

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.00pm
on Thursday 3rd March 2022

PRESENT:

Cllr Marcus Tabberer– Chairman, Cllr Rosamund Fellowes, Cllr Ann Ross, Cllr Steve Butler
and Cllr Mike Bailey
County Cllr Kay Oakes and District Cllr Dan Pratt

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Rogers - Clerk
5 members of the public

BPC 01/22 APOLOGIES

Mike & Kate Griffin (Art Group), Shelley Symons and James Gough (Ringshall Primary School)

BPC 02/2 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 27th May 2021 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that the Clerk had not written to the owner of the Fox pub and that the pub is no longer registered as an asset of community value. Clerk to report concern about the poor condition of the pub to the Heritage team at Mid Suffolk District Council.

BPC 03/22 BARKING PARISH COUNCIL –Cllr Marcus Tabberer (Chairman)

Firstly, I'd like to begin by thanking Mark Lillie for his excellent work during his time as Chair. Mark stepped down as the end of last year due to relocating to be nearer to his family. The PC wish him well for future.

Secondly, I'd like to express thanks to Lucinda and the fellow councillors for all the efforts and hard work during 2021 and into 2022. It was a difficult year with the extension of further lockdowns and delays in retuning to some normality. My thanks to the Council for continuing to rising to the challenge to using online technology to allow us to meet and continue. Also, the support that has been provided to me as I transition to the Chair has been very gratefully received.

Thanks to Dan Pratt, our District Councillor, for his continuing and hard work during the past year. His continued input and consultation with regards to help of how we manage the parish wildlife and nature is invaluable.

We would like to thank Councillor Kay Oakes, our County Councillor, for her hard work and guidance during the past year. In particular with help around a number of traffic matters during the year. Both Dan & Kay have also help and contributed to the many discussions of planning and longer term sustainability.

The SID camera that was up and running early last year has given us some valuable data and received positive feedback from the village. Our challenge this year will be to maintain its operational use and rotation of positions within the village.

Continued progress has been made on negotiating and agreeing an easement with building contractor DAB for access across the Tye and aligning all the necessary legal permissions and notifications. This has taken significant time and effort and special thanks to Lucinda for keeping on top of this. As per last year The PC is still evaluating the construction of a

footway along the Tye with a survey to poll interest sent to village residents. The intent is to utilise funds generated by this easement to be used to help fund part of this footway. Following on from the previously commissioned tree survey a number of urgent items were addressed and preventive maintenance actioned. Thankfully recent storms have resulted in only some minor damage.

With the resignation of Mark from the PC and a previous resignation from a councillor we are now looking to recruit new councillors to bring us back to full strength. Although to date we have yet to achieve this, additional efforts will be put into this during the forthcoming year. However with pandemic now moving to be behind us I feel confident that the community will go from strength to strength with renewed optimism as we move forward.

BPC 04/22 INVITED REPRESENTATIVES:

St Mary's Church, Barking - Sue Marsh

No Church warden was elected following the retirement of Barry Gascoyne. It was agreed to share the duties between the members of the PCC. Brenda Dickerson also retired from the PCC after many years of service, for which we are very grateful and for her continuing as Organist. As for everyone and all organisations, the last year has been difficult for the Church in Barking. However our monthly Communion services continued under Covid restrictions, PCC meetings took place, some on Zoom, thanks to the expertise of Vanessa. New members of the congregation have entered enthusiastically into the life of the parish. However the Church has remained closed to visitors as scaffolding is in place allowing for the assessment of repairs to the leaking South Aisle roof. Estimates were obtained and the tedious business begun of applying for Faculty (permission) from the Diocese and obtaining grants towards the repair. We are grateful to the Needham and Barking Charities for their funding of the initial repairs. Sadly there are more to be done to the window surrounds to complete the waterproofing.

One wedding, one baptism and one funeral were held during this year. We were also able to hold our Carol service and enjoy the hand bell ringers, thank you Phil. Also the lovely bells could be rung again. The usual well attended Remembrance service was held on the Tye with a contingent from REME, thank you Pastor Graham.

We were also able to do some fundraising in 2021. A takeaway Valentine's tea was well supported but became a home delivery as the snow and ice mad Parsons Lane unsafe. An Easter raffle followed and then a very successful Harvest Supper was held with fewer numbers but great support, Christmas wreath making, again was popular and mince pies sold before Christmas. In spite of this and people's generous donations we were unable to completely meet our Parish Share to the Dioceses of £6,000.

The churchyard maintenance has been taken over by Will Pratt and we are grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution towards part of this. Unfortunately a planned working party in the summer was cancelled due to atrocious weather but we are very grateful to Emma smith who has been clearing in the churchyard for her DOE award. During the Covid restrictions and people's need for exercise, problems arose with a large influx of walker's parked cars in the churchyard car park. This led to difficulty parking for a funeral and some services; also damage to the grass surrounds, more litter and dog fouling. A notice was erected reminding the public that the church car park is private, for the use of Church goers and visitors to the graveyard. This resulted in some hostility but negotiations with the Woodland Trust and the Parish Council, plus the return to a more normal lifestyle seem to have reduced the problem. However there is a need for care and understanding of the

limitations as weddings, baptisms and particularly funerals can occur at times other than Sundays. If group wish to park, please would they contact us and we will do our best to oblige and a donation to its upkeep is always welcome.

In 2022 we hope to be able to complete the work to the windows and finally make improvements to the access paths to the Church, funds permitting. Our planned AGM is Tuesday 26th April, time and place to be advertised. We plan a walking opportunity, with refreshments, in the privately owned Muckinger Wood, Ringshall on Saturday 23 April. This has lovely bluebells and spring flowers. Again details will be in magazine and hopefully on the website. On Saturday 21st May we hope the Triannon Music Group concert can finally go ahead including Dan the rector on his cello in the Church. Again, details later. We are able to join the Jubilee celebrations on the Tye running a tombola. Items for this will be very welcome. Please come and join us at any or all of these occasions. We also plan a craft fair on Sunday 6th November.

Our Communion service, monthly on the fourth Sunday is at 11am. We are a small congregation but you are all very welcome. If anyone wishes to visit the church when it is not open please get in touch and it can be arranged. We support a large beautiful historic Church which provides a venue for baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as a burial place for all residents of Barking. The loss of the Church would be a tragedy but those of you who read the newspapers will know that is not an impossibility, with Parishes being amalgamated. We are already one of eight served by one incumbent, Dan and churches being closed but the Church authorities all over the country. Our numbers and activities are scrutinised annually and contrary to popular understanding we receive no help from the Diocese but pay them to exist.

Barking Chapel –Pastor Graham Steward: This past year, in common with everyone else we have had to adjust to changes in government guidelines as to what we could do and how we could do it. Generally, we have tried to function as normally as possible. Now we are looking forward to adjusting to whatever the new normal might be. Our regular congregations are a bit smaller than before Covid, partly because of age and health issues and one or two are still not confident about mixing with others. One family moved on because the father has become a pastor of a church in Colchester. We have resumed a regular programme of services and activities alongside our regular Sunday services. We meet every Sunday morning and twice monthly at 5pm, when the programme can be quite variable. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the morning service becomes an all age family service. It was good to be able to do a variety of things over the Christmas period, including Cake and carol, a family dress up Nativity service and Carols by candlelight on Christmas eve.

We have a few activities which happen monthly, such as coffee morning, an afternoon ladies meeting and an evening friends and neighbours session. Jam Club is for children and includes Bible stories interspersed with a variety of craft activities. These are normally four hour sessions and we usually do one in each school holiday. We were pleased that children who came before were really keen to return and several others have joined. We had 28 at the last session which stretches our resources a bit but is a great problem to have. It is also good to be able to be involved in the wider community and we are able to lead an on-line assembly at Ringshall school each week. We also support Stowmarket Food Bank regularly and one of our members is a volunteer helper. Overall we are encouraged by where we are and look forward to continuing to share our

journey of faith in Jesus with one another and anyone else who would wish to join us.

Village Hall Management Committee & Community Council – Mike Bailey

There has been a lot of activity carrying out improvements. There is new lighting in the hall – strip lights and a dimmable low level lighting. The fire and smoke alarms are being hard wired in to meet new requirements. The outside painting is almost complete. Pre-school is fully functioning. The gates have been locked which caused problems for visitors to the village but the gates are now being left open again and the parking issue has resolved itself. The post for the gates had to be replaced as it was damaging the wall.

Ringshall & Barking Women’s Institute – Joyce Dewick – Unfortunately I have to report that the Ringshall & Barking WI will close after its meeting on Tuesday 8th March. Several factors have brought this about- Covid obviously played a big part. We had no members meetings between February 2020 and November 2021 (except for one open air meeting in the summer) although the Committee still met via Zoom and we contacted the majority of our members via the internet. We did manage a members meeting in December and a Christmas meal with partners, and have met once in February 2022. However only 12 members attended as many are still nervous about mixing, or are awaiting operations for themselves or partners, or don’t like driving at night. The majority of our members are over 70 so this is not surprising.

Another major factor was the loss of our dear President, Sue Bailey, who was also the ideas man and the force behind so many of our actions. Then our Treasurer also resigned and we have been unable to find anyone willing to take up this post, despite pleas to the members and to the local community via the Four Parishes magazine. The WI Federation will not allow us to continue without a Treasurer, so our meeting next week will be a farewell Party and we will be ‘suspended’ by the Suffolk east Federation, who will hold our funds for 2 years. If we can reform a full Committee within those 2 years, we can claim our funds back and begin again. Some members plan to continue to meet for the Book Club and Crochet Club and we hope to set up a Ladies that Lunch Club and maybe eventually, a Ladies Club to be held in the afternoons to encourage elderly members to attend. This will not be affiliated to the WI Federation.

Ringshall School – Mr Gough’s report was read by Cllr Tabberer

This report will give an overview of the learning provision in place at Ringshall Primary School during the 2021/22 academic year. It will also give an overview of the school’s current plans and its plans for the future.

What is the school focusing on currently? The 2021/22 academic year has been a busy one at Ringshall School. A new curriculum was launched for the non-core subjects and work has been ongoing to integrate this and the other parts of our curriculum throughout the year. We have created an online brochure for our curriculum on our website, that details the depth and breadth of what we teach at Ringshall as well as the intent, implementation and intended impact of our curriculum.

School Development Plan

In September 2021 the school launched its new ‘School Development Plan’ setting out the school’s priorities for this year. These are;

- Reading and Vocabulary
- Distributed Leadership

- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Support for the Vulnerable
- Excellent Teaching and learning across the Curriculum

Reading and Vocabulary

Staff have worked hard this year to support and develop a culture of reading and language development. The library has been improved and revamped. We have invested in new books and reading materials. The timetable has been adapted to allow for greater time to read and have reading taught. Reading and vocabulary have been prioritised across the curriculum, with all subjects not just English. The whole class reading teaching technique has been rolled out across the school with training from the Trust's Specialist Leader In Education (SLE) and the Trust's Reading Advocate. Staff have undertaken a 'develop a love of reading' training session, with measures put in place to develop a love of reading throughout the school.

Supporting our Vulnerable pupils, Enrichment, Wellbeing and Mental Health

At Ringshall we are committed to supporting all our pupils, especially the most vulnerable. We have invested a lot of time and money this year into SEN support, SEN resources and SEN staff training training.

We want to support all our children's wellbeing and mental health. This has been a key priority at Ringshall School for some time, but even more so following the COVID pandemic. Our nurture sessions have been expanded with an additional staff member recruited to enable more nurture sessions for more children.

The school has also focused on providing numerous fun and enriching activities to develop the children's general wellbeing, mental health and cultural capital. This year has been packed with many exciting enrichment activities. For example, just in the last few weeks the school has had a 'Love yourself' Wellbeing week, numerous virtual author visits in every key stage, tree planting for every child, themed days, such as Harry Potter day and Number day, and other experiences such as Mental Health week, storytelling workshops and even a virtual visit from the local MP. Please see our Twitter feed for more information -

@RingshallPS

Linked to our enrichment activities we continue to run our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' weekly mental health focus. This is a day, once a week, devoted to developing a healthy body and mind. We have a wellbeing assembly and the children take part in a range of wellbeing activities, including mindful meditation and the daily mile.

In fact, we have just had confirmed some exciting wellbeing news. Thanks to school fundraising and the 'Armed forces covenant fund' grant we are going to build a brand new 'Ninja Warrior' style fitness trail on the school grounds. This is such an exciting development for the school. We hope to have the course built and ready to use by the end of Spring this year (May 2022).

Staff development, excellent teaching and leadership

There has also been a focus on staff learning and development. CPD sessions are run in every staff room, on PD days and as ad-hoc staff training sessions. These sessions have taken place on numerous occasions since the start of the school year to support areas such as wellbeing, reading, science, behaviour and the design of the curriculum.

To develop teaching skills within the school, the leadership team has been using the book 'Walk Thrus' as a focus for pedagogy improvement. Three new areas of improvement are selected each term. Monitoring of lessons then focuses on these areas, supported by

training and discussion in staff meetings. Monitoring shows this approach is successful and impactful on classroom practice.

To further support consistency and high quality teaching in all subjects, subject leaders have produced documents that detail how their subject should be taught, planned, assessed and resourced. These were launched in September and titled - 'Ringshall Ways.' These documents also detail the subject aims, how work will be recorded and how they will ensure curriculum coverage.

All teachers have a subject responsibility and this combined with an emphasis on a distributive leadership approach will provide a comprehensive and high quality, broad and balanced curriculum offering in all classrooms with no subjects considered a poor relation. LSAs also have clear responsibilities and areas of leadership, such as for nurture, reading, behaviour etc...

On a final note, Ringshall Primary School intends to position itself fully within the communities it serves. Developing links and partnerships within the community is a central ambition for the school as it moves forward.

Barking Art Group –*Kate Griffin's report was read by Cllr Tabberer*

On 2nd March 2021 nine out of ten members met in the village hall and again on 9th March. However, no meetings of any kind were permitted after this date due to Coronavirus. We restarted again on 13th September with our regular ten members from the surrounding villages when we were able to re-group and restock the refreshment cupboard. Not all our members could attend every subsequent week due to minor illnesses, hospital appointments etc. The wife of one of our members was taken into care and now has sadly died, but he is hoping to return soon when we will be back to full strength. We are quite happy with this number as we are able to maintain our safe social distance and still have room to carry out our various styles of painting using different materials. As we are all at present past retirement age we are happy to meet and compare styles and be sociable. Our weekly attendance fee is acceptable as it covers the cost of hiring the room and our refreshment break for coffee/tea and biscuits often supplemented by members bringing birthday cakes. Several of the group's paintings are on show and are for sale in the Annex which we have not visited for the past two years

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities – *David Bishop*

A REMINDER OF OUR PURPOSE The "Town Lands" and "Almshouse" charities are restricted by charity law to make grants that only benefit residents in Needham Market town and the parishes of Barking & Darmsden. They are registered with the Charity Commission and managed by eleven local trustees.

The principal objectives of Town Lands are:

- to relieve residents' need, hardship or distress, and to provide relief for old age or sickness in the area, including convalescence, and
- to use any balance of income for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants as the trustees think fit.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCE Apart from grants to local individuals and organisations, Trustees support the local minibus, administer the historic Camping Land as a public amenity, provide a site for the Scout hut, and manage the allotments on Quinton Road. The Almshouse charity oversees four flats within Orwell Housing's Drift Court sheltered housing scheme. As the annual parish meeting has been brought forward compared to previous years, we are unable to provide any year-end numbers yet. Our principal grant for this year-to-date, however, is about £5,300 for emergency roof repairs to Barking's parish church, subject to best endeavours to recover VAT thereon from a government scheme. Trustees continue to review Covid-related support to families distressed by the lockdowns. Full details will be found in the independently-examined Annual Report and financial statements, which will be available from the Charity Commission website in due course. **FUTURE PLANS** After prioritising those in need, Trustees are always willing to discuss feasible ideas/projects within the community, subject to any constraint of funds available. Better use of Almshouse funds is also a key focus. Historically, rent from a small parcel of land in Greeting St Mary provided a small income & coal for residents of the old almshouses, but is not pertinent today. Trustees now have outline planning permission for housing on this land, and are reviewing options for new charity buildings to offer modern sheltered accommodation for local residents in need of support. We feel this will be better utilisation of our land asset for the benefit of the community.

Theobald's Foundation – Shaun Cochrane

For those present who might not be aware of what the Theobald's Endowed Foundation Charity is I thought I would start by giving a very short summary of its background and aims. The scheme in its current form came into being in 1986 following a donation from Needham & Barking Charities and a very generous bequest from Mr Eric Lacey Theobald of over £30,000 in 1983. However, the Foundation itself can trace its history right back to 1632 with the endowment of a Free School in Needham Market. The school developed over many years to the point where in the 19th Century it had achieved considerable status and reputation, details of which can be found in the History of Needham Market by the late Hugh Paget. However, following the eventual closure of the school, the Foundation was governed by a new Trust deed established in 1911 enabling the Trustees, still called Governors, utilising a limited endowment, to give restricted financial assistance to a small number of applicants for the continuation of their education. The Foundation in its current form was approved by the Charities Commission and established in November 1986 replacing the 1911 Trust Deed. Direction of the Foundation lies with 9 Trustees, of whom 2 are nominated by Needham Market Town Council and 2 by Barking Parish Council the remaining Trustees are co-opted. The beneficial area is the civil parishes of Needham and Barking and the potential beneficiaries are young people under 25 proceeding to Higher or Further Education that have previously passed through schools in Needham or Ringshall, this being to help provide facilities otherwise not available from usual County resources. It is the role of the Trustees to make grants to qualifying individuals and manage and maintain the charitable fund through investment. Written applications for grants are welcomed from individuals within the qualifying parishes and these are generally reviewed annually at the Foundations January meeting. Applications are considered in line with the request made by each individual against a set of qualifying criteria and scale of grant available. A written thank you from fund recipients is expected by the Trustees, although sadly not always received, and will be taken into account should the applicant approach the

Foundation in subsequent years for further grants. In 2021 grants have been given to 20 applicants totalling £3,640, to students from both areas of benefit. These funds typically assist the young students in the purchase of books, study materials and specialist equipment pertaining to the area of studies they are engaged in. As in previous years as we approach the annual grant cycle we will be promoting awareness of the Foundation to local students moving into, or continuing in, further education and inviting them to apply.

BPC05/22 Proposed Footway on the Tye

A survey has been given to each house in Barking and the majority of responses are in favour. Some people have asked reasonable questions about where, how long, funding etc. We need a feasibility study and funding and to check if there is an appetite for a path. If there is, the money from granting the easement would be used towards the cost, therefore it is important to check the feeling in the village for a footway. It will probably take two phases to reach the far end of the village. The survey still needs to be given to a few more houses and we will ensure everyone receives a copy.

BPC6/22 Public Forum

A parishioner told the meeting that sadly John Dickerson had died recently. He has given much to the village and had supported the Parish Council, Village Hall, Community Council and looked after the war memorial ensuring it looked its best for the Remembrance Service each year. He asked if the Parish Council would look to create a remembrance in the village for him. Would a member of the Parish Council attend his funeral.

Concern was raised about where the Jubilee celebrations would take place on the Tye due to potential damage to the hay and orchids. The event will take place on the Ringshall Road side of the Tye. If anyone is concerned about orchids on the Tye, please inform the clerk and arrange to put posts and string to show where they are so the grass cutter can clearly see them.

St Mary's church are holding a celebratory even song on the Sunday of the Jubilee weekend at 5pm. The church bells will also be rung in celebration.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Chairman..... Date.....