

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday
16th January 2025

Present

Cllr M Tabberer (*Chair*), Cllr A Ross, and Cllr R Fellowes

In Attendance

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc81/24 Apologies

Cllr M Anderson, Cllr S Butler, Suffolk County Cllr K Oakes and District Cllr D Pratt

Bpc82/24 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc83/24 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 21st November 2024

The minutes of the meetings on 21st November 2024 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc84/24 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

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

Bpc85/24 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt

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

Bpc86/24 Public Forum

No matters were raised

Bpc87/24 Planning Matters

DC/24/05573 - Land East of Hascott Hill, Barking to create a dog exercise facility

The Councillors agreed to hold a meeting on Thursday 23rd January at 7pm to discuss this application

Bpc88/24 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 transfer £3000 from the deposit account to the current account
- c. The Councillors agreed to set the budget for 2025-26 at £23,280
- d. The Councillors agreed to set the precept for 2025-26 at £16,500. This is a rise of 2.2% or +£1.85 so, a Band D house will be £85.87. The Chairman and Councillors signed the precept form
- e. The Councillors agreed the following donations for 2024-25. St Marys Church £650, Four Parishes Magazine £100 and East Anglian Air Ambulance £50.
- f. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations
- g. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Risk Assessment

Bpc89/24 Management of the Tye

- a. The Councillors agreed to remove the ash tree and pollard the willow by the village hall pond at a cost of £1,150.
- b. The ditches to the rear of the hall need to be cleared. Cllr Tabberer to talk with Mr Strawson
- c. Grass Cutting – The Councillors agreed to renew the contract with Hartley's at a cost of £5,250 each year for three years. grass contract from 2025. It was agreed to ask Hartley's for a quote to cut the grass to the rear of the village hall and the footpaths across the Tye
- d. Tye Green Hedge – To be cut in the second week in February to six foot to reduce the cost of maintenance. The Clerk has written to inform the residents.

- e. Hedge Cutting in the Village – The hedge by the football pitch has been cut as has the hedge by the pond adjacent to the village hall and the hedge by Barn View Close
- f. The moles have been active but are very difficult to control. The grass contractor spreads the soil around as the grass is cut thus levelling it.

Bpc90/24 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 13th February 7-9pm. To advertise in Four Parishes Magazine, Nextdoor, website and notice board. Also to tell pre-school and advertise in the village hall. It was agreed to collect people’s views at the meeting. Refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits will be served

Bpc91/24 Standing Orders

The Councillors reviewed and approved the Standing Orders

Bpc92/24 People and Place Plan

It was agreed to form a steering group of Cllrs Tabberer, Fellowes and Nat Beaumont and Jon Bacon. Clerk to liaise to agree a date to create the survey ready to approve at the March meeting

Bpc93/24 Community Self Help Group

Richard Cage completed the course in January and is competent to work with a team of volunteers in the village. A team has already carried out much work whilst the B1088 is closed. The Councillors gave their thank for the improvements.

Bpc94/24 Village Hall Management Committee

The recent coffee morning was well attended and everyone enjoyed the Thai ladies costumes, food and dancing. The hall is being used frequently.

Bpc95/24 VE Day Celebrations 8th May 2025

It was agreed to have a gathering to light the beacon to celebrate. We need someone with a teleporter to light it safely. People to bring snacks and drinks. If wet we can use the village hall. To advertise in the newsletter.

Bpc96/24 Benches in the Village

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

Bpc97/24 Telephone Kiosk Cleaning

The Councillors thanked Cllr Fellowes for cleaning the telephone kiosk

Bpc98/24 Reports from Councillors

There have been problems with delivery lorries driving down the track to Bridge Farm Cottages and not being able to turn and causing damage to the Tye. It was agreed to put a sign up saying ‘access only to Cameron Croft, Bridge Cottages and Wren Cottage – do not follow sat nav’ Clerk to check that Suffolk County Council Estates will inform the buyer of Lower farm that there is no access over the Tye to the farm

Bpc99/24 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next parish council meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 20th March 2025

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Financial Report

Financial Report 16th January 2025

Income Received since 21.11.24

Interest	Barclays	972.73
Wayleave	Powernetworks	58.68
		<u>1,031.41</u>

Expenditure (movement since 21.11.2024) and invoices agreed for payment

Open Spaces Society	Subscription	45.00	102204	LGA 1972
Barking Village hall	kitchen donation	1760	102221	LGA 1972, s137
Barking Village hall	hall hire	5.50	102222	LGA 1972
TM & VE Edwards	pond clearance	4,200.00	102223	Public Health Act 1936, s260
GH Bullard	footway draft plans	1,585.07	102224	Public Health Act 1875, s164 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	November grass cuts	375.00	102225	ss9&10
L Rogers	November expenses	46.70	102226	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	Dec - Jan grass cuts	725.00	102227	ss9&10 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	October grass cuts	725.00	102228	ss9&10
L Rogers	Backpay	152.88	102229	LGA 1972
L Rogers	December pay	410.79	102230	LGA 1972
HMRC	December tax	61.80	102231	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906,
J Eaton	Litter picking	130.00	102232	ss9&10
L Rogers	January pay	410.59	102233	LGA 1972
HMRC	January tax	62.00	102234	LGA 1972
L Rogers	December expenses	56.10	102235	LGA 1972
		<u>10,751.43</u>		

Unpresented cheques

HMRC	September tax	55.00	102202	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906,
MSDC	Annual play inspection	63.78	102205	ss9&10
GH Bullard	footway draft plans	1,585.07	102224	Public Health Act 1875, s164 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	November grass cuts	375.00	102225	ss9&10 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	Dec - Jan grass cuts	725.00	102227	ss9&10 Open Spaces Act 1906,
Hartleys Garden Services	October grass cuts	725.00	102228	ss9&10
HMRC	December tax	61.80	102231	LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906,
J Eaton	Litter picking	130.00	102232	ss9&10
L Rogers	January pay	410.59	102233	LGA 1972
HMRC	January tax	62.00	102234	LGA 1972
L Rogers	December expenses	56.10	102235	LGA 1972
		<u>4,249.34</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques
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Community a/c	13.12.24	£9,698.73	£4,249.34	£0.00
Base reward a/c	13.12.24	£268,332.87	£0.00	£0.00
		<u>£278,031.60</u>	<u>£273,782.26</u>	

Appendix 2 County Councillor Kay Oakes Report

Suffolk councillors to consider devolution and council reorganisation Suffolk County Council will hold an extraordinary meeting of councillors, and a meeting of its Cabinet, to debate and then decide on whether to put Suffolk forward for the government's new devolution and reorganisation programme. The government has required that formal notice be given if Suffolk wishes to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme by 10 January 2025. Therefore, the meetings, both to be held on 9 January 2025, will see all 75 councillors debate and vote on a proposal to recommend Suffolk is at the front of the queue. Following the Full Council meeting, the Cabinet will make a final decision.

Appendix 3 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report

Budget updates

Proposals for the General Fund budget were approved in December's cabinet meeting, and discussed later on in the Overview & Scrutiny committee on the 19th December. This shows the council's finances to be surplus, unusual for District councils, in part due to expanded housing developments and income generated from Gateway 14, with these surplus funds being used to proceed with the Mid Suffolk Plan. Key figures include an increase of £1.689m in net revenue service expenditure, a £2.660m increase in gross expenditure, no increase in council tax from 2024/25, and a capital budget of £29.986m in 2025/26.

CIL Expenditure updates

New updates regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy programme were discussed in by cabinet. This includes approval of half a million pounds of investment into the Stowmarket Health Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF), and £188k of funding for Thurston Community College.

Devolution White Paper

The White Paper regarding devolution was published in December, which despite not mentioning Suffolk directly, strongly suggests a change to the two-tier local government structure. This could potentially suggest one or two Unitary Authorities covering Suffolk, abolishing district councils. The paper also includes the use of introducing a "Strategic Authority", which is likely to include a Mayor for both Suffolk & Norfolk.

National Planning Policy Framework

Changes have been made to the National Planning Policy Framework to assist with the Government's housebuilding plans. This includes mandatory housebuilding targets for councils, with a priority on brownfield sites. The new plans have sparked both praise and backlash, with concerns over the role of individual councils. Mid Suffolk's portfolio holder for Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Andrew Stringer has commented on the new proposals. Statement in response to Government's National Planning Policy Framework announcement - Mid Suffolk District Council - babbergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Council Meetings

There was no scheduled MSDC Full Council meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on 23rd January 2025.

Dr Dan Pratt

Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall

Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council

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