

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Thursday 15th January 2015

PRESENT:

Cllr S Butler (Chairman)
Cllr M Smith
Cllr M Bailey
Cllr A Smith
Cllr P Hollocks
Cllr A Ross

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*
District Cllr Stephen Wright
County Cllr Truelove
Mr Kim Best – Housing Officer, MSDC

APOLOGIES:

Cllr C Eagles
PCSO Matt Brown

BPC001/15 PUBLIC FORUM

Reference to the Notice and the Protocol relating to the filming and recording of meetings was made by the Chair.

No members of the public were present.

BPC002/15 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Craig Eagles and also from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

BPC003/15 POLICE REPORT (see attached report)

No representative from the Safer Neighbourhood Team was present, but a written report had been received in advance of the meeting. Main points: 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 1 x miscellaneous, and 17 calls to the Police in relation to suspicious persons/vehicles, sudden death, highway disruption, violence, rabbit shooting and theft. 1 theft from a motor vehicle and 11 calls regarding suspicious persons/vehicles in relation to rabbit shooting, etc.

BPC004/15 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WRIGHT'S REPORT

District Cllr Stephen Wright reported on the Energy from Waste plant - site now handed over to SITA, a few teething problems, visitor tours now taking place, 70,000 tonnes a year from Norfolk, mostly black bin waste, greenhouse development – progression slow, Duke of Marlborough Public House now closed – there is a move to re-open as a Community Pub, Barking residents may receive a questionnaire.

BPC005/15 COUNTY COUNCILLOR JULIA TRUELOVE'S REPORT (see attached report)

County Cllr Julia Truelove reported on mobile phone coverage, Government road maintenance grants, primary- age pupils' exclusions, Education – County Key Stage 2 results 2013/14, sky lanterns, Get Fit funding grants, Warm Homes Healthy People and future

housing needs in Suffolk. Cllr Truelove requested that the serious matter of sky lanterns be considered by the Council at its next meeting as serious outcomes have been reported. It was also suggested that the Parish Council, as Custodian Trustee, raise the issue with the Village Hall Committee. It was also suggested that drones be included within the discussion. **Decision** – Clerk to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk

BPC006/15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There was one declaration of a Pecuniary Interest from Cllr Pearl Hollocks in respect of the planning application relating to Fox Meadow.

BPC007/15 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

There was one application for a partial dispensation from Cllr Pearl Hollocks in respect of the planning application relating to Fox Meadow. **Decision** – It was resolved to grant a partial dispensation to enable Cllr Hollocks to listen to Mr Kim Best and to enable her to speak on her own behalf.

BPC008/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2014 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC009/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on actions taken.

- i) **Parking** – It was reported that the Clerk had spoken informally to Pastor Graham Steward regarding the feasibility of providing hard parking spaces in front of the Chapel. It was proposed and agreed to invite Pastor Steward to the next meeting. Clerk to action.
- ii) **Asset of Community Value** – It was reported that Cllr Eagles has made a good start in completing the application form requesting that the Barking Fox Public House be accepted as an Asset of Community Value.

Clerk

BPC010/15 PLANNING

i) 3870/14 Fox Meadow

Mr Kim Best, Housing Officer, MSDC had been invited to attend the meeting to present the proposal to build 3 new properties at Fox Meadow. Main points: High demand for Affordable Housing, 920 active registrations for householders seeking accommodation (August 2014), main demand is for smaller accommodation, big demand for people to downsize, Government changes on how council housing is run/financed (councils can now borrow money to build housing and can now apply for Government grants), MSDC partnership with Havebury Housing and some grants obtained, currently looking to redevelop land that they own and is being used for gardens. Proposal to build 1 bungalow and 2 x 2 bedroom houses. Designed as 'lifetime' homes so a bit more room so a lift or stair lift could be fitted. Kitchens a bit bigger to allow enough circulation space for a wheelchair user. 2 parking spaces for each property off road. Homes will be owned by MSDC and available under the Gateway to Home Choice Scheme. If and when completed, will advertised on Gateway site and people can express an interest but priority will be given to people living in Barking, with parents in Barking, working in Barking. If no applicants, surrounding parishes will be looked at. Intention is to let the properties to local people. At the moment there are local people interested. If permission is granted, work could start June 2015 (9 month build)

BPC011/15 PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Hollocks was invited to give her views, the Council having granted a dispensation to do so

– see BPC007/15. Main points: only a one-way road (only room for one car at a time), a high 6ft fence is planned for the bungalow and a tree to be planted which would provide no visibility for no 25; current sewage system cannot cope; happy with the proposal to build the 2 semis but why can't the space allocated to the bungalow become a car park for everyone? Where will contractors vehicles park? Privacy and view compromised by the bungalow and view compromised by the fence.

The questions were asked 1) if Fox Meadow is Public Highway? ii) Should there be an easement requested/granted for the proposed new properties?

8.40pm Cllr Pearl Hollocks left the meeting at this point.

The following points were made:

The lack of view is not relevant. The land has always set aside /earmarked for re-development. New properties would not increase congestion in the close as they would be nearer to the entrance/junction with the B1078. Concerns about the sewage system need to be sorted. We need more affordable housing but narrowness of road a concern. Need to balance the strong desire to have this housing in place but the road insufficiency has to be addressed. A previous planning refusal (O/L111/04) and Planning Appeal Refusal Decision (APP/W3520/A/04/1167153) were brought to the attention of the Council. Most importantly the refusal of appeal on the grounds of highway safety. – *Both attached to these minutes.*

Decision – Based on the application as it stands, and having regards to the appeal decision based on highway safety due to the inadequacy of Fox Meadow, and the fact that the B1078 is even busier than it was then, it was proposed and resolved to oppose the application. Clerk to relay decision to MSDC Planning within the deadline.

9.20pm Cllr Pearl Hollocks re-joined the meeting at this point.

BPC012/15 CLERK'S SALARY REVIEW

It was reported that the SLCC & NALC has agreed the recommended National Salary Award for 2014 – 2016. The recommended new hourly rate for SCP 22 is £10.527 effective from 1/1/2015 plus a non-consolidated payment of £13.51 in December salary. **Decision** – it was proposed and resolved to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the recommendation and to increase the Spinal Column Point to 23 effective from 1st April - new hourly rate £10.836. Clerk to action.

BPC013/15 ST MARY'S CHURCH GRASS CUTTING

It was reported that the Parochial Church Council has requested that the Parish Council give a grant to maintain the churchyard for both 2013 and 2014. No previous request had been made for 2013. In previous years the Parish Council has approved a grant of £80 per annum towards petrol costs. In addition to this request, the Parish Council has been asked to increase the donation from £80 to cover the full cost of a contractor to cut the grass. This could be up to £466 for 2015. In previous years, the grass has been cut by volunteers and the Parish Council has contributed towards the cost of the petrol. It was reported that the amount remaining in the budget for donations is only£152.50. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved that the balance of the budget @ £152.50 be granted, but that no additional funds would be made available as this would result in an increase in the Precept by approximately £500 (£3.12 per elector). Clerk to respond accordingly.

BPC014/15 FINANCE

i) **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S FINANCE REPORT** (*attached to these minutes*) -The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 15th January

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

2015 was £40,071.31

ii) AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS - Decision - Payments totalling £4,401.35 were approved. Clerk to action

Clerk

BPC015/15 REPLACEMENT LAMPS TO STREET LIGHTS

It was reported that the cost to replace each street lamp with a new LED unit is £522.92. One lamp needs replacing as it is now dead and no replacement unit is available. It was suggested that all the remaining lamps could be replaced now to take advantage of a 90% reduction in energy costs. £6,000 had been placed in the budget for this financial year and the estimated cost of replacing all remaining 8 lamps now is £4,183.36 + vat. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to authorise the replacement of all remaining 8 lamps with LED units. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC016/15 SPEED MANAGEMENT

It was reported that a resident from the Moat Farm Barns development has requested the Parish Council's support in her call for improved speed management at the site and in particular for the 30mph speed limit to be relocated to beyond the Moat Farm Barns Development. It was reported that the Clerk has provided the resident with details of the previous attempts the Parish Council has made to improve highway safety at the site. It is understood that County Cllr Truelove is also in communication with the resident regarding this issue. **Decision** - It was suggested and agreed that there is little more that can be done by the Parish Council while the Department for Transport guidance states that the development sits too far away from the rest of the village for SCC to consider any change in the siting of the speed limit. Clerk to respond to the resident accordingly.

Clerk

BPC017/15 A140/A14 JUNCTION ROAD SAFETY PROJECT CONSULTATION

It was reported that Suffolk County Council Highways is proposing to improve highway safety at the junction of the A140 and A14 by attempting to reduce vehicle speeds approaching the junction from the A140. **Decision** - The plans were considered and it was the opinion of the Council that this work is not necessary if visibility is improved by the cutting back of vegetation. Clerk to respond accordingly.

Clerk

BPC018/15 VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION UPDATE

It was reported that all the funding is now in place, as the Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities have approved a grant of £386 for Phase 1, with the door open to further funding for Phase 2. The building work on the store room extension work is scheduled to commence late March.

BPC019/15 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Bailey reported a new fuse box to be fitted to accommodate the imminent theatrical activity (pantomime). There were no other issues to report.

BPC020/15 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SIGNS

It was reported that the Council could acquire up to 2 free new Neighbourhood Watch Signs under a scheme funded from the SNWA grant. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to apply for the signs, which would be erected by volunteers. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC021/15 TRANSPARENCY CODE FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES

It was reported that the new Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities is issued to meet the Government's desire to place more power into citizen's hands to increase democratic accountability. It means that, if Barking Parish Council has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 there will be no requirement for an external audit, however there will be a

requirement to place the following data on the Council’s website: all items of expenditure in excess of £100, end of year accounts, annual governance statement, internal audit report, list of councillor or member responsibilities, details of public land and building assets, minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings. Much of this information is already available, but it will increase the Clerk’s workload.

BPC022/15 FINAL BUDGET 2015-16 – The Final Budget was presented for consideration and approval. **Decision** – It was proposed by Cllr Alex Smith and seconded by Cllr Pearl Hollocks and resolved that the Budget be approved as presented at 28,822.

BPC023/15 PRECEPT 2015 – 16 Decision – It was proposed by Cllr Pearl Hollocks and seconded by Cllr Ann Ross and resolved that the Precept be set at £8,488 (no change from 2014). The ‘Precept Upon Charging Authority’ was duly completed and signed. Clerk to action.

BPC024/15 CLERK’S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- i) **JEWSON’S ACCOUNT** – The Clerk reported that she has opened an account with Jewsons in readiness for the forthcoming building work at the Village Hall.
- ii) **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR STREETLIGHTS** – The Clerk reported she had authorised all 10 street lights to left switched on overnight on both Christmas and New Year’s Eve following an approach from SCC, and after consultation with the Chair.

BPC025/15 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION – folder containing correspondence was circulated.

BPC026/15 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

I) HEDGE AT IVYDENE – It was reported that the hedge is finally going to be cut back following an intervention with SCC Highways.

BPC027/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting, which will be 19th March 2015.

Meeting closed at 10.20pm

Chairman Date

Clerk