

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 24th July 2025

Present

Cllr M Tabberer (*Chair*), Cllr Bailey, Cllr M Anderson, Cllr M Harper, Cllr R Fellowes and County Cllr Oakes

In Attendance

Two members of the public
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc24/25 Apologies

Cllr A Ross, Cllr S Butler, and District Cllr Pratt

Bpc25/25 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc26/25 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 15th May and 9th June 2025

The minutes of the meetings held on 15th May and 9th June 2025 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc27/25 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

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

Bpc28/25 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt

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

Bpc29/25 Public Forum

The work to pylons from the Forge going towards Hascot Hill were raised. The full plan is not yet known but appears to be joining the Norwich to Tilbury route. They will inform the parish council of any further news on this.

Bpc30/25 Planning Matters

- a) Mid Suffolk District Council has approved DC/25/01456 - Proposal & Location of Development: Full Planning Application - Change of use of part of grass meadow to create an enclosed dog walking/exercise facility and new vehicular access Land East of Hascot Hill, Barking.
- b) Mid Suffolk District Council has approved DC/25/01947 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) at Warwick, Needham Road, Barking,
- c) PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) HAS BEEN GRANTED SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS(Please see Planning website): 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, Battsford Road, Barking

Bpc31/25 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 – The Councillors noted that the account with the CCLA has been opened.
- b. The Councillors appointed Heelis & Lodge as the Internal Auditor

- c. The Councillors reviewed the effectiveness of the Internal Audit report 2024-2025 and noted the following points: VAT reclaim; Fidelity cover; Provide bank statement as of 31st March for audit purposes, opening a second account to spread risk within limits of the Financial Compensation Scheme and to follow the guidelines for approving the AGAR
- d. Insurance – Confirmation of increased Fidelity cover to £500,000 from 12.5.25

Bpc32/25 Path Along the Tye

We are waiting for details from the solicitor to be able to make the Section 38 application to the Secretary of State. 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.

Bpc33/25 People and Place Plan

It was agreed to drop this project until more is known about planning under the proposed act and Local Government Reform

Bpc34/25 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. The Councillors agreed to adopt the new IT Policy

Bpc35/25 Village Emergency Plan – The Councillors reviewed the contact details on the emergency plan. Clerk to update and circulate to check before publishing.

Bpc36/25 Pre-School use of the village hall and review of potential support that could be offered – Pre-school are struggling for numbers which may have an impact on running the hall. Awkward from September to December but should pick up from January. Cllr Tabberer to invite the leader to attend the September meeting and provide an update of finances

Bpc37/25 Village Hall Management Committee

Coffee mornings on Saturdays are going well. Quiz soon. Invite Cameron Bates to present his archaeological findings from the Tye.

Bpc38/25 Management of The Tye

Mike Smith has kindly cut the hay and baled it and it has been removed from the Tye – The Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mike for his work in managing the Tye.

Bpc39/25 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.

Bpc40/25 Reports from Councillors

Bus Stop- Cllr Tabberer and Clerk to meet SCC to review the bus stop position and look for an alternative place. The path opposite Warwick to Parsons Lane needs clearing. Clerk to ask self help group if they can help.

Bpc41/25 Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7pm –Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman Date

Appendix 1 Barking Parish Council Bank

Financial Report 24th July 2025

Income Received since 15.5.2025

St Mary's Church	Grass money	304.17
		<u>304.17</u>

Expenditure (movement since 15.5.2025) and invoices agreed for payment

BVHMC	Hall Hire	27.50	102266	LGA 1972
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting (1728)	960.00	102267	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	June wages	398.19	102268	LGA 1972
HMRC	June tax & NI	82.74	102269	LGA 1972
L Rogers	May expenses expenses	43.92	102270	LGA 1972
CANCELLED CHEQUE		0.00	102271	LGA 1972
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting May	960.00	102272	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	July wages	398.19	102273	LGA 1972
HMRC	July tax & NI	82.74	102274	LGA 1972
L Rogers	June expenses	41.20	102275	LGA 1972
CANCELLED CHEQUE		0.00	102276	LGA 1972
CANCELLED CHEQUE		0.00	102277	LGA 1972
CCLA	New deposit account	249,000.00	102278	LGA 1972
		<u>2,994.48</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
L Rogers	July wages	398.19	102273	LGA 1972
HMRC	July tax & NI	82.74	102274	LGA 1972
L Rogers	June expenses	41.20	102275	LGA 1972
CCLA	New deposit account	249,000.00	102278	LGA 1972
Hartleys Garden Services	Grass cutting June	960.00	102279	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
		<u>252,642.13</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques	
Community a/c	13.6.2025	£268,817.52	£252,024.87	£0.00
Base reward a/c	13.6.2025	£16,156.99	£0.00	£0.00
		<u>£284,974.51</u>	<u>£32,332.38</u>	
CCLA Account	14.7.25	£249,000.00		
		<u>£249,000.00</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

Councillors Support Motions Calling for 20MPH Zones and Disability Champion

Two motions gained cross-party support at the June 26 meeting. The first motion calls upon Suffolk County Council to review its criteria on speed limits and to make the process for applying for 20mph zones simpler and more cost effective in areas where they have community support. The motion highlighted the benefits of speed reductions, including safer roads and an easier transition to active travel. A second motion to appoint a disability champion for Mid Suffolk was unanimously supported. The role will seek to raise awareness and improve accessibility to public buildings and services.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Review

CIL is a charge that planning authorities can levy on new developments to help deliver community infrastructure in the district. MSDC annually review the guidelines on how CIL is spent to ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs and priorities of our communities. The new changes make for more agile CIL applications by ceasing the 'bid round windows' and enabling all-year CIL bids. The scope for CIL spending has also been broadened to include community farming projects and community run pubs and cafes.

Future of Local Government Survey

The survey for residents to express their views on the future of local government is still available on the Mid Suffolk District Council website: <https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-gb/projects/have-your-say-suffolk>

Pride In Your Place Grant Re-Launched

The fund which originally launched in 2023 to promote local identity and tidy up the environment is now open for applications. Parish Councils, voluntary and community groups can apply for grants between £250 - £5000. The fund can be used for community planting schemes, local heritage and cultural initiatives, new signage, benches and seating areas for public use, equipment for litter picks and community clean-up among other supported initiatives. For more information please visit our Community

Funding page - <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>

£3M CIL Fund for New Cycle Path to Link Mid Suffolk Villages

A new cycleway and footpath to connect Woolpit with services in Elmswell will enable residents to access crucial services without the use of a car. The scheme is a key piece of active travel infrastructure for the district, and is supported in both Suffolk County Council and MSDC's Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans. SCC will adopt and maintain the path once constructed.

MSDC Welcomes New Councillor Following By-Election

Agnes Watson (Green Party) was elected to represent Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden after a by-election on 12 th June.

Church Awarded £33k CIL Fund For Sustainable Light and Heat System

Rattlesden's Grade I-listed church will receive funding to install a new nine-chandelier light and heating system which is more effective and environmentally sustainable than the under-seat heating system that it replaces. The church hosts a wide range of community activities, including toddler groups, coffee mornings, concerts and exhibitions.

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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