- c. The Cllrs agreed to support the Application for Listed Building Consent - DC/22/06370 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Removal of concrete render and repair with lime chalk render to all elevations including insulation; re-instate pargetting (north wall only), replace all windows and doors. Location: Timberleys, Needham Road, Barking
- d. Householder Application - Erection of single storey annexe for use incidental to main dwelling (following demolition of pool house building) Location: Gable End, The Tye, Barking
- e. APP/W3520/W/22/3308189 Appeal by: Mr David Willis, Mrs Marlene Perry and Mr Michael Watson Proposal: Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access to be considered, Appearance, Landscape, Layout and Scale to be reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of up to 279 No. dwellings (including 100 affordable) (re-submission of DC/20/05046). Location: Agricultural Land North Of, Barking Road, Needham Market,

Bpc91/22 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 budget for 2023-24 at £19,090
- c. The councillors agreed to set the Precept at £13,500 for 2023-24; an increase of 9.55% which represents a £6.59 increase for a Band D property (£68.19 up to £74.40)
- d. The councillors agreed to buy a new trolley for the Litter Picker at a cost of £190.00
- e. The Councillors agreed to close the Parish Footpaths Fund bank account and move the £84.00 to local donations.
- f. Clerk to explore the possibility of fitting electric vehicle charging points at the village hall using CIL funding. Also if a wind turbine, solar panels and batteries for the village hall using CIL funding
- g. St Mary's church need to replace the footpath. Cllr Oakes kindly agreed to help with a donation. Cllr Fellowes to explore if CIL funding is available. It was agreed to consider the request for a donation to the church at the March meeting

Bpc92/22 Footway along the B1078

The councillors considered the quote for the cost per metre and Clerk to follow up the engineer about design. Clerk to explore possible funding and to find at least one more quote for the work. It was agreed that the intention is to provide a footway throughout the village but do it in two stages.

Bpc93/22 Management of the Tye

Tree Work – Clerk to follow up the urgent tree work. 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.

Ponies on the Tye – this is being dealt with by Mid Suffolk as they have the Management Scheme for the Tye. They are taking no action and will monitor the situation. The parish council are keen to move the ponies on. The owners want to keep the ponies but are unable

to find suitable premises for them. There are welfare concerns about the ponies having no shelter from the weather. There have been many complaints about them. The mess is not being cleared up and the vehicle breaking the bye-laws is damaging the Tye.

Planting/Replacing Trees on The Tye –Clerk to establish if new/replacement trees may be planted.

Play Area – Clerk to investigate improving the play area. A survey will need to be carried out to ascertain support.

Bpc94/22 Speed Limit at Willisham Road

Suffolk County Council have approved introducing a 30mph speed limit for the 450m. It will cost between £5,000 and £10,000. It can take up to 9 months to do. It was agreed that it is a good idea to introduce the speed limit. Cllr Oakes will give money from her locality budget but cannot commit until a more accurate cost is known. Cllr Oakes to ask SCC engineer for a more accurate cost. Clerk to check if CIL money can be used for the project.

Bpc95/22 Headway Mobile Shop

The proposal is new and much is unsure. It was agreed in principle for the shop to come to Barking and Clerk to ask Headway to update about their plans

Bpc96/22 Bus Stop at Willisham Corner –The verge requires clearance outside the house called Tower View which is some distance from where the bus actually stops. It needs to be maintained so people can safely stand there while waiting for the bus. Initially it needs the vegetation cleared and the ground to be levelled. Cllr Oakes to request the SCC engineer to carry out this work and to continue to maintain it.

Bpc97/22 National Grid East Anglia Green – Fisher German – agents for the project have requested access to the Tye for the project. It was agreed to say it is a large area of protected common land and the parish council want a£2,000 to allow access.

Bpc98/22 Village Hall Management Committee

A good job has been done on the drainage at the back door to the hall. The main hall floor is looking good following work.

Bpc99/22 Reports from Councillors

Neighbourhood Watch – Clerk to put an item in the newsletter

Ragwort Pulling – needs to be organised in May/June

Easement at Fernleigh was agreed

Open Spaces Society case was dismissed. Clerk to send findings to all councillors

Tye Green Hedge – J Firman has made a good job of it. Must consider future maintenance

Cameron Croft – the new fence is not correctly placed and is partly on the Tye – add to the next agenda

Bpc8100/22 Date of the Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Financial Report for January 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 17.11.2022

Income Received since 17.11.2022

Nil	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>

Expenditure (movement since 17.11.2022) and invoices agreed for payment

Josh Eaton	Litter picking	78.00	102057	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	November expenses	38.98	102058	LGA 1972
Ryan Hedges-Quinn	Litter picking	156.00	102059	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	Backpay	245.00	102060	LGA 1972
Suffolk Macs	Laptop repair	120.00	102061	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	December pay	381.38	102062	LGA 1972
HMRC	December tax	26.60	102063	LGA 1972, s111
L Rogers	January pay	381.38	102064	LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	Oct/Nov grass cuts	831.00	102065	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
J Firman	Tye Green hedge cut	1,440.00	102066	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
HMRC	January tax	25.40	102067	LGA 1972
L Rogers	January expenses	45.35	102068	LGA 1972, s111
		<u>3,769.09</u>		

Unpresented cheques

L Rogers	November expenses	38.98	102058	LGA 1972
Ryan Hedges-Quinn	Litter picking	156.00	102059	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
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Balance

Account	Statement date		Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.12.22	£30,808.33	£27,117.24	£3,691.09
Base reward a/c	13.12.22	£35,297.46	£35,289.38	£0.00
Parish Paths Partnership a/c	13.12.22	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00

Active saver	13.12.22	£1.35	£1.35	£0.00
		<u>£66,190.79</u>	<u>£62,491.62</u>	

Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt January Report

Waste Fleet The new fleet of 22 waste tankers are now in service. There were over 400 names submitted in the competition to name the waste tankers. Details of the winning names can be found on the website here <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/revealed-winning-names-for-babergh-and-mid-suffolks-new-environmentally-friendly-bin-lorries/>. The new tankers are fuelled by hydrogenated vegetable oil which is produced from waste cooking oil.

Solar Carport at Stowmarket Leisure Centre The 70 solar carport spaces are now up and running, producing almost a quarter of the Leisure Centre's annual electricity demand. The system also includes battery storage so excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later.

New Tenancy Policy Mid Suffolk Cabinet meet next week to discuss a new tenancy policy. The policy sets out a clear explanation of the range of tenancies that the council offers and how and they are managed. The policy reinforces the council's recognition of and the importance of all residents having a safe and sustainable place to call home, alongside the need for high-quality social and affordable housing.

Fees and charges Next week Cabinet will also discuss future fees and charges for council services. Fees and charges are a vital revenue stream for the Council, but they pledge to keep any increases fair and will continue to support families in need. Some of the increases in charges are statutory – such as building control and licencing. There is likely to be an increase in charges for garden waste collection.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme It is likely that there will be up to 100% Council Tax reduction for those families with the lowest income, and some form of transitional protection scheme to ensure that no-one will be worse off under any of the proposed changes.

Locality Funding I still have funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

Appendix 3 Cllr Kay Oakes January Report

Keeping people in Suffolk warm this winter "Suffolk Winter Warmth" provides items such as hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, duvets, baby sleep bags, hot water bottles, LED bulbs, draughtproofing and more, to households in need. Following a successful pilot in November, Suffolk Winter Warmth launched this week. The project provides support for any household experiencing hardship and in need of support to prevent ill health and keep warm. Residents can be referred by professional or voluntary sector organisations supporting residents who are struggling to heat their homes. These organisations include District and Borough Councils, Health Professionals, Citizens Advice and Community Groups, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Coffee Caravan and more. The project is backed by £50,000 of funding from Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and is co-ordinated on behalf of the whole county by East Suffolk Council. Professional and voluntary organisations can refer residents to the scheme by visiting: [Winter warmth referral » East Suffolk Council](#).

Solar farm proposal "not anywhere near acceptable" Councillor Richard Rout, the council's Deputy Leader, told the Planning Inspectorate's Examination Authority panel that it is "the poorest application I have dealt with to date." Councillor Rout made these comments at the first hearing of the formal Examination process (Tuesday 6 December 2022) which hears representations from all interested parties of the proposal. This process concludes on 28 March 2023, during which time more sessions will be held when the council will address its concerns in greater detail. The council has many issues with the current application, including: ☐ The geographic scale of the proposal which will permanently transform the

Landscape The impact on local communities of the 24-month construction period Sunnica's serious shortcomings in terms of both evidence and methodology Sunnica's presentation of proposal which makes it, and impacts on local communities, unclear Mitigation proposals do not appear to be tailored to the local context

Historic half a billion-pound devolution deal hands Suffolk regeneration and skills powers to level up. Suffolk will be devolved power over their Adult Education budget, so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of the local community and will receive immediate support to build new affordable homes on brownfield sites, as well as more capital funding to improve energy efficiency in houses. The deal will also see Suffolk County Council handed control over a £480 million investment fund – this will be guaranteed for the next thirty years. This will enable the county to drive growth and plan for the long-term with certainty as it looks to level up and unlock its full economic potential. Suffolk will also get a directly elected leader of the council. This not only provides a single person who is accountable to the people of Suffolk but gives the county a local champion who can attract investment and be a stronger voice in discussions with central government. With three new devolution deals signed in the last seven days, 50% of England will now be covered by a devolution deal and reaffirms the government's commitment in the Levelling Up White Paper to offer a devolution deal to any area that wants one by 2030.

The budget-setting has been achieved with input from the council's partners, officers, departments and notably, Suffolk residents. Over 2,600 local people contributed to an online survey and focus groups, asking where they would spend more money, spend less money, and their views on Council Tax.

The top service areas where people wanted to spend more, were social care services for adults and children.

Adult and children's care were at the heart of our budget setting last year and are again this year. This is exactly what people told us in our public survey too, so we are all in agreement about investing more in these areas, and it meets one of our four ambitions for Suffolk - to look after people's health and wellbeing.

This year, it's a case of being prudent across all areas of the organisation. Even though we have created £15.5m of savings, our frontline services are protected and receiving more funding.

Alongside an increase in our funding from Government, and a history of excellent financial management at the council, I'm proud that we've been able to navigate our way through the extremely turbulent, economic waters caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and Vladimir Putin's illegal war in Ukraine. We will be able to ensure that the services which mean the most to people, are still provided.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment

Some of the service areas where people also said they wanted to see more money spent, will receive additional funding:

☑ £700,000 for SEND services to support new recruitment, which is on top of the £1.1m invested this year

☑ £500,000 for Highways: to use environmentally friendly weed treatments, and stop using glyphosate which can damage wildlife

☑ £110,000 for tree management: to support the 'right tree right place' policy, having an appropriate inspection regime and supporting the resulting tree management requirements.

☑ £45,000 for Citizens Advice: to support work during cost-of-living challenges

A budget gap for next year - the difference between what money is available and what needs to be spent - had already been identified, resulting in savings of £15.5m for next year. Under the proposals, the council's budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to

£685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in funds from the Government for adult and children's social care. Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 3.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care. This means costs for a household would look like:

☐ Band B property: £22.32 per week (85 pence per week increase from 2022-23)

(Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)

☐ Band D property: £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23)