

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th May 2025

### **Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

### **Bpc1/25 Election of Chairman**

Cllr M Tabberer was unanimously elected as Chairman

### **Bpc2/25 Apologies**

Cllr Bailey, County Cllr Oakes and District Cllr Pratt

### **Bpc3/25 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation**

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

### **Bpc4/25 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Bpc5/25 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes**

Cllr Oake's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2).

### **Bpc6/25 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt**

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

### **Bpc7/25 Public Forum**

No matters were raised

### **Bpc8/25 Planning Matters**

- a. DC/25/01524 Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Agricultural Barn to form 3no. dwellings Location: Lower Farm, The Tye, Barking. The Cllrs agreed to object to the application on the grounds of insufficient water supply and pressure to other houses adjacent to the site. Can Anglia water confirm if there is sufficient supply for the additional residents in the proposed houses. Is there sufficient provision for parking on the proposed sites. The public road to the site is in very poor condition which will be exacerbated by the additional vehicle movements
- b. Mid Suffolk District Council has approved the Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/04464 - Condition 6 (Walls/Gate) Location: Waycroft House, Battisford Road, Barking
- c. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - DC/25/02093 Proposal: Application under Section 73A of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 6 (Removal of Permitted Development Rights) of planning permission 1401/17 dated: 06/06/2017 - Erection of detached 2 storey dwelling, garage and new vehicular access Location: Ernest House, Battisford Road, Barking. The Cllrs object to the application on the grounds of lack of clarity about the size and number of bedrooms for the house. The lack of clarity of where the driveway to the house is to situated. Will the ancient hedge be removed to achieve a driveway. The poor visibility onto the road. The lack of plans to show and explain these items.

### **Bpc9/25 Finance**

- a. Annual Report from the Clerk (Appendix 1) The Clerk presented the 31st March 2025 Year End Bank Reconciliation Balance at 31st March 2025 £268,266
- b. The Councillors approved the End of Year Statement 2024- 2025
- c. The Annual Governance Statement for 2024-2025 was completed by the Council and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
- d. The Councillors approved the Accounting Statements 2024-2025
- e. The Councillors reviewed the annual CIL statement 2024-2025 which was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
- f. To approved and noted the following from the the Internal Audit report 2024-2025: The Council should seek advice on its practice of reclaiming VAT; to increase the Fidelity cover in line with the recommended guidelines of year-end balances plus 50% of the precept; to provide the bank statement showing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for audit purposes and the council to consider the limits of the Financial Compensation Scheme
- g. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Risk document
- h. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Statement of Internal Control
- i. The Councillors reviewed and approved the updated Financial Regulations

### **Bpc10/25 Path Along the Tye**

The application does not require planning permission but would benefit from obtaining Section 38 approval. It has to be advertised in the EADT newspaper as a Public Notice and letters sent to anyone with rights over the Tye. Clerk to work on this complex application.

### **Bpc11/25 Standing Orders**

The Councillors reviewed and approved the updated Standing Orders.

### **Bpc12/25 Deed of Easement at 7 Tye Green**

The Councillors agreed to approve the Deed of Easement for 7 Tye Green and the Chairman signed the document.

### **Bpc13/25 People and Place Plan**

It was agreed to print the forms and distribute to all the houses in the parish. Clerk to arrange printing. Completed forms to be delivered to The Grange opposite the Fox. Clerk to inform Cameron Bate that the Councillors approve his geophysical survey of the Tye this summer.

### **Bpc14/25 Village Hall Management Committee**

No report available. Cllr Tabberer to attend the AGM next week. Clerk to forward the Pre-school accounts to the Councillors.

### **Bpc15/25 Management of The Tye**

The contractor is unable to cut and remove the hay as hoped for. Mike Smith has kindly agreed to cut the hay and to organise removing as much as is possible. Clerk to ask Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Browns for further advice. A long term plan is required.

### **Bpc16/25 Benches in the Village**

Councillor Butler has found a suitable bench at £285 to replace the bench by the play area. It was agreed the Clerk will send a map of the Tye to all Councillors so they can map the positions of the benches as part of an audit before replacing the bench.

### **Bpc17/25 Reports from Councillors**

People are parking on the Tye near the garage and the entrance to Walnut House when accessing the play area. The play area position to be considered when new play equipment is to be installed in a few years time to reduce parking on the Tye

### **Bpc18/25 Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm –Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

**Appendix 1 Barking Parish Council Bank**

Reconciliation

Financial Year End 31.3.2025

Bank Accounts		Receipts	
Community account	4,709.69	Precept	15,200.00
Base Rate Reward	265,274.83	Cleansing Grant	2,191.02
Active Saver	0.00	Wayleave	172.04
Parish Paths	0.00	Miscellaneous	213,308.26
Sub Total	269,984.52	Bank interest	3,337.34
Less un-presented cheques	1,718.78	VAT refund	2,055.70
Total	<u>268,265.74</u>	CIL	13,220.37
Un-presented cheques		Countryside stewardship	905.90
102202	55.00	Grants	0.00
102241	16.50	Total receipts	<u>250,390.63</u>
102242	650.00		
102243	50.00	Payments	
102244	100.00	The Tye	7,714.65
102246	232.20	The Tye grass	
		cutting	5,150.00
102250	11.00	Village Hall hire	16,674.50
102252	448.08	Clerks salary	5,549.72
102253	156.00	Admin	1,099.27
Total	<u>1,718.78</u>	Subs	318.65
		Website	50.00
Balance b/f 1st April 2024	64,485.26	Streetlighting	373.40
Precept	15,200.00	Maintenance	1,528.81
Other receipts	235,190.63	Donations	800.00
		Insurance	569.69
Sub total	314,875.89	Audit	
Salaries	5,594.72	fees	170.00
Other payments	41,015.43	Litter picking	689.00
Balance c/f 31st March 2024	<u>268,265.74</u>	Bin emptying	497.94
		Training	105.00
Balance b/f 1st April 2023	64,485.26	ROSPA	53.15
Plus total receipts	250,390.63	SID	91.50
Less total payments	46,610.15	Chair's allowance	0.00
Balance c/f 31st March 2024	<u>268,265.74</u>	Election	0.00
		Defibrillator	57.95
		VAT output	5,116.92
		Total payments	<u>46,610.15</u>

Reserves

Comments/Description

**Earmarked reserves:**

Footway fund	197,545	to build footway alongside road in village
CIL	45,522	£40,000footway:£5522 play area
Assets	4,000	asset replacement
Tye	5,000	management of common land (Tye)
Defibrillator	1,000	replacement
General fund	15,200	small council precept in case of emergency
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b><u>268,267</u></b>	

**Appendix 2 County Councillor Kay Oakes Report County Council report – May 2025 Flood schemes cash** Suffolk County Council Cabinet will be spending £68 million on projects across East Anglia, of which flood schemes in Suffolk have been allocated more than £14 million. Flood relief schemes across Suffolk will receive a share of the money from the Environment Agency. Flood resilience schemes in Needham Market and Debenham as a result of Storm Babet also get funding - £560,000 in Needham Market and £81,000. These projects, led by the Environment Agency, will fund flood doors and other measures to prevent flood water entering individual properties. Suffolk County Council supported the EA to identify affected homes and promote the availability of this funding. The council's Flood Investigations and Grants Team also administers a separate grant fund specifically to support those properties flooded during Storm Babet. This grant closes for new applications in May. **Suffolk Highways launches weeds and grass management programme for 2025** Grass cutting is scheduled to start in May, with the grass verges alongside A and B roads across Suffolk being cut first and receiving two cuts each summer. Teams will cut thousands of miles of grass verges and treat 2,300 miles of weeds. Verges alongside smaller roads, such as the county's C and U class roads, will be cut once during the summer season. Cuts are solely for safety purposes and district and borough councils will usually supplement these with amenity cuts throughout the year. Suffolk Highways does not cut village greens, parks and open spaces, or rural verges that are not adjacent to the road. Two treatments are applied to weeds in urban areas across Suffolk annually if it is deemed that the weeds may pose a safety risk due to obscuring visibility for road users or causing damage to pavements, kerbs, or surrounding walls. Weeds in rural areas are not included in the annual weed treatment programme but will be treated on a site-specific basis if they are identified as being harmful or noxious. All weed treatments are weather dependent and cannot be applied in high winds or if rain is forecast due to this reducing the effectiveness of the treatment. Glyphosate is currently used for the treatment as this is not harmful to people or pets and has proved to be more effective than alternatives previously trialled in Suffolk. However, a substitute for this is still being sought. **Nature recovery plan aims to revive Suffolk's wildlife** A new strategy has been drafted to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and a consultation has been launched. Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy is one of 48 across the country, aimed at addressing the decline in nature and identifying a network of areas to help it recover. Together these strategies will form a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of wetlands, restoration of peatlands, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands. Suffolk County Council has been leading on a strategy for the county, working closely with other local authorities, nature experts, and a wide range of interested organisations. This has been coordination with Norfolk, through the [Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership](#). There is also the opportunity to view and respond to maps of local areas, where

specific measures to help nature could be taken. Both opportunities to provide feedback will close on 11 June 2025 and can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations).

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

#### **Free Compost for Mid Suffolk Residents**

Residents in Mid Suffolk can collect free compost this spring. The aim is to support people to live a greener and healthier lifestyle through growing their own food and plants. The giveaway coincides with International Compost Awareness Week from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May. The nearest collection event is taking place at Needham Lake on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 8 am. The event will run on a first come first serve basis and attendees are allowed a maximum of two bags per vehicle. **Funding for Community Projects** Our website now includes a new webpage to promote our available funding schemes and non-financial support. The new page covers information on financial support for a range of community projects and events. For more information see - <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>. Other funding streams include the Suffolk Greenest County's Climate Community Match Funder and Aviva's Community Fund.

#### **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation updates**

Mid Suffolk held an additional full council meeting on April 10 to discuss the council response to the consultation on the Government's devolution plans. Mid Suffolk councillors recognised the positive impact a mayor could potentially bring but also shared concerns of limited representation of community leaders at the mayoral level. Councils in Suffolk share the view that more devolved powers from government could bring benefits for the region, but conversely, a centralisation of power away from local communities would lose the benefit of local expertise and knowledge.

All District and Borough Councils in Suffolk have published their joint proposals for two or three unitary authorities across the county, but the exact boundaries for these authorities is yet to be determined. This contrasts with Suffolk County Council's vision for a single unitary authority in Suffolk. Letters to this effect have now been sent and acknowledged by the Secretary of State. Now more detailed business plans for the proposed new authorities will need to be finalised and agreed.

#### **Locality Awards**

The Locality Grant fund is now closed for 2024/25 but will re-open for applications when the next round of funding begins - hopefully in late May/early June. More information can be found at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards>

#### **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)

T: 07775389193