

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting via Skype at 7.0pm on Thursday 19th November 2020

Present

Cllr M Lillie (*Chair*), Cllr M Tabberer, Cllr R Fellowes, Cllr A Ross, Cllr M Bailey and Cllr S Butler
County Cllr K Oakes and District Cllr D Pratt

In Attendance

Mrs L Rogers *Clerk* and one resident

Bpc145/20 Apologies

None

Bpc146/20 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

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

Bpc147/20 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes

While Suffolk County Council is not providing the Government-funded vouchers to schools for Free School Meals over this half term week, we are supporting families and children in need as we don't want any child to go hungry. In August, DEFRA awarded Suffolk County Council £770,000 as our share of the hardship grant. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided further match funding of £800,000 in September. So far, the Suffolk system has spent £600,000 and this covers:

- The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme that funds supermarket, food and fuel vouchers; school uniforms; essential furniture items; white goods; and oil heating refills.
- The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phone line.
- A donation of £100,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation to provide grants to organisations to help communities with immediate hardship.

Some of the help provided to date by the hardship fund includes:

- Supporting families with food and fuel vouchers, paying utility bills, and buying school uniforms.
- Buying a bike for a man to get to his new job, after losing his old job due to Covid-19 and having to sell his car to cover expenses.
- Buying special boots for a child with disabilities, which the family could no longer afford.
- Covering rent arrears for people.

On top of this, Suffolk County Council has also committed £250,000 to Suffolk Foodbanks and awarded a further £60,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund. Schools receive government funding to provide free school meals. For maintained schools, this funding comes through Suffolk County Council and is forwarded to our community and voluntary controlled schools annually. In Suffolk, there are now about 19,000 children receiving Free School Meals. In the early summer, we widened the support given in Suffolk by providing vouchers to families once they apply for Universal Credit and giving vouchers to children entitled to Free School Meals but who are not in school. As you will be aware, the Government funded an extension of the provision of meals for children throughout the school holidays. At SCC we provided extra funding to ensure that children

who qualified for FSMs after the Government's deadline still got the vouchers throughout the summer holidays. Families who need help to feed their children or with any other financial concern can access support in many other ways in Suffolk. In the early days of the pandemic, one of our main challenges was helping those who were isolated and struggling for support. This was addressed through the Home But Not Alone phone line, which is ready to stand up again if needed. We recognise that the challenges that many families face now are financial – and many of these families will be facing hardship for the first time in their lives. The Suffolk Support and Advice Line has been set up to help address these issues. It can help with debt advice, budgeting, mortgage, rent or credit card problems and employment queries. The number is **0800 068 3131** and is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. People can also go to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/> We appreciate that the needs of people across our county will change as we go into winter. We will work with our partners to ensure that we can adapt and flex to address these needs and offer the right support at the right time. **Council announces £228,000 for tree-planting, protecting hedgerows and verges across Suffolk** Suffolk's natural environment will receive investment for tree-planting, restoring hedgerows, and improving roadside verges for wildlife. £228,000 from the Suffolk 2020 Fund will enable Suffolk County Council to enhance its work to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county. The authority will do this through a number of new schemes, as well as building on existing work. Working with The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Wardens, landowners, and county farm tenants, the funding will support the planting of around 100,000 trees, including replanting hedgerows in suitable locations across Suffolk over the next 18 months. It will also help establish around 10 community tree nurseries, which will support more planting in years to come. Local volunteers will be supported to collect seeds, set up nursery beds and grow trees in their communities. The funding will also be used to trial better ways to manage roadside verges for wildlife. This includes exploring the use of new technology and cutting techniques, as well as developing new partnerships with parishes and landowners. The funding will help expand the existing Roadside Nature Reserve network managed by the council with the help of volunteers, seeing a 25% increase in the overall length of verges managed for wildlife. **Councils ready with Test and Trace Support Payment for most vulnerable** Councils in Suffolk are helping administer a Government scheme to provide financial help to those on low incomes and benefits who must self-isolate. Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments, and how to apply, can be found on District and Borough Council websites. If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate, you are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment. Those who are eligible will need to meet all the following criteria:

- Told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
- Employed or self-employed.
- Cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.
- Currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit; income-based Employment and Support Allowance; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Support; Housing Benefit; and/or Pension Credit.

Applications are made for one person only and any further applications within the same household must be made by each individual. Payments are subject to tax but not National Insurance. People must make the application within 14 days of the last day of their NHS test

and trace self-isolation period. Applicants should ensure that they have the below information available before starting the application:

- NI number
- 8-digit test and trace ID number
- Recent bank statement, proof of self-employment, or wage slips.

If asked to do so by Test and Trace, you must self-isolate by law. Failure to do so will mean you are no longer eligible for the payment and steps will be made to recover the funds. Please visit the [NHS Test and Trace](#) website for more details of the NHS Test and Trace self-isolation requirements for those:

- Testing [positive](#)
- Those who have been in [contact with someone](#) who has tested positive and now has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Visit your District or Borough Council websites for details on how to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment:

- Babergh District Council www.babergh.gov.uk
- East Suffolk Council www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- Ipswich Borough Council www.ipswich.gov.uk
- Mid Suffolk District Councils www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
- West Suffolk Council www.westsuffolk.gov.uk

Bpc148/20 Public Forum

A resident spoke of their objection to planning application DC/20/05046 new houses in Needham Market. The objections raised were: not sufficient infrastructure in Needham Market to meet new demand, erosion of green belt between Barking and Needham Market which could be exacerbated if a ring road is created and the problem of an increase in traffic.

Bpc149/20 Report form District Cllr Dan Pratt

Covid-19 Funding Mid Suffolk is administering the Self-Isolation Support Payment. This is a £500 compensation payment for those who have had to isolate due to Track and Trace. To date the district council have allocated £33,000. Separately, the Government has provided £40,000 to the district council to use on compliance issues relating to Covid 19. As businesses prepare for the second national lockdown, the Government has announced two grant schemes for businesses. While these grants will be administered by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council, the details and criteria of the schemes are yet to be defined. **Home, But Not Alone** The free phoneline has re-opened in response to England's second national lockdown. The telephone number is 0800 876 6926 and the service will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. **Suffolk Advice and Support Service** Councils across Suffolk are funding a new telephone helpline for financial advice, housing and benefits, and access to food. This is being coordinated by Citizens Advice Bureau. Anyone seeking advice or support can call the helpline: 0800 068 3131 **Culture Recovery Fund** Mid Suffolk supported two successful bids for this including £92,000 for the Museum of East Anglian Life and £84,000 for the John Peel Centre. **Joint Local Plan** The latest version of the Local Plan has just been published for consultation in respect of technical issues. A special meeting of Council will be held on 11 November to discuss the Plan. Subject to approval at that meeting, it will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. An Inspector will be appointed and there will be a public examination

in mid-2021. The Inspector's report may well contain comments which will need to be considered before the Plan can be adopted. Each parish council will be emailed an electronic copy of the document. In the meantime, it can be found in the Planning Policy pages on Mid Suffolk's website: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Strategic-Planning/JLPReg19/FullCouncil/BMSDC-Joint-Local-Plan-Pre-Submission-Nov-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Biodiversity Action Plan Councillors in Cabinet have approved our first Biodiversity Action Plan, produced by the cross-party task force. The aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity through specific initiatives and partnership working. Initiatives include planting 500 trees and a kilometre of hedging during 2021/22, managing green space for the benefit of wildlife, and a mapping project to evaluate ecological assets.

Bpc150/20 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th September 2020

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Bpc151/20 Planning Matters

a. The councillors reviewed application DC/20/05046 for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for erection of 279 dwellings (including 100 affordable dwellings) and access at land on the north west side of Needham Road, Barking and agreed to object for the following reasons: This includes the same objections raised before; increased traffic, road accident fatalities, flooding, more houses proposed on this application, feedback from the village is negative, problems of traffic getting to the A14 via the rail bridge, no parking for surgery and shops. Part of the proposed development is in Barking. Agreed to wait for feedback from Needham market Town Council before sending objections. The deadline has been extended to 22 January 2021. Also send objections to Cllr Pratt

b. Planning Permission has been granted for Outline Planning Permission DC/17/03564 and Reserved Matters DC/19/05393 – Application under Section 73 of The Town & Country Planning Act for outline Planning permission DC/17/03564 for the variation of Reserved Matters Condition 2 (Approved plans and documents) at Land to the South side of Needham Road, Barking

c. SN/20/00377/SN - Land on The South Side Of Needham Road Barking Suffolk – The Councillors agreed to support naming the above development Denis Close. Clerk to inform Mid Suffolk District Council

Bpc152/20 Village Beacon

Cllr Bailey to check if the old collar near the war memorial is still there and usable.

Bpc153/20 Finance

a. The councillors resolved to approve the draft budget for 2021-22 at £17,320 a 5% increase as the income does not meet the income and reserves will be eroded.

b. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the Appendix, were authorised by the councillors.

c. The change to internet banking with Barclays is slow. Signatories to take mandate form and ID to Barclays update their details.

d. Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charity have sent a cheque for £335 to cover the recent defibrillator replacement pads and battery

d. The councillors agreed to purchase the latest edition of Local Council Administration. Cost £120 to be shared with Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Bpc154/20 Car Parking in Needham Market

The Councillors discussed a complaint about the reduction in car parking spaces in Needham Market due to the new housing developments. The car park on the corner of the High Street and Hurstlea Road may be retained. A further 20 spaces are to be created.

Bpc155/20 Traffic Speed Sign

Highways have approved the site at Tye Farm. The site outside Tye Farm was agreed in principle. The site outside XXXXX has been agreed in principle Cllr Fellowes to obtain the residents agreement. A fourth pole on Willisham Road to be considered when the project is working.

Bpc156/20 Speed Limit on Willisham Road

The Councillors agreed to support the extension of the 30mph speed limit on the Willisham Road as far as the village sign. The speed limit will cost £8,000 to install. Cllr Oakes generously offered to pay for this from her Highways Locality budget. Clerk to apply to Cllr Oakes with a location map.

Bpc157/20 Footway along B1078

Highways have suggested a feasibility study at an approximate cost of £5,000. This would look at crash data, traffic and a road safety assessment. Clerk to follow up

Bpc158/20 Litter Picker

Due to technical issues the interview did not take place. This will be rearranged as soon as possible.

Bpc159/20 Donations

Clerk to inform Headway and Stowmarket CAB that donations are considered at the March meeting each year.

Bpc160/20 Notice Board

Clerk to obtain estimates to replace the notice board and to find out if CIL money could be used to fund it.

Bpc161/20 Trees on the Tye

Councillors to meet and inspect the outstanding work identified by the survey after lockdown. Clerk to send invitation to all councillors.

Bpc162/20 The Tye

a. Suffolk Wildlife Trust will carry out a walk over survey of plants and insects on the Tye next spring/summer at a cost of £1750 + vat. Cllr Pratt pay for this from his locality budget. The survey will be used to form a management plan for wildlife and habitats.

b. Mid Suffolk District Council are changing the way they manage roadside verges and meadows in an effort to boost the species that have been lost since 1960. The village green at Offton is to be a site test with yellow rattle to be sown to suppress the grass to allow a natural restoration of wild flowers

c. Football Nets: It was agreed not to replace the football goal nets as there is not sufficient demand.

Bpc163/20 Football Club

Cllr Bailey to arrange for the club to look at storage options at the village hall after lockdown.

Bpc164/20 Welcome Pack

The Councillors agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

Bpc165/20 Emergency Response Plan

The councillors agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

Bpc/166/20 Dates for Future Meetings

The dates for next year’s meetings were agreed as: 21 January, 18 March, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September and 18 November

Bpc167/20 Village Hall Management Committee Update

The committee are considering new lighting in the hall and heating in the toilets due to the greater need for hand washing. Pre-school is in demand and is offering extra spaces. Cllr Pratt is keen to reinstate the bottle bank at Barking. Mid Suffolk District Council can supply a litter bin beside the bottle bank and empty it weekly at a cost of £30 per year

Bpc168/20 Easement for Land North of The Tye

It was agreed to accept the offer for £195,000 paid on completion of the easement and the council’s legal fees to be met in full.

Bpc169/20 Date of the Next Meeting

Date of next meeting will be on Thursday 21st January 2021

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman Date

Finance Report

Income received since 17.9.20

MSDC	Precept	5190.50
Monks Eleigh PC	CiLCA training	175.00
Barclays	Interest	0.29
		<u>£5365.79</u>

Expenditure since 17.9.20 and to be agreed for payment

Community Action Suffolk	Annual insurance	607.60	LGA 1972, s101
Command Pest Control	Wasp nest on Tye	48.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Society Local Council Clerk	CiLCA training	350.00	LGA 1972, s111
SALC	CiLCA training	30.00	LGA 1972, s111
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator pads	149.40	LGA 1972, s139
L Rogers	October wages	342.76	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	October expenses	28.55	20.00 LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	August grass cut	283.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
Savills	Professional fees	1669.26	LGA 1972, s111
Tye Farm Contracting	September grass cut	283.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
SALC	CiLCA module 1	60.00	LGA 1972, s111
Community Action Suffolk	Website hosting	60.00	LGA 1972, s142
Bates, Wells & Braithwaite	Legal fees	450.00	LGA 1972, s111
R Fellowes	Poppy wreath	20.00	LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	October grass cut	566.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	November wages	342.76	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	November expenses	27.80	LGA 1972
		<u>5,318.13</u>	

Unpresented cheques

Community Action Suffolk	Annual insurance	607.60	LGA 1972, s101
Society Local Council Clerk	CiLCA training	350.00	LGA 1972, s111
SALC	CiLCA training	30.00	LGA 1972, s111
Tye Farm Contracting	August grass cut	283.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
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R Fellowes	Poppy wreath	20.00	LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	October grass cut	566.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
L Rogers	November wages	342.76	LGA 1972 s112
L Rogers	November expenses	27.80	LGA 1972
MSDC	Play inspection	60.82	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9&10
		<u>4,810.24</u>	

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques
Community a/c	13.10.20	£14,062.98	£9,252.74		£4,810.24
Base reward a/c	13.10.20	£35,283.50	£35,283.50	0.00	0.00
Paths Partnership a/c	13.10.20	£83.65	£83.65	0.00	0.00
Active Saver	13.10.20	£1.35	£1.35		
		<u>£49,431.48</u>	<u>£44,621.24</u>		