

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 20th July 2023

### **Present**

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

County Cllr Kay Oakes and District Cllr D Pratt

### **In Attendance**

Two members of the public

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

### **Bpc20/23 Apologies**

None

### **Bpc21/23 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation**

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

### **Bpc22/23 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Bpc23/23 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes**

Cllr Oakes report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 3). Cllr Oakes is working with Suffolk County Council to get the footpath from Needham market to Barking cut back as very narrow for pedestrians

### **Bpc24/23 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt**

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2) People 7 Place plan for villages are in between Neighbourhood Plans and Parish Plans. It is estimated it takes 100 hours to create one. It should be a cost-effective approach to a Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to ask Cllr Pratt to arrange for officers to come to a meeting to explain the process further.

### **Bpc25/23 Public Forum**

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

### **Bpc26/23 Planning Matters**

- a) Mid Suffolk District Council have refused planning permission for APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS - DC/23/01788 Proposal: Application for approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/21/05579 (Allowed under Appeal Decision Ref: APP/W3520/W/22/3296665) dated: 29/09/2022 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of dwelling Location: Land At, Battsford Road
- b) Application for Planning Permission - DC/23/01075 - Proposal: Full Planning Application - Change of Use of Agricultural Land to residential amenity land and erection of a single storey linked extension to form swimming pool with associated facilities. Location: Bungeons Farm, Battsford Road, Barking has been withdrawn

### **Bpc27/23 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 and the Chairman signed the AGAR page 2 exemption form
- c. The Councillors agreed to seek funding for improvements to the asphalt path at St Mary's Church. A quote of £4,950 has been obtained. Cllr Oakes may be able to assist. Cllr Fellowes to obtain further quotes
- d. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations
- e. The Councillors agreed to appoint the Responsible Finance Officer
- f. The Councillors agreed appoint Heelis & Lodge as the Internal Auditor

### **Bpc28/23 Speed Limit at Willisham Road**

Cllr Oakes is willing to contribute 51% of the estimated cost of £7,000 to £10,000 to introduce a 30mph speed limit for three houses on this stretch of road. The parish council support the introduction of the speed limit. The parish council need to find their share of the cost. Cllr Oakes to see if residents may contribute towards the project and if VAT is applicable. Cllr Oakes to meet engineer. It was agreed to review Cllr Oakes responses at the September meeting.

### **Bpc29/23 Standing Orders**

The Councillors reviewed and approved the Standing Orders

### **Bpc30/23 Footway along the B1078**

MSDC's multi-disciplinary team visited Barking but no feedback. Cllr Pratt to follow up. The parish council are waiting for a plan to show the easement that has been requested.

### **Bpc31/23 Renovation of benches**

Cllr Butler to map the benches and show which ones need restoration or replacing

### **Bpc 32/23 Management of the Tye**

- a) Encroachment of the Tye at Cameron Croft – Clerk to ask Harry Storey for photographs and Mike Smith about hedge cutting and history. Cllr Ross to ask contact
- b) To review tree management on the Tye – it was agreed to ask James Firman to carry out the recommended tree work at a cost of £1395 +vat
- c) Ragwort/Hay on the Tye – the ragwort pulling session did not go ahead as very little ragwort growing this year. Mike Smith has cut the hay and part of the cut hay has been baled and will be removed.
- d) Stewardship Agreement – it was agreed to continue to apply for this scheme
- e) No Parking Signage on Tye – it was agreed to not add any more signs at present and to review this in 12 months
- f) To consider request to plant trees on the Tye for King's Coronation – update – no update received from the applicant

### **Bpc33/23 Bus Stop at Willisham Road Junction**

Cllr Oakes has added this to the regular cutting schedule. It is not possible to make a hard standing due to services directly below the area

**Bpc34/23 National Grid East Anglia Green** – The route through Barking has been moved away from the houses. The parish council to respond to the next consultation. Clerk to draft a letter as the Energy & Net Zero minister is not impressed by the Norwich to Tilbury route and prefers the off shore option. This may be cheaper in the long run than facing legal opposition costs to force the route overland.

### **Bpc35/23 Village Hall Management Committee**

The toilets are soon to be redecorated. There are few community events being held at the hall. Mike to get a quote for the hedge to be cut and the arisings removed.

### **Bpc36/23 Reports from Councillors**

It was agreed to hold a working party to review the council's finances and report back to the September meeting – Cllrs Tabberer, Butler and the Clerk.

### **Bpc37/23 Date of the Next Meeting**

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

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

## **Appendix 1 Financial Report for May 2023**

### Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 18.5.2023

#### Income Received since 18.5.23

Barclays	Interest	73.68
DEFRA	Stewardship	1,928.72
		<u>2,002.40</u>

#### Expenditure (movement since 18.5.2023) and invoices agreed for payment

Glasdon	Litter bin	86.34	102097	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Lacy, Scott & Knight	Boundary report	525.00	102098	Public Health Act 1875,s164
Cancelled cheque		0.00	102099	
L Rogers	May expenses	53.10	102100	LGA 1972
L Rogers	June wages	326.98	102101	LGA 1972
HMRC	June tax	81.60	102102	LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	May grass cuts	504.00	102103	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Tye Farm Contracting	June grass cuts	504.00	102104	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	July wages	326.38	102105	LGA 1972
HMRC	July tax	81.60	102106	LGA 1972
L Rogers	June expenses	41.09	102107	LGA 1972
Brown & co	Stewardship claim	570.00	102108	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
		<u>3,100.09</u>		

#### Unpresented cheques

Heelis & Lodge	Internal audit	170.00	102091	LGA 1972, s111
Glasdon	Litter bin	86.34	102097	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Lacy, Scott & Knight	Boundary report	525.00	102098	

Cancelled cheque		0.00	102099	
L Rogers	May expenses	53.10	102100	LGA 1972
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Tye Farm Contracting	May grass cuts	504.00	102103	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Tye Farm Contracting	June grass cuts	504.00	102104	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	July wages	326.38	102105	LGA 1972
HMRC	July tax	81.60	102106	LGA 1972
L Rogers	June expenses	41.09	102107	LGA 1972
Brown & co	Stewardship claim	570.00	102108	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
		<u>3,270.09</u>		

#### Balance

Account	Statement date		Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.6.23	£29,121.29	£25,851.20	£3,270.09
Base reward a/c	13.6.23	£35,414.95	£35,414.95	£0.00
Parish Paths Partnership a/c	13.6.23	£83.65	£83.65	£0.00
Active saver	13.6.23	£1.35	£1.35	£0.00
		<u>£64,621.24</u>	<u>£61,351.15</u>	

## Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt July Report

**People and Place Plans update** The People and Place Plan (PPP) forms part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is due a third reading in Parliament before the summer recess. Further details should emerge regarding the statutory weighting of the document, the level of evidence required and how the scheme may be funded. MSDC is one of six councils in England that won a bid to trial the new scheme to help Local Authorities and communities develop a more community-led approach to planning.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points** Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points in several carparks including most of the council-owned carparks in Stowmarket.

**Police and Crime Panel** The panel is a county wide body which scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They usually meet quarterly and members of the public are welcome to attend and can ask questions relevant to an agenda item. The next meeting is to be held on Friday 14th July; the agenda will be published 10 days before hand and any public questions need to be lodged by midnight on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**District Council Meetings in Mid Suffolk** MSDC's full council meetings, normally held at Endeavour House offices in Ipswich, will now be held in the district where possible. The venue of our next full council meeting on 19th July is the Blackbourne Community Centre in Elmswell.

### Community Grants available in Mid Suffolk

**Capital Grants** – these are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to village halls, play areas, sports clubs, recreational facilities and other social infrastructure. They can cover to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Capital Grants are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 2nd June 2023.

**Community Development Grants** – provides financial support to help with the delivery of local place- based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. The grants is available towards either revenue (ongoing) or capital (new or one-off) projects. It

can cover up to 100% of project costs to a maximum of £20,000. Applications are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 23rd June 2023.

**Councillors Locality Award** – the award will be open for applications towards the end of May 2023.

### **Appendix 3 Cllr Kay Oakes July Report**

**Suffolk Fire Service** to bring control room back to the County Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has announced plans to create a new fire control centre here in Suffolk. Since October 2011, Suffolk has shared a control room with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service in Huntingdon. The joint project has worked well, saving both fire services money and enabling greater cross-border resource sharing. However, the company behind a project to deliver a new IT system, initiated in 2019, has run into technical and financial problems, causing a significant delay. This, in addition to advancements in technology, has led to the decision to bring fire control back into the county by the end of 2024. The proposed new control centre will be brought to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet for approval in September 2023.

**Help for Suffolk Pre-payment Meter customers** A package of support has been created for pre-payment meter customers in Suffolk who are struggling with their energy bills. Warm Homes Suffolk is a Suffolk-wide Council partnership service, delivering energy efficiency support to low-income households affected by cost-of-living pressures.

Supported by Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and funding from Public Health Suffolk's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), the service is now able to offer specific help for households struggling to pay their energy bills via a pre-payment meter, in addition to its existing support. The support covers the whole of Suffolk and is available for all residents, whether they are in social housing, council tenants, owner occupiers or private renters. The Warm Homes Suffolk Service can check eligibility and support applications for grants to increase household energy efficiency, with measures such as loft and wall insulation to air source heat pumps, draught-proofing and more. It is estimated that more than 24,000 people in Suffolk are pre-payment meter customers. The service will work with everyone to understand the pressures on their finances and the impact this is having on their lives. The service can carry out a home visit, as well as providing advice over the phone and by email. The COMF funding of £180,000 will enable this project to run for 12 months to provide the following: ☐ Income maximisation (through grants and benefits) ☐ Budgeting advice ☐ Help understanding bills and heating systems ☐ Support to reduce energy expenditure (By promoting social tariffs and support to switch suppliers) ☐ Improving household energy efficiency (By installing insulation, draught proofing, heating systems and solar panels) ☐ Facilitating switch away from prepaid meters if appropriate. Pre-payment meter customers who would like support can contact [prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk) to find out more, or call: Prepay West at 07769 365796, or Prepay East at 07769 366229. Referrals can be made directly from households, the voluntary sector and professionals to find prepay households who can benefit from an independent look at their bills. Warm Homes Suffolk also offers support and advice for residents who are not pre-payment meter customers. To find out more about the support on offer, visit: <https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

### **Ancestry appointed to digitise Suffolk's popular family and local history sources**

More than 400 years of fascinating historical documents held at Suffolk Archives are to be digitised and made available online, thanks to an agreement between Suffolk County Council and Ancestry. Suffolk Archives will work alongside the family history website Ancestry to create high- quality, full-colour digital images of millions of baptisms, marriage and burial records from parishes within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The earliest records being digitised date back to 1538 and include events in the lives of notable historical figures, such as the 1776 baptism of landscape artist John Constable, and

the 1846 burial of Thomas Clarkson who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery. It is hoped that Suffolk's main parish records will be published online in early 2025 with other collections of local interest to follow. Public access will be free of charge in Suffolk Archives branches or at any Suffolk Library. Anyone with an Ancestry subscription will also be able to access the records as part of their research from their own computer or device. Further details about the project can be found on the Suffolk Archives website.

**£100m broadband investment in Suffolk under government's Project Gigabit**  
Better broadband is on its way for around 80,000 properties across rural Suffolk in a £100 million investment under a £5 billion government infrastructure programme. The county is one of three to benefit from Project Gigabit and was chosen to host the launch of the announcement by Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure, Sir John Whittingdale. Similar projects were also announced for Norfolk and Hampshire as Sir John was joined in Orford by Suffolk Coastal MP Therese Coffey and Councillor Matthew Hicks, the leader of Suffolk County Council. Project Gigabit is the government's £5 billion mission to roll out gigabit-capable, reliable broadband across the UK. Improved connectivity unlocks new opportunities and fuels innovation, supporting the Prime Minister's priority of growing the economy by creating better paid jobs. Around 62,000 homes and businesses in Norfolk stand to benefit from £114 million of Project Gigabit investment, across locations including Buxton, Castle Acre and Horning. A further 8,000 premises in the northwest of the county are being reviewed for inclusion subject to survey in the next six months. This project is managed by BDUK who in turn have contracted CityFibre to do the actual work of installing the cabling. CityFibre, the UK's largest independent full-fibre provider, will deliver gigabit-capable infrastructure for around 218,000 homes and businesses having secured £318 million of Project Gigabit funding after a competitive process. The provider will also be making a private investment of £170 million to deliver the project. Decisions on where broadband infrastructure is installed will be made by BDUK and not by SCC. Survey work in all three counties commences immediately, with the first installations in the New Year and the first live connections expected by summer 2024. Once connected, residents and businesses will enjoy access to broadband services over a network capable of supporting speeds of up to 10Gbps.

#### **Council to consider new chapter for library services**

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet is set to discuss the future of library services in Suffolk at its next meeting on 11 July. The current contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS), worth £5.92 million per annum, ends on 31st July 2024. The Council now needs to consider how library services will be delivered following the expiry of the contract. The report to Cabinet will recommend that a new Library Service contract is procured using a competitive tender process. To enable meaningful engagement, public consultation, and a competitive tender process to take place, the report also recommends that the current contract with Suffolk's Libraries IPS is extended by 10 months, to 31 May 2025. The public consultation will be used to inform the requirements and future development of the new service. In May 2023, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed to protect library services by providing Suffolk's Libraries IPS an additional £720k per year to address increases in service costs, until the end of the current contract. The proposal to be put to cabinet on 11 July is to continue to fund Suffolk Libraries IPS at this rate for the duration of the proposed 10-month extension. The proposed value of the new contract will be £6.842m per year, considering the increased service costs and including an additional £0.2m for the Libraries Outreach Service. The proposed term of the contract will be 6 years, with the option to extend for a further 6 years. The recommendations will be discussed at the meeting of Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 11 July. Papers for the meeting can be viewed at <https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk>