

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday  
21st November 2024

### **Present**

Cllr M Tabberer (*Chair*), Cllr A Ross, Cllr M Bailey, Cllr M Harper and Cllr R Fellowes  
Suffolk County Cllr K Oakes

### **In Attendance**

Two members of the public  
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

### **Bpc60/24 Apologies**

Cllr M Anderson, Cllr S Butler and District Cllr D Pratt

### **Bpc61/24 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation**

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

### **Bpc62/24 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The minutes of the meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Bpc63/24 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes**

Cllr Oake's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2). The Councillors thanked Suffolk County Council and Highways for their flood work in Barking. Any faded road signs or faded road markings should be reported directly to Cllr Oakes with a photo and What3words location Her email is: Kay.Oakes@suffolk.gov.uk

### **Bpc64/24 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt**

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 3).

### **Bpc65/24 Public Forum**

No matters were raised

### **Bpc66/24 Planning Matters**

There were no matters to consider

### **Bpc67/24 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 agreed to agree the budget for 2025-26 at the January meeting
- c. It was agreed to consider local donations at the January meeting
- d. The Councillors agreed to replace the defibrillator pads

### **Bpc68/24 Management of the Tye**

- a. Pond adjacent to the village hall – this has been cleared. Concerns were raised about the potential for the village hall flooding. It was agreed to ask Binders to look and give a quote for investigative work for water management. The ditches to the rear of the hall need to be cleared.
- b. Grass Cutting – The grass to the rear of the hall and the footpath cuts on the Tye to be added to the grass contract from 2025.
- c. Tye Green Hedge – It was agreed to cut the hedge to 6ft to reduce the cost of maintenance. Clerk to check the price and write to inform the residents
- d. Sustainable Farming Incentive – this replaces the current DEFRA contract that has ended. We need to pay for certain tests to meet the criteria but should qualify for about £4,000 a year. We are also applying for the flower rich level which would greatly increase the subsidy. This involves removing the hay annually. Suffolk Hay Company

have agreed to do this following spot treating ragwort and the broad leaf plat near Lower Farm which is allowed within the agreement.

**Bpc69/24 Path Along the Tye**

G.H.Bullard & Associates have produced the draft plan. It was agreed to hold a consultation meeting for residents on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm. To advertise in Four Parishes Magazine, Nextdoor, website and notice board

**Bpc70/24 People and Place Plan**

Cllr Tabberer to draw up a plan to approach this project.

**Bpc71/24 Needham Market & Barking Welfare Trust** – the Councillors agreed to nominate Rev Tracey Jones as a trustee to the trust

**Bpc72/24 Community Self Help Group**

Cllr Dan Pratt and Richard Cage are booked on the course in January and will then be able to work with a team of volunteers in the village

**Bpc73/24 Village Hall Management Committee**

The flooding problems was covered in item Bpc68/24

**Bpc74/24 VE Day Celebrations 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

It was agreed to ask the village hall management committee if they would like to hold joint celebrations on the Tye and lighting the beacon. Clerk to write to invite a joint meeting to discuss ideas. Cllr Fellowes to invite Wattisham to attend.

**Bpc75/24 Benches in the Village**

It was agreed to review this at the January meeting when Councillor Butler reports about the benches. District Councillor Pratt has donated £250 Pride in Place grant for replacement benches

**Bpc76/24 Telephone Kiosk Cleaning**

Cllr Fellowes kindly offered to clean the telephone kiosk

**Bpc77/24 Dates for Meetings 2024-2025**

The following dates were agreed for 2025:

16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> March, APM 17<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November

**Bpc78/24 Reports from Councillors**

Street Lighting at Christmas and New Year – it was agreed to have lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve

**Bpc79/24 To consider exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following item: i) Clerks Salary Review** – to consider increase in salary effective from 1st April 2024 as recommended by NALC & SLCC **ii) to consider an increase on the pay scale.** It was agreed to increase the Clerk’s pay scale to Scp17 and to agree the annual rise in pay.

**Bpc80/24 Date of the Next Meeting**

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

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

**Appendix 1 Financial Report**

**Income Received since 19.9.24**

Rural Payment Agency	Delinked payments	452.99
MSDC	Precept	7,600.00
Interest	Barclays	958.87
Kitchen payment	BVHMC	6,480.00
MSDC	CIL	10,264.94
		<u>25,756.80</u>

**Expenditure (movement since 19.9.2024) and invoices agreed for payment**

Open Spaces Society	Subscription	45.00	102204	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Playground inspection	63.78	102205	ss9&10
Business services at CAS	Annual insurance	569.69	102206	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Bin emptying	597.53	102207	ss9&10
L Rogers	October wages	383.31	102208	LGA 1972
HMRC	October tax	55.00	102209	LGA 1972
L Rogers	September expenses	56.00	102210	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass mowing	375.00	102211	ss9&10
CAS	Website hosting	60.00	102212	LGA 1972
BVHMC	Kitchen donation	1,760.00	102213	
BVHMC	September hall hire	5.50	102214	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
J Eaton	Litter picking	169.00	102215	ss9&10
Community Heartbeat	defibrillator pads	69.54	102216	
L Rogers	November wages	383.31	102217	LGA 1972
HMRC	November tax	55.00	102218	LGA 1972
L Rogers	October expenses	70.40	102219	LGA 1972
R Fellowes	Wreath	20.00	102220	LGA 1972
		<u>3,970.81</u>		

**Unpresented cheques**

CAS	Website hosting	60.00	102212	LGA 1972
BVHMC	Kitchen donation	1,760.00	102213	
BVHMC	September hall hire	5.50	102214	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
J Eaton	Litter picking	169.00	102215	ss9&10
Community Heartbeat	defibrillator pads	69.54	102216	
L Rogers	November wages	383.31	102217	LGA 1972
HMRC	November tax	55.00	102218	LGA 1972
L Rogers	October expenses	70.40	102219	LGA 1972
R Fellowes	Wreath	20.00	102220	LGA 1972
		<u>2,592.75</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.11.24	£17,043.17	£2,592.75	£0.00
Base reward a/c	13.11.24	£267,360.14	£0.00	£0.00
Parish Paths Partnership a/c	13.11.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Active saver	13.11.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

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

Government's new housing targets must put infrastructure first Suffolk County Council has raised concerns in its response to the government's proposed reforms for planning policies for England. It expresses fears about the lack of clarity around infrastructure, such as schools, transport, waste and community facilities when new housing developments are approved. The proposals include a significant increase in the number of new homes to be built across Suffolk – the government's own figures suggest that East Suffolk alone would see an 87% increase in the number new homes, compared to those currently planned. Suffolk County Council is already very active in securing developer contributions and delivering infrastructure. It secures Section 106 contributions as well as funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy from district councils - but this is to maintain a baseline level of service rather than make a positive overall improvement to infrastructure. Suffolk launches pothole prevention programme ahead of winter weather Suffolk County Council has launched a pothole prevention programme to target areas of Suffolk's Road network that could worsen when the winter weather hits. Teams with additional resources and the latest technology have already started visiting and treating locations susceptible to deterioration or where there are smaller defects that could grow as the colder and wetter weather strikes. Building on the success of earlier trials with the Roadmender Elastomac and Dragon Patcher machines, teams will be deployed across Suffolk to use this equipment in addition to our usual Safety Defect Service that deals with larger defects as they occur. Council to offer interest-free loans to make homes more energy efficient Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps will all be possible with loans of up to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of 7 years at 0% interest. Suffolk County Council is partnering with Lendology CIC to deliver the interest-free loan scheme. Lendology CIC is an experienced Social Enterprise Lender, managing similar schemes with councils across the country. For more information and to register your interest in an interest-free loan, visit:[www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan](http://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan) Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to 'step up'

- Council set to agree £1.5 million to deliver first phase of works identified in initial flood investigation reports
- Authority calls on Government to recognise ongoing impact of Storm Babet and fund £20 million of further prevention work urgently needed
- Extensive work already completed since Storm Babet including more than 111,000 drains cleared and significant road repairs.

The commitment comes as initial flood investigation reports have identified that a further £20 million is needed to complete the work – a figure that the county council can't afford. The council has therefore written to the Flooding Minister, Emma Hardy MP, and demanded the government step up and plug the funding gap. Examples of the kind of projects that could be delivered include:

1. Creating flood water retention ponds in land above villages and green spaces within communities to capture water and slow the flow into residential areas.
2. Installing flood doors and non-return valves on drains to stop water entering properties that are particularly at risk of flooding.

3. Help landowners with advice and guidance, especially those within responsibilities to maintain ditches and streams on their properties (known as 'riparian ownership').
4. Bolstering Suffolk Highways' resources to deliver planned and reactive maintenance on the county's roads and footpaths.

**Loft Insulation Offer gives Suffolk residents 50% off eco-friendly insulation** For the second year running, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders have provided funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills. The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly, itch free thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. Last year, the project enabled over 5,000m<sup>2</sup> of roofs in Suffolk to be insulated. This year, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership want to double that figure. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. Simply go to [highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution](http://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution) and fill in the form to receive your discount code. The Loft Insulation Offer is being funded by Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders and High Loft and will help contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan and our vision for a net zero Suffolk. To find out more visit <http://www.greensuffolk.org/>

### **Appendix 3 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report**

#### **Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus Launch**

The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus is a new transport service launched on the 29th October and will be run by the Stowmarket based Swift Taxi Cabs. Two routes will run from the 1st November, including the Stowmarket Circular via Bacton and Thurston. Within the next year we will introduce the Stowmarket Circular via Wattisham route which will also serve stops at Barking Tye, Willisham, Offton, Great Bricett, Ringshall and Battisford. Passengers will be able to book a seat in advance or board a bus at bus stops on the route. Fares will start at a simple £6 flat rate for a single journey. More information can be found at the Swift Cabs website: <https://www.suffolktaxibus.com/stowmarket-circular-via-wattisham>

**Students to debate climate change issues** The District Council will host 90 students from 10 schools across Babergh and Mid Suffolk at a COP- style Climate Summit. Students will be debating real-world climate change challenges and emulating negotiations as they would play out at the UN climate summit. The aim of the event is to engage children from a range of socio-economic backgrounds about climate change and its effects, and to explore career opportunities in net zero industries.

#### **New Ipswich to Cambridge Community Rail Partnership**

A new Community Rail Partnership has been set up to promote rail services, support small-scale station improvements and secure third-party funding for other upgrades and enhancements on the rail corridor between Ipswich and Cambridge.

#### **Stowmarket Town Centre revitalisation**

Funding was agreed for a list of new measures to help revitalise Stowmarket's Town Centre, including a £400k grant scheme to improve the visible appearance of commercial properties, and a £16k grant for a demand and viability study to support the development of overnight accommodation in the town.

#### **Cosy Homes Initiative**

The energy efficiency initiative helps residents in the district to improve the energy efficiency of their homes to help residents save on energy usage and reduce their carbon footprint. See our website for information and eligibility criteria:

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes>

#### **Deadline extended for Solar Together Scheme**

The Solar Together Scheme has been extended to the 15 th November 2024. Over 3100 residents have signed up for a quote and registration to the scheme is free to all households. More information can be found on the website: <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/landing>

**Dr Dan Pratt**

**Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall**

**Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council**

**E: [daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk)**

**Mid Suffolk District Council**

**T: 07775389193**