

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday
16th May 2024

Present

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

In Attendance

One member of the public
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc1/24 Election of Chairman

Cllr M Tabberer was unanimously elected as Chairman

Bpc2/24 Apologies

Cllr R Fellowes Cllr M Harper and Cllr M Bailey

Bpc3/24 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc4/24 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 14th March 2024

The minutes of the meetings on 14th March 2024 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc5/24 Charity Parish Representatives

The councillors approved that Mike Smith and Shaun Cochrane continue as representatives for the Theobalds Charity; Shaun Cochrane and David Bishop continue as representatives for the Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charity

Bpc6/24 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Oakes report was circulated to the councillors Here is a precis: **400 Suffolk roads set for upgrade as largest ever surfacing project gets underway** Residents across Suffolk are set to benefit from 421 newly surfaced roads this year - almost doubling the number of roads completed last year, as Suffolk Highways' largest ever resurfacing programmes get underway. With the start of the surface dressing programme beginning this week, 102 roads will be surface dressed, whilst a further 319 sites will benefit from a full machine resurfacing during the year. **99% of pupils receive a preferred primary school on National Offer Day** 99.36% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred primary schools and 96.52% were offered a place at their first preference school.

New Independent Chair appointed to drive forward SEND reform Suffolk County Council can announce that Kathryn Boulton has been appointed as the new independent chair of the Local Area Partnership's SEND Improvement Board. **More Suffolk homes eligible for energy improvements** More Suffolk households can access free home improvements to make them warmer, healthier and cheaper to run, thanks to Warm Homes Suffolk. **Share your thoughts on the importance of nature in Suffolk** A new survey has been launched to find out which aspects of nature in Suffolk are most important to you.

Bpc7/24 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2) Cllr Pratt reminded us that Locality Grants and Capital Grants applications can be made

Bpc8/24 Public Forum

No matters were raised

Bpc9/24 Planning Matters

The councillors agreed to support the APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/02112 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of detached garden store/workshop building. Location: 4 Dennis Close, Barking

Bpc10/24 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 end of year 2023-2024 bank reconciliation
- c. The councillors approved the Internal Audit and noted the requirement to comply with the Transparency Code; to use the bank balance as at 31st March for the reconciliation.
- d. The Councillors approved the CIL statement for 2023-24 and the Chairman signed it
- e. The Councillors approved the AGAR 2023-2024 and the Chairman signed the relevant sections

Bpc11/24 Easement at Land North of the Tye

The councillors noted that the easement has been completed with deeds and funds received

Bpc12/24 Footway

The councillors agreed to start the process by having a survey and plans drawn up for the path. Clerk to ask several companies for quotes for the work.

Bpc13/24 People and Place Plan

It was agreed this would be an important document and it will be reviewed in September

Bpc14/24 Community Self Help Group

It was agreed this would be an important asset for the village. Clerk to put an article in the magazine to invite people to sign up to help. Training will be offered to all before taking on work. Also advertise on Nextdoor. The group would be able to clean road signs, cut back vegetation adjacent to roads and generally help to tidy the village.

Bpc15/24 Village Hall Management Committee

The councillors agreed to make a grant of £1,000 to the VHMC towards fitting a new kitchen. Also to offer to pay the invoice to reclaim VAT as done for the flooring recently

Bpc16/24 National Grid Pylons

Cllr Tabberer to ask Cllr Fellowes for a draft response and then circulate to all councillors for comments. Clerk to email model response to Councillors

Bpc17/24 Beacon 6th June for D-Day Centenary

It was agreed to light the beacon at 7pm on 6th June and advertise the event. Cllr Fellowes to ask Tim Edwards to put a bale of straw in the beacon. Clerk to ask if insurance cover is sufficient.

Bpc 18/24 Management of the Tye

Grass cutting – It was agreed to employ Jake Harper to mow the footpaths across the Tye and grass at the rear of the village hall cutting. Wages to be £13 per hour. It was agreed for Cllr Harper to service the mower and invoice the parish council.

Bpc19/24 Benches in the Village

It was agreed for Cllr Butler to carry out work to the benches and to reimburse him. Clerk to obtain quotes for a wooden bench for the July meeting.

Bpc20/24 Designated Heritage Asset status for The Causeway path – the councillors agreed to approve this and to write a letter to MSDC in support. It will offer some protection from development and attract funding for this ancient path

Bpc21/24 Reports from Councillors

The Councillors noted that a resident from Tye Green was seen emptying grass cuttings from a lawn mower onto the Tye side of the hedge which belongs to the council. This will impact the contractor employed by the council to cut the Tye.

Bpc22/24 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 18th July 2024

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Financial Report

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 15.3.2024

Income Received since 15.3.24

MSDC	Precept	7,600.00
MSDC	CIL	2,955.43
Barclays	Interest	134.56
VHMC	Flooring payment	3,385.00
Bates, Wells & Braithwaite	Easement	198,443.26
Powernetworks	Wayleave	23.36
MSDC	Cleansing grant	406.38
		<u>212,947.99</u>

Expenditure (movement since 15.3.2024) and invoices agreed for payment

HMRC	April tax	55.00	102162	LGA 1972
Floor Dimensions	Village Hall flooring	4,062.00	102168	LGA 1972
Heelis & Lodge	Internal audit	170.00	102169	LGA 1972
TM & VE Edwards	Moving village beacon	249.50	102170	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartley's Gardening Service	April grass cuts	725.00	102171	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
HMRC	May tax	55.00	102174	LGA 1972
J Eaton	Litter picking	104.00	102175	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
		<u>5,420.50</u>		

Unpresented cheques

J Eaton	Litter picking	169.00	102159	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Suffolk County Council	Street Lights	520.82	102160	Highways Act 1980 s301
L Rogers	April wages	383.31	102161	LGA 1972
HMRC	April tax	55.00	102162	LGA 1972
Environment Agency	Drainage charge	43.65	102163	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartley's Gardening Service	March grass cut	375.00	102164	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
SALC	Annual subs	233.65	102165	LGA 1972
Information Commissioner	Annual subs	40.00	102166	LGA 1972
L Rogers	March expenses	149.19	102167	LGA 1972
Floor Dimensions	Village Hall flooring	4,062.00	102168	LGA 1972
Heelis & Lodge	Internal audit	170.00	102169	LGA 1972
TM & VE Edwards	Moving village beacon	249.50	102170	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartley's Gardening Service	April grass cuts	725.00	102171	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10

L Rogers	April expenses	36.89	102172	LGA 1972
L Rogers	May wages	383.31	102173	LGA 1972
HMRC	May tax	55.00	102174	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906,
J Eaton	Litter picking	104.00	102175	ss9&10
		<u>7,755.32</u>		

Appendix 2 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report

Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Annual Report (2023/24)

New administration - The result of the May 2023 elections was that the 24 elected Green Party councillors officially became the administration at Mid Suffolk. Councillor Andy Mellen, as Leader outlined our initial priorities to lead and work with other bodies to address the challenges faced by our communities: cost of living, affordable homes, local services, public transport and climate change. A Plan for the next three years was agreed which placed environmental and social responsibilities at the heart of everything the MSDC does.

Budget For 2023/24 the General Fund budget was for approximately £15.5 million with an expected £2.3 million surplus which will go into reserves. Funds have also had to be provided from the Housing Revenue Account for the backlog of repairs that has built up. For 2024/25, net expenditure on services is budgeted at £18.5 million with a 2% increase in council tax. Council home rents increased by 7% and sheltered housing service charges also increased. These increases will ensure the Council can afford the repairs and maintenance that are needed. All these increases are due to inflation, costs of energy and other cost increases. The Council has reserves of over £28 million at the end of the financial year plus an expected dividend from the Gateway 14 business park. Some of these surpluses will be invested in a variety of work including new footpaths and cycle paths, land for biodiversity and green spaces, regeneration of Stowmarket town centre, improved sports provision in the district and enabling community-led housing. Approval was also given to increasing council tax on empty homes in 2024/25 and implementing increased council tax on second homes in 2025/26.

Thriving towns and villages

A group of Councillors have been working on issues around sustainable transport. A new rural transport grants scheme with a pot of £600,000 was set up to help provide passenger transport options across the district including villages in the Battisford and Ringshall ward. Approval was gained for the financing of a Green Skills and Innovation Centre on Gateway 14. This will in part act as a centre of excellence for local businesses and a training site for adults needing to update or gain new skills. On the Gateway 14 site, The Range is due to move into the largest building on site. Additionally, a deal with a company specialising in supplying sustainable roof products was agreed. In Stowmarket, the first part of the SHELF sports project was approved and work will commence this year for new pitches, an athletics track and other improvements at Chilton Fields and next to the high school. In conjunction with Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk provided much support to residents and businesses affected by the floods of Storm Babet and Storm Ciaran. **The councils of Mid Suffolk and Babergh were jointly awarded 'Council of the Year'** for their collaboration with different partners, working to improve services and focus on communities. **Environmental sustainability** The Council launched the Cosy Homes scheme, a £2 million project to insulate homes for free. Separately a grant of nearly £1 million was received for retrofitting council homes. A new Pride in your Place grant was established to provide every parish with additional funds to improve the environment for their community. The Council continues to encourage local groups to improve areas for wildlife and a call for sites from landowners was

made so that more trees can be planted across the district. The annual Tree for Life scheme was again a success and tree, hedging and wildflower packs for communities across the district. The Council published its Carbon Reduction Management Plan with a focus for this year on improving sheltered housing and further work on the leisure centres. **Planning and Housing** In November 2023, Part 1 of the Joint Local Plan (JLP) for Mid Suffolk and Babergh was approved and adopted. The JLP sets out a planning framework to guide development in the districts over the period to 2037. The JLP Part 1 provides a set of strategic and local development management policies against which planning applications and appeals will be assessed. There are 10 strategic policies (such as on affordable housing, climate change and tourism) and 32 local policies (such as on biodiversity, the historic environment, and sustainable construction). The Council is continuing to work on Part 2 as well as publishing Supplementary Planning Documents to support the JLP. The first three, currently at draft stage, are the Housing SPD, Biodiversity and Trees SPD and the Intensive Livestock and Poultry SPD. Over £1.5 million was provided to parish and town councils in the form of the Community Infrastructure Levy during the year. I would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.