

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 17th September 2026

Present

Cllr S Butler (*Chair*), Cllr R Fellowes, Cllr A Ross, Cllr M Bailey and Cllr M Anderson
District Councillor D Pratt
Heather Quinn and William Patrick

In Attendance

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc39/26 Election of Chairman for this Meeting – Cllr S Butler was unanimously elected

Bpc40/26 Apologies – Cllr M Tabberer

Bpc41/26 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc42/26 Appointment of representative to Theobalds Trust –the Councillors agreed to an extension of four years for Shaun Cochrane

Bpc43/26 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 16th July 2026

The minutes of the meetings on 16th July 2026 were approved by the councillors as true and accurate records and signed by the Chairman.

Bpc44/26 Report form County Cllr Gary Keogh

County Cllr Keogh did not send a report nor did he attend the meeting or send apologies. Heather Quinn and William Patrick attended and apologised for Gary Keogh's lack of communication with the parish council. They noted the parish council's complete frustration that he offers no support to the parish, says he will resign but stays and votes at meetings so meets the threshold to remain. He has a four year term as the end of LGR means there will be no Suffolk County Council elections for four years. Heather and William noted the problems with road signs – the Barking sign by Rectory Farm needs to be removed as it has been damaged and is irrelevant where it is positioned. Cllr Fellowes to send a photo of the Barking sign on the Ringshall Road that has been damaged by a vehicle. Vehicles are being parked on the pavement outside Rose Cottage forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

Bpc45/26 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

District Cllr Pratt's report is Appendix b. Dan thanked the parish council for their support for Chalkeith Conservation. LGR has been halted and so Mid Suffolk have halted work and await further instruction. The government are concentrating on devolution authorities. A lot of time and money has been wasted. There will be elections in May 2027 for the District Council

Bpc46/26 Public Forum

No matters raised

Bpc47/26 Planning Matters

- a. Mid Suffolk District Council have approved planning application DC/26/01327 - Householder Application - Erection of two-storey rear extension and sun room at Dragons Lair, Willisham Road, Barking
- b. Mid Suffolk District Council have approved planning application PRIOR APPROVAL - AGRICULTURAL TO DWELLING - DC/26/02336 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 two modern barns at Overhall Farm to 6No. Dwellings. At Overhall Farm, The Tye, Barking

- c. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/26/01632 -Conditions 4 (Works to Underlying Fabric), 5 (Render Backing) and 6 (Wall Insulation), 7 (New Plinth Finish), 8 (Render Mix) and 10 (DPC) at Browns Farmhouse, Willisham Road, Barking

Bpc48/26 Finance

- a. The Councillors approved authorised payments made since the last meeting and to be made and noted any income received since last meeting
- b. The Councillors agreed the Clerk's annual pay rise of 3.3% from April 2026
- c. Insurance renewal – the Councillors agreed the renewal price of £622.69 a rise of £16.13 from last year
- d. The Councillors agreed that as Mid Suffolk District Council will no longer accept cheque payments after 1st September 2026 that for future banking arrangements the clerk will ask Barclays about a debit card

Bpc49/26 Path Along the Tye

The Ecological survey of the route of the footway as required by Planning has taken place and the Council awaits the report. When this has been received it will be possible to make a planning application. The Ecologist has said the report will be completed by the end of September

Bpc50/26 National Grid Pylons – Just three Councillors to take ID to Gudgeons so National Grid can proceed with their walk over survey of the Tye

Bpc51/26 Remembrance Sunday – Councillor Fellowes agreed to arrange for a remembrance wreath and to attend the service

Bpc52/26 Joint Neighbourhood Plan – Battisford have agreed not to pursue a joint Neighbourhood Plan with neighbouring villages. We await replies from Gt Bricett and Ringshall

Bpc53/26 Hedge at Tye Green – The Councillors agreed to cut the hedge to 6ft/2m at a cost of £1200. Clerk to arrange

Bpc54/26 Risk Assessment – Clerk to create a risk assessment for SID volunteer

Bpc55/26 Management of the Tye – It was agreed to ask Mike Smith to cut and remove the hay next summer and thank him for his work in arranging it this year

Bpc56/26 Village Hall Management Committee – Councillor Fellowes circulated the Village Hall Committee minutes to the Councillors. The committee are in the process of buying a new cooker. Recent social events have been very successful – Pies event and the coffee mornings.

Bpc57/26 Benches in the Village

It was agreed to ask the company in the Lion Barn Estate to make 4 pairs of brackets to hold benches -Cllr Bailey to organise. The bench near the Mill Yard needs to be restored.

Bpc58/26 Reports from Councillors

None

Bpc59/26 Date of the Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman Date

Appendix a: Finance Report

Financial Report 17th September 2026

Income Received since 16.7.2026

DEFRA	delinked payment	36.24
HMRC	VAT reclaim	1,194.40
		<u>1,230.64</u>

Expenditure (movement since 16.7.2026) and invoices agreed for payment

MSDC	Bin emptying	556.20	200057	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Play inspection	78.64	200058	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	August wages	401.76	200059	LGA 1972
HMRC	August tax & NI	96.61	200060	LGA 1972
L Rogers	July expenses	60.25	200061	LGA 1972
J Firman Trees & Fences	Tree work on Tye	540.00	200062	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
C Collins	Carting hay on Tye	282.00	200063	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MJ Smith	Cutting, turning hay	1,248.00	200064	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
TM &VE Edwards	Baling hay	480.00	200065	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Open Spaces Society	Annual subscription	45.00	200066	LGA 1972
L Rogers	September wages	401.56	200067	LGA 1972
HMRC	September tax & NI	96.81	200068	LGA 1972
L Rogers	August expenses	32.28	200069	LGA 1972
		<u>4,319.11</u>		

Unpresented cheques

HMRC	April tax & NI	140.37	200029	LGA 1972
Heelis & Lodge	Internal Audit 2025-26	285.00	200048	LGA 1972
MSDC	Bin emptying	556.20	200057	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MSDC	Play inspection	78.64	200058	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	August wages	401.76	200059	LGA 1972
HMRC	August tax & NI	96.61	200060	LGA 1972
L Rogers	July expenses	60.25	200061	LGA 1972
J Firman Trees & Fences	Tree work on Tye	540.00	200062	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
C Collins	Carting hay on Tye	282.00	200063	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
MJ Smith	Cutting, turning hay	1,248.00	200064	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
TM &VE Edwards	Baling hay	480.00	200065	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Open Spaces Society	Annual subscription	45.00	200066	LGA 1972
L Rogers	September wages	401.56	200067	LGA 1972
HMRC	September tax & NI	96.81	200068	LGA 1972
L Rogers	August expenses	32.28	200069	LGA 1972
		<u>4,744.48</u>		

Account	Statement date	Balance	Balance less unpaid cheques
Community a/c	13.8.26	£11,757.51	£4,744.48
Base reward a/c	13.8.26	£16,647.66	£0.00
		<u>£28,405.17</u>	<u>£23,660.69</u>
CCLA Account	2.9.26	£847.52	
		<u>£847.52</u>	<u>£259,280.10</u>

Appendix b: District Councillor Dan Pratt Report September 2026

Chalkeith Nature Reserve established in Barking Parish

The recently formed Needham Market-based charity Chalkeith Conservation have completed the purchase of a 20-acre site on the southern periphery of Needham Market. The site includes many established habitat including woodland, scrub, ancient hedgerows and chalk grassland that is particularly uncommon for this part of Suffolk. The charity will seek to enhance the chalk grassland habitat whilst maintaining it as a place for local residents to enjoy. There will be public engagement events and volunteering opportunities in the coming months. The project was supported by the Mid Suffolk Community Nature Recovery Grant.

Local Affordable Housing for Local People

MSDC Cabinet has agreed to introduce a 'Parish Connection Priority' for new affordable and socially rented homes secured through S106 agreements. This means residents that have grown up in or lived in a village will now be given priority when waiting for a home, and help them remain close to their support network. The local connection priority will be balanced against housing need.

Financial Assistance for Heat Pumps

Households seeking to convert older oil or gas heating with heat pump systems can now apply for a grant of up to £9,000. Air source heat pumps typically use three to four times less energy than a traditional gas or oil boiler to heat a home and produce fewer emissions. Residents of Suffolk can check their eligibility and register their interest on the Switch Together website.

'The Big Conversation' – A chance to fix social care challenges

Mid Suffolk District Council urges people to have their say in fixing adult social care. This follows the landmark review from the 'Casey Commission'. You can take part using this link: <https://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation/>

Derelict Fisons Site in Bramford

MSDC has stepped it to install CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour at the derelict Fisons site in Bramford. There have been several serious fire and vandalism incidents over many years. The site owners, Paper Mill Lane Properties are responsible for the security, but MDSC decided to act themselves whilst exploring future options for the site with the owners. Unfortunately, the planning permission for redevelopment of this site has now lapsed and its future is uncertain.