

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Thursday 26th April 2013

PRESENT:

Cllr Stephen Butler - Chairman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs R J Cochrane - Clerk

County Cllr Julia Truelove

District Cllr Stephen Wright

PC Andy Martin

Mr Robert Horn, Suffolk ACRE

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

BPM 01//13 APOLOGIES

Michael Hodgson (St Marys Church), Richard Cage (Barking Tree Warden), PC Tina Fairness, Pastor Graham Steward & Sandra Reynolds (Choir)

BPM 02/13 MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the meeting held on 26th April 2012 were handed out. It was proposed by Brian Smith, seconded Carol Wright and agreed by those present that they should be signed by the Chair as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed.

BPM 03/13 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

BPM04/13 – BARKING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr Stephen Butler.

Full Report attached.

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

Main points: Currently 1 vacancy. 7 meetings held. Consulted on 8 planning applications. Community Speed Watch Team not currently active as there is no co-ordinator. New Spring rocker erected on the Tye. Donations to St Marys Church, Royal British Legion & Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. Intelligent Lighting System installed. Adoption of new Suffolk Code of Conduct and General Power of Competence. Budget set at £29,107. Precept remains at £8,362 (no increase). Council now using Twitter & Facebook. Coffee Morning hosted by Council in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care raised £120. Queens Diamond Jubilee financially supported by Parish Council. Wrought iron beacon purchased for Jubilee celebrations. Community Governance review saw Darmsden separate from Barking.

BPM 05/13 INVITED REPRESENTATIVES:

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

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

Main Points: Reduced Budget as part of a 2-year programme. Education in Suffolk. New Head of Children’s Services. Better Broadband for Suffolk. Youth Travel Card. Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service. County Care Homes. Police & Crime Commissioner appointment. Libraries. Locality Budget funded Jubilee celebrations, highways works adjacent to Barking Hall Nursing Home and to help establish Community Speed Watch Teams. Cllr Truelove wished it to be noted that Barking Parish Council had fully supported Darmsden residents’ request for ‘independence’ throughout the whole process.

- b) Mid Suffolk District Council** – *District Cllr Stephen Wright. Full Report attached.*
Main points: Council Tax frozen for a second year. Textile recycling numbers down on last year, but black bins are not as full. Energy from Waste site at Great Blakenham on track for being in operation August 2014. Solar energy farm applications are on the increase. East Anglia Off Shore Wind Farm. Somersham shop and tennis courts supported. Darmsden now a Parish Meeting.
- c) Suffolk Police (Mid Suffolk South Team)** – *PC Andy Martin. Full Report attached.*
Main points: 3 PCs & 3 PCSOs at Needham Market. Police & Crime Commissioner elected. Douglas Paxton new Chief Constable. 8 Crimes within the area (Burglary x 2, Burglary other building x 1, Drink Drivers x 2, Theft x 1, Fraud x 1, Criminal Damage x 1). Community Speed Watch – Barking/Somersham/Great Bricett. Police being pro-active to catch speeding drivers, although SID currently out of action. Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and members thanked for their continued hard work
- d) Barking Neighbourhood Watch** – *Peter Wright - Barking Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Full Report attached.*
Main points: Burglary - due to picked lock. Burglary – back door entry. Doorstep sellers. Suspect vehicles and persons. New Neighbourhood Watch sign erected. Church illegally entered. All deputies thanked.
- e) St Mary’s Church, Barking** - *Michael Hodgson. Full Report attached.*
Michael Hodgson was not able to be present, but a written report had been received in advance.
- f) Barking Chapel** – *Pastor Graham Steward. Full Report attached.*
Graham Steward was not able to be present, but a written report had been received in advance.
- g) Barking Tree Warden** – *Richard Cage (Full report attached)*
Richard Cage was unable to be present, but had sent his report in advance.
- h) Barking Community Council** – *Brian Smith (Community Council Chairman). Full Report attached.*
Main points: No Fair due to the clash with the Olympics. Diamond Jubilee celebrations incl Royal-themed Scarecrow competition, fireworks and lighting of the beacon. Coffee Morning, Summer Supper, Murder Mystery, Bonfire, BBQ & Fireworks, 1960’s evening, Winter Supper, Quiz Night, & Film Nights. Big Lunch planned to coincide with 60th Anniversary of the Coronation. Bequest from Keith Botwright. Plea for new members to come forward to enable events to continue.
- i) Barking Village Hall Management Committee** – *Jeremy Reynolds Village Hall Management Committee Chairman). Full Report attached.*
Main points: Threat of Community Charges. White kerbs in response to safety issues. Replacement crockery. Floor treatment plans. Extension plans – outline planning permission granted. Suffolk Young Farmers banned for Hall misuse.
- j) Ringshall & Barking WI** – *Hilary Jeffrey, President. Full Report attached*
Main points: Secretary change after 25 years. 80th Birthday celebrations planned (formed in 1933). Various speakers and outings. Jubilee Wall Hanging completed. Soup & Puds lunch raised funds for First Responder Groups.
- k) Barking Tye Community Choir** – *Sandra Reynolds. Full report attached.*
Sandra was unable to be present, so Jeremy Reynolds read the report.
Main points: 28 singers from Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Ringshall, Wilisham & Stowmarket. Fund raising concert for Christian Aid, Battisford Jubilee Celebrations, Royal Albert Hall performance .Several concerts at Barking, Great Bricett, Battisford, Great Bricett & Stowmarket.
- l) Barking Carpet Bowls**
No representative was in attendance, no apologies had been received and no report had been received.

m) Ringshall Primary School

No representative attended, no apologies had been received, and no report had been received.

n) Barking Art Group – Kate Griffin. Full Report attached.

Main points: Kate Griffin and Jaqui Sommerville are the administrators of the group. 15 dedicated members several of which have exhibited and/or sold their work in the past year. Exhibition planned at Barking Fair in August.

p) Barking Pre-School – Kelly Coe - Chair. Full Report attached.

Main Points: Exciting year. Now financially stable. Several new recruits to pre-school. Need 60% family/member relationship. New treasurer and new secretary needed. Bequest from Keith Botwright – possibly a children's bench in the village hall garden.

q) Parish Paths Partnership – John Dickerson. Full Report attached.

Main Points: Shaun Cochrane, Roy Banyard and John Dickerson are the members of the group. All paths are in good condition. Barking lost approx. 10% of paths due to split with Darmsden. Group walked the new boundary, part of which has been planted with new trees. New footbridge handrail at 'Clipper Jimmys' needed and a footbridge behind Overhall Farm.

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

Mini Bus owned by Needham Market Town Council but funded heavily by Charities. Not much use made by Barking residents/organisations. Trained driver available. Barking residents encouraged to make use of this facility. Allotments & Almshouses – Barking residents can apply to us the allotments. Financial Statements are publicly available. Approx. £45,000 will hopefully be available to allocate/spend.

s) Theobald's Foundation – Michael Smith. Full Report attached.

13 grants totalling £2,630 made to young people to assist with their further education (all studying away from home).

t) Barking Parish Plan Implementation Action Group – Rosemary Cochrane

Rosemary Cochrane reported that 47% of residents who responded expressed an interest in the Good Neighbour Scheme, so Robert Horn, from Suffolk ACRE, is invited to tonight's meeting. The National Grid was contacted to enquire about a Gas connection to Barking – no response yet received. Footpath Guide to be provided free to everyone (previously a small charge was made), as a way of promoting the footpaths of Barking.

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

Shaun Cochrane reported he is no longer co-ordinator of the Barking Community Speedwatch Team, and all members have stepped down due to a combination of reasons. Suffolk Police requirement that min. 3 persons needed when on duty, largely ignored Speedwatch data, zero impact of 18+months speedwatch on speeding by drivers through Barking and suggestion that Speedwatch volunteers take on additional responsibility of temporary speed monitoring devices, were all some of the reasons why the Barking Group has disbanded.

BPM06/13 GUEST SPEAKER – Mr Robert Horn, Village Halls Advisor & Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator, Suffolk ACRE (now Community Action Suffolk)

The Chair introduced Mr Robert Horn.

High level of respondents to Parish Plan interested in Scheme. Scheme members would perform tasks such as changing light bulbs, checking smoke alarms, giving lifts to Needham Market, gardening. It is about acting as a good neighbour in the community. 30 schemes currently in operation – 600 volunteers. Over 50,000 people in Suffolk have access to a Good Neighbour Scheme. Most likely to need help are the elderly. Most of the volunteers are the newly retired. Results in a more caring, more socially supported/supportive community. Stage 1 – set up a Steering Committee to determine if scheme is wanted/needed. Tool kit provided, help with

getting funding. Formal constitution needed, plus bank account and CRB checks for every volunteer. Insurance needed for Third Party Liability. Funding may be available from Parish Council, Community Council, SCC Locality Budget. All help given is free, but 45p per mile is 'invited' towards transport costs. Volunteers 18 and over. No upper age limit.

The Chair thanked Mr Horn for the very interesting talk.

BPM07/13 PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair invited questions from the public. Sue Bailey – Barking Fair Committee has been formed. Fair will take place 1st August 2013 12noon – 5pm. Roy Hudd invited to open the Fair.

Shaun Cochrane – When will the barriers (beside ditch adjacent to Barking Hall Nursing Home) be repaired? Concern was raised by several members of the public that the barriers have not yet been repaired since they were damaged during a road traffic accident at Christmas. It was suggested that the broken barriers present an increased risk to drivers, especially as they are protruding into the road. There was much debate about the bend in the road at Barking Hall Nursing Home and what could be done to reduce the number of accidents at that site. It was suggested that a bigger 30mph sign is needed or the trees need to be cut back so the signs are more visible. The Chair reported that the Parish Council will pursue this matter at its next meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.35pm and all were invited to stay for refreshments.

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