

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.00pm  
on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr S Butler – Chair  
Cllr M Bailey  
Cllr A Smith (arrived at 7.35pm)  
Cllr A Ross

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr M Smith – Vice-Chair – road gritting duties  
Cllr P Hollocks – prior comittment  
Cllr D Hoyland – no reason given

#### **BPC001/13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received by the Clerk from Cllr Michael Smith and Cllr Pearl Hollocks, and by email to the Parish Councillors from Cllr Denys Hoyland. All Councillors were reminded that apologies must be sent directly to the Clerk, as the Proper Officer of the Council, to ensure apologies for absence have been received by the Council and that meetings remain quorate. It was reported that as Cllr Hoyland has now not attended a meeting of the Council since the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, he is likely to be disqualified effective from 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Clerk to inform the Returning Officer at MSDC.

Clerk

#### **BPC002/13 PUBIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

#### **BPC003/13 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

#### **BPC004/13 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs Steve Butler, Michael Bailey and Ann Ross all declared a pecuniary interest in the item to set the Precept.

#### **BPC005/13 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

Applications for dispensation were received from Cllrs Steve Butler, Michael Bailey and Ann Ross relating to pecuniary interests in the item to set the Precept. Following the procedure adopted previously by the Council in September 2012, the Clerk approved all three applications.

#### **BPC006/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported on actions taken.

- a) Hedge at Tye Green – quote still awaited from Hart Tree Surgery
- b) Bonfire Night Review – No letter has yet been sent to Mrs Austin as the Clerk is still waiting to hear the response from the Community Council.

c) Bend at Barking Hall Nursing Home – It was reported that a meeting took place on 12th December 2012 attended by Philip Wright, SCC Highways, County Cllr Julia Truelove, Cllrs Butler, Cllr Bailey and the Clerk. Philip Wright had acknowledged that there is scope for further signage such as two additional chevrons, and SLOW marking on the road. It is also possible that the road surface could be improved. Costs will be an important factor though. Nothing more has been heard.

#### **BPC007/13 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT**

It was reported that a tender had been received from Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd @ £3,310 for 2013 season. A tender had been expected from Dan Stanmore, but this had not been received. It was proposed by Cllr Ross and seconded by Cllr Bailey that as the Council was very satisfied with the standard of service received from EFMS during 2012, they should be appointed for the 2013 season. **Decision** – Award contract to Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd @ £3,310 for 2013 season. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC008/13 HEDGE CUTTING**

It was reported that a tender is still awaited from Hart Tree Surgery to cut the hedge adjacent to Tye Green as in 2012 – top and side facing the Tye. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved that Hart Tree Surgery be appointed subject to the price being up to £300. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC009/13 THEOBALD'S FOUNDATION**

It was reported that only one person has expressed an interest in becoming the Village Representative – Mr Shaun Cochrane. It was proposed and resolved that, in the absence of any other applicants, that Shaun Cochrane should be invited to become the Village Representative. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC010/13 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – CLLR M BAILEY**

Cllr Bailey reported that securing funding for the Village Hall extension is proving difficult. Some quotes have been obtained and the project will cost £50, 000 - £60,000. It was agreed that the Clerk should be given copies of the quotes so she can make independent enquiries about funding.

Cllr Bailey  
Clerk

*7.35pm - Cllr Alex Smith arrived at this point.*

*A member of the public, Mr Craig Eagles also arrived at this point to ask a question. The meeting was suspended at this point to allow Mr Eagles to speak.*

#### **BPC011/13 PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Eagles wanted to know where Barking stood in the pecking order for Better Broadband for Suffolk. Clerk to make enquiries.

Clerk

*Mr Eagles left at this point and the meeting was re-convened.*

#### **BPC012/13 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Alex Smith declared a pecuniary interest in the item to set the Precept.

#### **BPC013/13 APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**

An application for dispensation was received from Cllr Alex Smith relating to a pecuniary interest in the item to set the Precept. Following the procedure adopted previously by the Council in September 2012, the Clerk approved the application.

**BPC014/13 CLERK’S SALARY**

It had been proposed at the previous meeting by Cllr Alex Smith that although the Clerk’s salary is currently being reviewed by the SLCC & NALC, Barking could be proactive rather than wait for a recommendation. There had been no salary review since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. It was reported that all Councillors had received an email earlier in the day from Cllr Hoyland suggesting that the Clerk’s work would diminish as a result of Darmsden separating from Barking and that no pay rise would be warranted. The Chair pointed out that that the Community Governance Review created a lot of additional work for the Clerk, and that this was in addition to her normal duties. The loss of Darmsden will not reduce the Clerk’s normal workload significantly. It was proposed by Cllr A. Smith and seconded by Cllr A. Ross that the Clerk’s salary be raised by 3% effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to £2730. **Decision** – Approved. Clerk to action. It was also proposed by Cllr A. Smith and seconded by Cllr M. Bailey to review the Clerk’s salary annually and to re-introduce the annual Performance Appraisal process. **Decision** – Approved.

Clerk

**BPC015/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- i) 3603/12 - 4 Ladyfield, Barking . **Decision** – support. Clerk to inform MSDC within deadline.
- ii) 0055/13 - Tye Farm, Barking. **Decision** – Support. Clerk to inform MSDC within deadline.

Clerk

Clerk

**BPC016/13 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

It was reported that, at its meeting held on 20th December 2012, Mid Suffolk District Council approved the recommendation by the Mid Suffolk District Council Community Governance Review Working Group to create a new parish of Darmsden. The Mid Suffolk District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Darmsden) Order 2012 was made on 20th December 2012. A copy of the Order and the map referred to in the Order is available for inspection at MSDC Offices and also on its website. The changes will come in effect on 1st April 2013. MSDC has ordered Barking Parish Council to transfer the sum of £750 to the new Parish of Darmsden after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to be used for set up costs. A formal letter to every Barking resident from MSDC will be enclosed with the next issue of the Four Parishes Magazine. The Clerk is arranging for this to be done. Clerk to include relevant accompanying text in the Four Parishes Magazine. It was also reported that the Clerk intends to obtain a large map showing the new boundaries to display at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Clerk

Clerk

**BPC017/13 FINANCE**

**a) CLERK’S REPORT** (*attached to these minutes*)

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 was £30,967.80

**b) AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

**Decision** - Payments totalling £744.58 were authorised.

**BPC018/13 FINAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2013 – 14**

The Draft Budget was presented for consideration @ £29,107. It was proposed by Cllr A. Smith and seconded by Cllr M. Bailey to approve the Budget @ £29,107 and to maintain the Precept @ £8,362 for the fourth consecutive year. Due to the separation of Darmsden from the Parish of Barking, this will mean an increase in the Band D Council Tax Base for Barking.

**Decision** – Approved unanimously. The Precept Demand was completed and signed. Clerk to send to MSDC within deadline. It was agreed to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the £1,250 set aside in the Budget for either the parking area or the solar speed sign.

Clerk

**BPC019/13 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

None to report.

**BPC020/13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

Correspondence pack was presented for circulation.

**BPC021/13 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

None to report

**BPC022/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting was agreed as 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, start time 7.30pm.

*Meeting closed at 9.02pm*

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