

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 18th September 2025

Present

Cllr S Butler (*Chair*), Cllr A Ross, Cllr R Fellowes and District Cllr Pratt

In Attendance

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc42/25 Apologies

Cllr M Tabberer, Cllr M Anderson and County Cllr Oakes

Bpc/43/25 Election of Chairman

Cllr Butler was elected as Chairman for the meeting

Bpc44/25 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc45/25 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th July 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2025 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc46/25 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Oake's report was circulated to the Councillors – no matters to discuss (appendix 2).

Bpc47/25 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

Cllr Pratt's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 3). The Councillors expressed their thanks to Dan and Maria for their help in securing a grant of £22,000 towards installing solar panels on the village hall roof.

Bpc48/25 Public Forum

No matters raised

Bpc49/25 Planning Matters

- a. DC/25/03405: Full Application - Conversion & Alterations To Existing Agricultural Barn To Create A New Dwelling, Erection of Replacement Cart Lodge and Change Of Use Of Associated Land To Residential Amenity. Location: Grinstead Barn, Needham Road
- b. PRIOR APPROVAL - AGRICULTURAL TO DWELLING - DC/25/01524
Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 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

Bpc50/25 Finance

- a. The Councillors approved the RFO Report authorising payments made since the last meeting and to be made; noted income received since the last meeting; reviewed the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statement and to approve the payments to be made.
- b. The Councillors reviewed the External Audit and noted the following points: The smaller authority has disclosed that it complied with laws, regulations and proper practices during the year 2024/25 by answering yes to Section 1, assertion 3. However the declaration of exemption, from an external review was not minuted and published on its website and the 2024/25 AGAR was also not published on the website. As a result, this

assertion should have been answered No. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objectives K and N

- c. The Councillors reviewed and approved the updated Asset Register
- d. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Insurance quote at £606.56 annually for three years
- e. The Councillors approved the annual increase to the clerks salary.

The Councillors agreed to make the following Local donations: St Mary's Church £700; East Anglian Air Ambulance £100; Four Parishes Magazine £100 and Barking Pre-School £150

Bpc51/25 Path Along the Tye

We are waiting for more details from the solicitor to be able to make the Section 38 application to the Secretary of State prior to advertizing in the EADT newspaper as a Public Notice and sending letters sent to anyone with rights over the Tye.

Bpc52/25 Self Help Group

It was agreed to meet on Sunday 12th October for an hour at 10am to clear the path opposite Warwick that leads to Parsons Lane. To be advertised in the newsletter

Bpc53/25 Digital and Data Compliance for Parish Councils – it was agreed to meet the new requirements for email and website domain at a cost of £49 per year. This will be actioned soon.

Bpc54/25 Village Hall Use – The groups using the village hall includes Barking Pre-School, Sewing group and coffee mornings. The solar panels will contribute to the income..

Bpc55/25 Management of The Tye

The Councillors expressed their thanks to Mike Smith for organising cutting and removal of hay on the Tye.

Bpc56/25 Benches in the Village

It was agreed the Clerk will purchase a bench of up to £350 to replace the bench by the play area. Clerk to arrange removal and securing the new bench at a cost of up to £300.

Bpc57/25 Village Hall Management Committee

No update available

Bpc56/25 Reports from Councillors

Barn View Grove – the footpath adjacent to the site has litter from the development that needs to be tidied – clerk to ask contractors

Dog Exercise Field – some HERAS fencing is blocking the footpath – Clerk to ask owners if they can adjust its position

The Causeway – both sides of the hedge side has been cut back hard removing the tunnel effect.

Dead Tree opposite the drive to Overhall Farm – Clerk to ask contractor to assess

Bpc57/25 Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 20th November 2025 at 7pm –Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Finance Report

Financial Report 18th September 2025

Income Received since 24.7.2025

St Mary's Church	Grass money	608.34
Dera	Delinked payment	434.87
MSDC	Precept	8,250.00
		<u>9,293.21</u>

Expenditure (movement since 24.7.2025) and invoices agreed for payment

Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting June	960.00	102279	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting July	960.00	102280	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Bin emptying 2025-26	529.27	102281	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	August wages	398.19	102282	LGA 1972
HMRC	August tax & NI	82.74	102283	LGA 1972
L Rogers	July expenses	62.66	102284	LGA 1972
J Eaton	Litter picking April-August	286.00	102285	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	756.00	102286	LGA 1972
C Collins	Hay carting & disposal	258.00	102287	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
TM & VE Edwards	Hay baling	294.00	102288	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
M Smith	Hay cutting & rowing	918.00	102289	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	September wages	398.19	102290	LGA 1972
HMRC	September tax & NI	82.74	102291	LGA 1972
L Rogers	August expenses	41.20	102292	LGA 1972
Greenscape Energy	VH Solar panels	5,268.72	102293	
Open Spaces Society	Annual subs	45.00	102294	LGA 1972
		<u>11,340.71</u>		

Unpresented cheques

Suffolk Macs	Laptop set up	240.00	102259	LGA 1972
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting (1728)	960.00	102267	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting May	960.00	102272	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting June	960.00	102279	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
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L Rogers	August expenses	41.20	102292	LGA 1972
Greenscape Energy	VH Solar panels	5,268.72	102293	
Open Spaces Society	Annual subs	45.00	102294	LGA 1972
		<u>3,120.00</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.8.25	£22,550.53	£3,120.00	£0.00
Base reward a/c	13.8.25	£16,156.99	£0.00	£0.00
		<u>£38,707.52</u>	<u>£35,497.52</u>	
CCLA Account	14.7.25	£249,000.00		
31.8.25		431.97	<u>£249,431.97</u>	

Appendix 2 County Councillor Kay Oakes Report County Council report

Suffolk Libraries to Become Suffolk Community Libraries from 1 June

The service will continue to operate as usual, with no changes for library users and all 45 libraries will remain open. This ensures the council can continue delivering library services in a sustainable way, strengthening the role libraries play across Suffolk's communities. Suffolk County Council extends its sincere thanks to everyone involved in the transition and looks forward to this new chapter for library services in Suffolk. For more information, please visit www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

Council reorganisation affects us all - so have your say today A new survey giving residents the opportunity to shape the future of councils and public services in Suffolk has been launched. It's part of the Government plan to reshape and streamline councils in Suffolk to save money, reduce confusion and improve public services for residents. The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey. The survey is open for eight weeks – until 4 August 2025.

Whilst a final proposal is still to be developed, Suffolk County Council believes that a new single local council is the smartest, simplest, and best option for the whole of Suffolk which will deliver the biggest savings and most sustainable service improvements.

Suffolk challenges Government on Planning reform at a National Infrastructure Conference The Council and other speakers raised concerns that proposed changes to the NSIP regime were not suitably robust to manage the significant changes which NSIPs can bring to host communities, particularly with the proposed replacement of a statutory duty for pre-submission consultation with statutory guidance. The conference further cements Suffolk County Council's recognised role as a Centre of Excellence for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) for its expertise when engaging with projects, such as Sizewell C, the Gull Wing, National Grid upgrades, solar farms and offshore wind farms.

£8m funding for Bus Service improvements

The funding from the Department of Transport's Local Authority Bus Grant can be used to create new bus services or enhance existing routes. Following on from previous grants from the Department for Transport to improve bus services, totalling £3.7m of revenue funding between 2023 and 2025, the new grant which has been allocated for 2025/26 comprises of:

☒ £2,805,076 revenue for delivering new or enhanced services.

☒ £5,229,805 capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades. This money will enable Suffolk County Council to invest up to £5 million in capital projects to increase bus priority on congested streets, make improvements to bus stops and gain a better understanding of the journeys people are taking, paving the way for more innovative fare offers in the future. The council also plans to upgrade the current Real Time Passenger Information system, giving live updates on when buses will arrive at stops across the county. The remaining £2.8 million will be spent supporting the existing services on the county's bus network and working with bus companies to finalise several route improvements and new services, set to launch later this year. The previous funding has created and enhanced more than 15 routes across the county, through the council's Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP). These included the first Sunday and evening service between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds for more than 20 years and direct links from Haverhill and Mildenhall to the West Suffolk Hospital. Successful bids will be contacted in the coming days with new and enhanced services coming online later this year. A full list of enhanced and new services funded with the previous BSIP funding can be found at: [Bus Service Improvement Plan - Suffolkonboard](#) including videos from services who received BSIP round 1 funding. Details of successful bids for the latest round of funding will be posted on Suffolk On Board.

Appendix 3 District Councillor Dan Pratt Report

Local Government Reorganisation Update

Mid Suffolk District Council released draft proposals on its proposed unitary council model for Suffolk, which included the formation of 3 unitary councils covering 3 areas – 'West Suffolk', 'Central & East Suffolk', and "Ipswich and South Suffolk". Our ward, including the villages of Offton, Willisham, Barking, Great Bricett, Ringshall and Battsford would be placed within the Central and East Suffolk council which also includes the towns of Needham Market, Stowmarket, Eye, Debenham, Woodbridge and Lowestoft. A full website on the 3-unitary model, including the proposed map effecting these changes, is available here:

[Proposed Council Boundaries – Three Councils For Suffolk](#) There will be 2 public sessions about LGR where you are invited to come along and ask questions. Wednesday 10th Sept, 6-8pm, Food Museum Marquee, Stowmarket Monday 15th Sept. 6-8pm, Eye Town Council.

Mid Suffolk District Council submits objections to National Grid pylons project

Mid Suffolk has restated it's concerns for the district's heritage, environment and rural economy, calling for a pause to the scheme and consultation on alternative solutions, including a coordinated offshore grid approach. National Grid submitted it's application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 29 th August and the PINS now has 28 days to determine whether or not permission should be granted.

Introduction of new electrical recycling banks

Twelve new jazzy-pink recycling bins have been installed in Mid Suffolk and Babergh, where residents can dispose of their broken electrical items. This includes things like coffee machines, kettles, mobile phones, tablets, and anything smaller than a 4-slice toaster. This is part of a new scheme of just under £800k to help reduce e-waste across the district. The nearest one to our ward is at the MSDC car park in Station Yard, Needham Market. Please

follow the link for more information: Twelve new electrical recycling bins for Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Mid Suffolk and Babergh hosts Tour of Britain Cycle race

The UK's largest professional cycle race is due to come through Mid Suffolk on 3rd September. The event started within East Suffolk, before running through Stowmarket, as well as visiting other parts of the district, including Debenham and Eye.

MSDC secures 62-acre site at Thorndon for Nature and Flood Resilience

The site which contains a mixture of habitats and permissive footpaths was previously owned by the Kerrison Trust, a charity supporting young people was recently put up for sale. MSDC recognised the potential to protect improve the site which contains habitats including enhancing wet grassland and grazing marshes, pond habitats, lowland meadows and pastures, and deciduous woodland. MSDC will develop a management plan for the site following an ecological survey and consultation with local residents. There will be no change to public access arrangements with permissive paths being preserved.

Mid Suffolk District Council Locality Awards

The 2025/26 round of funding has attracted many early enquiries and applications. I welcome enquiries from local community groups. Please contact me for further information.

Dr Dan Pratt

Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall

Lead Member for Nature Recovery

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