

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Thursday 26th April 2012

PRESENT:

Cllr Michael Smith - Chairman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs R J Cochrane - Clerk

30 members of the public signed the Attendance Register (attached to these minutes)

PM 01//12 APOLOGIES

Monica Gibbs (Ringshall School), Michael Hodgson (St Marys Church), Richard Cage (Barking Tree Warden)

PM 02/12 MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the meeting held on 14th April 2011 were handed out. It was agreed by those present that they should be signed by the Chair as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed.

PM 03/12 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

PM 04/12 INVITED REPRESENTATIVES:

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports are attached to these Minutes.

a) Suffolk Police (Mid Suffolk South Team) – PCSO Matt Brown. Full Report attached.

PCSO Matt Brown reported that theft of scrap metal has increased due to its value. Evidence that it is being shipped to China. Sgt Colin Curtis has now retired and has been succeeded by Sgt Neil Patterson who has 73 parishes to look after. PC Amy Yeldham has left and has joined the Halesworth Response Team. PC Andy Pursehouse will be her replacement. Speed Enforcement has always been a problem. Barking, Somersham & Great Bricett has set up a Community Speed Watch Scheme. PCSO Brown thanked those volunteers who have given up their time in all weathers. Approx. 298 vehicles have been reported in Barking.

b) Barking Neighbourhood Watch – Peter Wright. Full Report attached.

Nine suspected vehicles noted, six suspected persons plus four door to door sales people, theft of tractor batteries, criminal damage – cottage window broken in order to remove furniture, tarmac layers, computer scams, computer ID theft, alleged illegal immigrants, BT cable thefts. A big thank you to all Neighbourhood Watch Deputies – all areas of the village are now covered.

c) Suffolk County Council – County Cllr Julia Truelove. Full Report attached.

Councillor Truelove congratulated the meeting on such a good attendance. Councillor Truelove's report included the following: Swingeing cuts announced. New Strategic Direction was reviewed following the departure of Andrea Hill. Mark Bee & Deborah Cadman have arrived. Many services will be outsourced. Libraries Consultation. Highways – private contractor will take over. Youth Clubs – service cut out completely unless local groups can take them on. Best service for our elderly people should be demanded. Concessionary Bus Fairs – being looked at again. Bramford Community Waste Recycling Centre proved unsuccessful – disappointing. Broadband – concerned at the need to improve, helped by Parish Council to promote consultation, largest response received in the County was from this Division. Ours is a 'white' area – known to be in most need. Much cause to celebrate – Community Pub in Battsford, Community Shop in Somersham, New Village Hall in Offton, Ringshall Play Area, Youth Facilities in Needham Market, £250 Grant towards Diamond Jubilee Celebrations matched by Parish Council. Thanks to the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support during the year.

d) Mid Suffolk District Council – District Cllr Stephen Wright. Full Report attached.

Cllr Wright reported on the following: Household Waste Recycling site at Bramford – little hope of it re-opening, Cement works housing site, Babergh/MSDC working together, Sno-Asis update, East Anglian One, SITA Incinerator at Great Blakenham, Straw burning incinerator at Mendlesham, Parliamentary Boundary Review. Cllr Wright was asked why there was a referendum on the Babergh/MSDC merger, which resulted in a ‘no’ vote, when the two have all but merged anyway? A: The need to cut costs.

e) St Mary’s Church, Barking – Michael Hodgson. Full Report attached.

Michael Hodgson was not able to be present, so Barry Gascoyne read the report which included the following: 3 Weddings, 3 Funerals & 2 Baptisms, Christian Aid collection – £ 297.91, July Family Service raised £106.50 for Christian Aid’s East African Appeal, Carol Service raised £161 for the Children’s Society, monthly services at Barking Hall Nursing Home, Christmas & Easter Mornings Services and Remembrance Service on the Tye – jointly held with Barking Chapel, Suppers to raise funds. Special Diamond Jubilee Service planned for this year.

f) Barking Chapel – Pastor Graham Steward. Full Report attached.

Pastor Steward’s report included the new kitchen, musical accompaniments at services, Village Choir visit, Children’s Activity Day, Monthly Coffee Morning joint venture with St Mary’s Church, Remembrance Sunday, Sunrise Service at Easter, and forthcoming Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

g) Barking Tree Warden – Richard Cage (Full report attached)

Richard Cage was unable to be present, but had sent his report, which was read by the Clerk. Suffolk Hedgerow Survey completed for Barking & Darmsden - thanks to all who helped with the survey. Gaps in new hedge planted on the Tye in 2011 will be filled in the autumn, diseased and damaged horse chestnut trees were felled and stumps removed. Funding still available for Tree Warden training.

h) Barking Community Council – Brian Smith. Full Report attached.

Community Council Chairman, Brian Smith reported on the Scarecrow Week, Summer Supper, the Radio Play - Noel Coward’s ‘Hay Fever’, Victorian Evening, Winter Supper, Dotty Dominoes, Race Night, regular Film Nights, Annual Inter-Village Quiz. Forthcoming events include Diamond Jubilee celebrations, another Scarecrow Week which will have a Royal theme, a torchlight procession culminating in the lighting of a beacon on the Tye, and a Village Olympics and Picnic. Thank you to everyone for their hard work.

i) Barking Village Hall Management Committee –Jo Cook. Full Report attached.

The Village Hall Management Committee’s Chairman, Mrs Jo Cook reported on the loss of the Zumba Group and the Chestnut Club, and the addition of the Village Choir which meets to practice in the Hall. Plans for the extension are being finalised. Screen purchased by the Community Council now installed and used for the Film Nights. Hire charges needed to be increased.

j) Ringshall & Barking WI – Hilary Jeffrey. Full Report attached.

The President, Mrs Hilary Jeffrey reported the various topics covered during the year at meeting, the suspension of the walking group, the various outings that have taken place, and the events held including the popular Soup & Puds lunch which raised £400 towards the Woolverstone Wish Appeal. Current activities include the production of a Wall Hanging to celebrate the Jubilee. This will be hung in the Village Hall when finished.

k) Barking Tye Community Choir – Sandra Reynolds. Full Report attached.

Sandra Reynolds report included the following main points: Choir’s first rehearsal 5th April 2011. Originally Ringshall & Barking WI Choir, now expanded to include non-WI members. Only womens voices at present, but hoped that some men will join. 1940s evening, a very busy Christmas schedule and Holy Week. Future events include Royal Albert Hall performance in July of ‘The Armed Man’.

l) Barking Chestnut Club – *Tony Harrison. Full Report attached.*

The Chairman - Tony Harrison, reported that the Chestnut Club was wound up on 31st December 2011, partly due to falling numbers - there were only 5 people from Barking left in the Club. It was also felt that he and Mabs wanted to take a step back, but no-one came forward to take over the running of the Club. The balance of the Club funds were donated to MacMillan Cancer Research following a members' vote. During the year, the annual Strawberry Tea was held, this time in the Village Hall due to bad weather, in August the annual visit to the Hut at Felixstowe took place, and the Christmas Lunch was the highlight of the year. A big thanks to everyone who has supported the Club over the years.

m) Barking Carpet Bowls – *Dennis Eaton – No report attached.*

Dennis Eaton reported 18 playing members. A good year with Barking Carpet Bowls being recognised as the Best Carpet Bowls Team in Suffolk.

n) Ringshall Primary School – *Graeme Steward (School Governor). Full written report attached.*

Graeme Steward (School Governor) passed on apologies from Monica Gibbs and reported on the main highlights of the year.

o) Barking Art Group – *Kate Griffin. Full Report attached.*

Kate Griffin reported 15 dedicated members, several of which have exhibited and/or sold their work in the past year. An afternoon outdoor sketching of Buxhall Church was in addition to the weekly meetings. There is a waiting list to join the group.

p) Barking Pre-School – *Alex Smith. Full Report attached.*

Alex Smith reported another busy year. Terrie Goad stepped down as Pre-School Leader and Shelly was recruited. She is studying for a BA Hons in Early Learning. Intake age now reduced to 2 so children are with the Barking Pre-School for longer. Several fund-raising events have been held – Christmas Shopping Fayre, Easter Egg Hunt, Shopping Trip to Westfield Centre. For the first time in several years, the Pre-School is in profit.

q) Local History Recorder – *Mabs Harrison. Full Report attached*

The Local History Recorder- Mabs Harrison, reported for the last time, as she has stepped down as Local History Recorder for Barking. The report included the many events that have taken place this year – Winter & Summer Suppers, Harvest Supper, Murder Mystery evening, bonfire & fireworks, First Friday evenings, and New Year's Eve Party. A memorial service was held at Lady's Walk for a Spitfire pilot killed in 1939 when his plane crashed in Barking. Mabs has attended several meetings with other Local History Recorders. Unfortunately, no-one has come forward to take over the role as Barking's Local History Recorder.

r) Parish Paths Partnership – *John Dickerson. Full Report attached.*

Shaun Cochrane, Ray Banyard and John Dickerson are the members of the group. Majority of footpaths are maintained in good order. Weather permitting they try to walk the paths twice a month, but 24 miles of paths to cover. Appeal was made to parishioners to report any damage to stiles, or obstructions with wire, fallen trees etc.

s) Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities – *David Bishop. Full Report attached.*

Net assets of over £1.75m. Fewer grants were approved due to financial constraints. Grants to Barking Chapel, C.A.B. emergency fund, St Marys Church Barking, the Needham Market Venture Scouts and to a number of individuals. Allotments named 'The Bob Robertson Allotments' in memory of the late Chairman. Alan Wilcox has retired after nearly 30 years as a Trustee.

t) Theobald's Foundation – *Carol Wright. Full Report attached.*

14 grants totalling £2,745 made to young people to assist with their further education. 4 applicants from Barking and 10 from Needham Market.

u) Barking Parish Plan Implementation Action Group – Rosemary Cochrane

Rosemary Cochrane reported that an Implementation Action Group has been formed – Sue Marsh, Sue Bailey & Rosemary Cochrane. Group looking at actions such as setting up a Parish Buying Group for heating oil, setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme, the feasibility of starting up a Community Shop, promoting the footpaths in the parish and generally overseeing the Action Plan. The progress of the Action Plan will be reported on annually at this meeting.

v) Barking Community Speed Watch – Shaun Cochrane – full report attached

Shaun Cochrane reported as co-ordinator of the Barking Community Speedwatch Team. The three teams – Barking, Somersham & Great Bricett share the equipment,. Barking currently has 6 volunteers. 492 vehicles recorded in the three parishes with 298 being recorded in Barking. Average speed in Barking 39.9mph of those recorded. Highest single vehicle 59mph. Fastest motorbike 43mph. Thanks to Parish Council and PCSO for their support, encouragement & guidance.

PM05/12 – BARKING PARISH COUNCILCHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr Michael Smith.

Full Report attached.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Michael Smith gave the Parish Council Chairman’s Report. A copy of the Chairman’s Report is attached to these Minutes.

PM06/12 GUEST SPEAKER – DR DANIEL POULTER MP

Dr Poulter was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Dr Poulter spoke briefly about his background and outlined 3 key points:

1. Superfast Broadband for Suffolk – Unacceptable that Suffolk has been left behind. £12m of Government money being sought. In 5 years’ time, every community should have high speed broadband.
2. Local Healthcare – Losing vital key services in Suffolk. 5m for Heart Unit in Ipswich. More money for NHS locally due to ageing population.
3. The needs of Rural Communities – Campaigning for rural communities.

PM07/12 PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair invited questions from the public. A member of the public informed the meeting of a large pot hole which has appeared near the letter box on the Tye. Clerk to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm and all were invited to stay for refreshments.

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