

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Thursday 19th March 2015

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*
County Cllr Truelove

APOLOGIES:

Cllr A Smith
District Cllr Stephen Wright

BPC035/15 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

BPC036/15 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Alex Smith and from District Steve Wright.

BPC037/15 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: No crimes reported since the previous meeting, and 9 calls to the Police in relation to suspicious persons/vehicles, highway disruption, alarms and road collisions.

BPC038/15 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WRIGHT'S REPORT (see attached report)

District Cllr Stephen Wright was unable to be present but had sent a written report ahead of the meeting. Main points: Council Tax, Council House rents, Energy from Waste, Glasshouses at Great Blakenham, Duke of Marlborough, Somersham, MSDC Housing, Planning Application at Barking to build 3 new Affordable Homes, and the cement works factory site.

BPC039/15 COUNTY COUNCILLOR JULIA TRUELOVE'S REPORT (see attached report)

County Cllr Julia Truelove reported on Council Tax decisions, Children's Centres Closures, SCCs Tobacco investment, Consultations – Foster Carers and Adult Autism Survey, and the Time to Talk Campaign. Also, re-housing of the Suffolk Records Office to University Campus Suffolk; at the Full Council meeting, the PCC Tim Passmore announced a reduction in PCSOs; and she would like to explore with the Parish Council the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator using her Locality Budget to help with the cost. It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk

BPC040/15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There was one declaration of a Pecuniary Interest from Cllr Michael Bailey in respect of the item relating to Barking Village Hall.

BPC041/15 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

BPC042/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2015 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC043/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2015 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC044 /15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported on actions taken.

- i) **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SIGNS** – It was reported that the Clerk had authorised SCC Highways to erect the signs at a cost of £36 to avoid putting the volunteers at risk. This was following consultation with all Councillors.

BPC045/15 PLANNING

- 0781/15 BUNGEONS FARM, BARKING Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to support the application to erect a triple bay cart lodge with ancillary accommodation over, and surfacing of existing access. Clerk to respond to MSDC Planning within the deadline.

Clerk

BPC046/15 FINANCE

- i) **TO RECEIVE CLERK’S FINANCE REPORT** (*attached to these minutes*)

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 19th March 2015 was £38,151.68. The Bank Statements were verified and signed by Cllr Craig Eagles.

- ii) **AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

Decision - Payments totalling £1,450.58 were approved. Clerk to action. **Decision** - It was resolved to transfer £1,000 from the Active Saver Account to the Village Hall Extension Project Account as the oil tank needs to be ordered and a deposit paid. Clerk to action.

Clerk

Decision - The payment for the oil tank @ £1,000 plus vat was authorised.

- iii) **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Council’s Financial Regulations were reviewed as required by the External Auditors, and no amendments were found to be necessary.

- iv) **REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

A review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process was undertaken, as required by the Parish Council’s auditors.

- v) **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL)**

The annual financial risk assessment was undertaken as required by the Parish Council’s auditors.

- vi) **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Decision - It was resolved to appoint Heelis & Lodge as the Council’s Internal Auditor for the 2014/2015 Audit. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC047/15 REPLACEMENT LAMPS TO STREET LIGHTS

It was reported that the cost to upgrade the remaining 8 street lamps will be more than had been originally quoted as one of the lamps – no 26 adjacent to The Old School House, is a G39 which will therefore cost more to replace. The total cost is now quoted at £4,742.07 for all 8 lamps. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to authorise the replacement of all remaining 8 lamps with LED units at the revised cost of £4,742.07. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC048/15 SKY LANTERNS AND DRONES

vii) SKY LANTERNS

It was reported that both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council are encouraging Parishes to ban the use of sky lanterns due to the damage they can cause to animals, crops and buildings. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to exclude the use of sky lanterns from the Tye and to request the Village Hall Committee exclude sky lanterns in the Village Hall Hiring Agreement. Clerk to action.

Clerk

viii) DRONES

It was also proposed that drones be banned from the Tye due to the potential risk to users of the Tye and to the Tye itself. There was a full discussion regarding the different types and size of drones and it was felt that the use of recreational drones should be facilitated but not commercial drones. The difference between petrol powered drones (hot engines), other electrical devices and small children’s toys less than 1kg in weight was debated. It was proposed and resolved to review the existing Bye Laws regarding aerial devices with a view to banning some size of drone from the Tye. Cllr Eagles offered to check the current Bye Law wording.

Cllr Eagles

BPC049/15 BURIAL LAND REQUEST

It was reported that the Parochial Church Council (St Marys, Barking) has written to the Parish Council reporting that the churchyard is getting full, so it is looking ahead to a time when there is no more land available for burials. A request is being made for the Parish Council, as the Burial Authority, to find and acquire a suitable piece of land for burials. It was further reported that the PCC has been asked for additional information and also what action it has already taken or is taking to find a suitable piece of land. No response has yet been received. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to take no action yet until a response is received from the PCC.

BPC050/15 BURST WATER MAINS

It was reported that there have been several burst water pipes in the village during the past 18 months which have recently increased in frequency. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved that the Council should approach Anglian Water to find out what the problem is and when it is likely to be resolved. Clerk to action and to report at the next meeting.

Clerk

BPC051/15 VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION UPDATE

i) **PHASE 1** - It was reported that the building work for Phase 1 – the store room extension, is still scheduled to commence late March/early April. No firm date has been yet given by the builder – David Parker.

ii) **PHASE 2** - It was further reported that a request has been received from the Barking Village Hall Management Committee for the Parish Council to agree to manage the finance for Phase 2 – the meeting room extension. The Committee is buoyed by the news that there may be funding available for the larger of the two phases and wishes to start obtaining estimates for the work. This would involve the Clerk in applying for grant funding and managing the finances throughout the project, as she is now doing for Phase 1. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved in principal that the Parish Council would take on this role, but only when Phase 1 is complete. Clerk to respond accordingly. It was suggested that it would

Clerk

make sense to include repairs to the access drive within Phase 2.

BPC052/15 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Bailey reported no further matters.

BPC053/15 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

i) **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SIGNS** – It was reported that the Clerk had authorised SCC Highways to erect the signs at a cost of £36 to avoid putting the volunteers at risk on the Highway. This decision was taken following consultation with all Councillors.

BPC054/15 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION – folder containing correspondence was circulated.

BPC055/15 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

i) ARMY LORRY STUCK ON THE TYE

It was reported that a large lorry belonging to the military from 2nd Battalion Gurkha Regiment, Foxton, Kent took a wrong turning and got stuck on the Tye on 26th February. A lot of damage was caused to the Tye by both the vehicle itself and the recovery vehicle during attempts to get it off the Tye. This all happened in the dark and it was very late by the time the vehicle was finally pulled out of the mud and removed. Cllr Michael Smith reported he has repaired the Tye as best he can and it was suggested that it is disappointing that no-one has been in touch to apologise or to offer to make good the damage. Cllr Eagles offered to make contact with the appropriate unit.

Cllr Eagles

BPC056/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting, which will be 21st May 2015. This will be the Annual General Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman Date