

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.40pm
on Thursday 20th September 2012

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillor Julia Truelove
District Cllr Stephen Wright
Mr Philip Wright – Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer
Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*

1 member of the public: Mr Craig Eagles

APOLOGIES:

Cllr M Smith - illness
Cllr D Hoyland – no reason given
PCSO Matt Brown

BPC093/12 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Denys Hoyland, & PCSO Matt Brown.

BPC094/12 PUBIC FORUM

1 member of the public was present. There were no questions at this point.

BPC095/12 – DISTRICT CLLR STEPHEN WRIGHT (see attached report)

District Cllr Stephen Wright reported that the incinerator at Great Blakenham was now in the process of being built. Mr Cliff Matthews, Eastern Regional Manager for SITA would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to talk about the incinerator. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved to invite Mr Matthews to attend a meeting, either of the Parish Council or the Annual Parish Meeting next year. Clerk to action. Other matters reported on were SnoAsis, new housing at Great Blakenham and a proposal for a straw-burning incinerator at Mendlesham. There were no questions for Cllr Wright.

Clerk

BPC096/12 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2012 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC097/12 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared at this point.

8pm County Cllr Truelove arrived at this point with Mr Philip Wright, Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer

The meeting was adjourned at this point.

BPC098/12 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (see attached report)

County Cllr Julia Truelove provided a written report which include the following: Highways outsourcing – 5 bidders have been announced; launch of Suffolk Business Month; an update on Better Broadband; Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant; and the Lib Dems Call-in Concessionary Fares. Cllr Truelove reported she had allocated some of her Locality Budget to the Wattisham Wives Choir. In return the Choir had agreed to give local groups first refusal on any bookings. There were no questions for Cllr Truelove.

The meeting was re-convened at this point.

BPC099/12 SPEED MEASUREMENT SURVEY REPORT – Mr Philip Wright, Suffolk County Council Highways Engineer

The Chairman welcomed Mr Philip Wright, SCC Highways Engineer, to the meeting, to give his report following the recent speed surveys undertaken in Barking. Mr Wright handed out the speed measurement data report and explained that SDR data records every vehicle, what type of vehicle (car/motorbike/small van/large lorry) and the speeds they are travelling. One session was from 23rd – 30th April and another from 10th – 17th August. The equipment malfunctioned in April, so a third visit was made 10th – 17th September. It was reported that the speeds recorded were as expected. Mean speeds are looked at. The mean speeds were not high enough to justify any permanent equipment (speed measurement device). If a speed camera is required, a mobile one would be more cost effective. Permanent cameras cost £6,000 each, plus maintenance/servicing @ £70 - £140 per annum. The Parish Council would be responsible for the on-going maintenance/servicing. Mr Wrights recommendation to the Council was that a mobile camera be requested by the Community SpeedWatch Team/Parish Council. This would stay in place for up to 2 weeks, but could be sited in a different location each time. Norfolk has been using this sytem for some time. Babergh has tried it, and now a proposal to use it in Suffolk will be considered soon by Suffolk County Council. It is thought that Highways Central would have 1 – 2 units and Highways West 1 – 2 units. The data will be used to identify areas with/without speed problems. Cllr Truleove suggested that a permanent speed camera could still be purchased and that she may be able to find some funding from her Locality Budget. There was a general discussion about the number of vehicles that are driven excessively above the mean speed. It was suggested that, in 3 months time, we will know how firm the proposals are for the mobile devices. Philip Wright reported that it has already been decided that there will be no more permanent devises installed as their effectiveness is diluted over time. It was proposed that although the mean speed is low, a significant number of vehilces are speeding excessively that some form of mobile device would be very useful and it was further proposed that Barking ask for the maximum allocation over the next 12 months if the devices are approved by SCC. There was a suggestion that only a physical way of slowing down traffic would be successful, as drivers are used to warning signs and know they have no 'teeth'. People's attitudes need to be changed to really make a difference. **Decision** – The Parish Council to request mobile units as soon as possible. Clerk to formally write to Philip Wright as soon as possible.

Clerk

8.35pm Cllr Truelove and Mr Philip Wright left the meeting at this point.

BPC100/12 POLICE REPORT (see attached report)

There was no Police representative present, but a report had been sent in advance. There were 4 reported crimes since the previous meeting – 2 x driving a motor vehicle with excess alcohol, 1 x theft in a dwelling, and 1 x criminal damage (damage to pheasant pens within Bonny Wood).

BPC101/12 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

No applications had been received.

BPC102/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported on actions taken.

i) Neighbourhood Watch Sign

It was reported that the Clerk had requested SCC to trim the vegetation under the Neighbourhood Watch sign and this has been done. She had also contacted Neighbourhood Watch who has provided a new sign. It was also reported that a letter had been received from Mr Peter Wright, Barking’s Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator, reporting that the new Neighbourhood Watch sign had subsequently been received which needs to be placed higher up the telegraph pole on which is currently placed the existing sign. The Chairman and Cllr Bailey offered to do this within the next few days. There will be two signs on the pole, one higher than the other, which should solve the problem of growing vegetation obscuring the sign.

Cllr Bailey
Cllr Butler

BPC103/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

BPC104/12 FINANCE

i) CLERK’S REPORT (attached to these minutes)

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 20th September 2012 was £23,058.99

ii) AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Payments totalling £1,253.11 were authorised.

BPC105/12 INSURANCE RENEWAL

It was reported that the Renewal documentation had been received from the Zurich via SACRE and renewal invited @ £516.07. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to renew with the Zurich. Clerk to action. It was noted that this is the 4th year of the 5 year long undertaking.

Clerk

BPC106/12 PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATIONS

It was reported that now the new Suffolk Code of Conduct has been approved, a procedure needs to be in place to deal with any applications for dispensation. **Decision** – It was resolved to adopt the procedure as proposed by SALC. Member to complete an Application for Dispensation Form prior to the meeting and pass to the Clerk. A Standing Item will appear on the Agenda of the Meeting for all applications to be considered. The Council will consider the application following the guidelines provided by SALC. The member who has applied will leave the meeting for this item. If the meeting would be inquorate, the Clerk will have the delegated authority to determine the application. There will be no right of appeal against the decision. All Cllrs to be provided with an Application for Dispensation Form, either a hard or electronic copy, as preferred.

Clerk

BPC107/12 EASEMENT REQUEST - THE GABLES, BARKING TYE

It was reported that a letter had been received from Mr & Mrs Dunstan, who are in the process of selling The Gables, Barking Tye, requesting a Deed of Easement in perpetuity for vehicular access to the property. They currently hold a 99 year lease. **Decision** – It was agreed that they appear to meet the criteria as set out in the Council’s Easement Policy. Clerk to respond accordingly.

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BPC108/12 EASEMENT REQUEST – WILLOW TREE COTTAGE, BARKING TYE

It was reported that a letter had been received from Mrs V Goff and Mr J Pratt who are in the process of purchasing Willow Tree Cottage, Barking Tye, requesting a Deed of Easement for vehicular access to the property. There appears to be no evidence that an existing lease is in existence. It was proposed that, provided a statutory right to claim a vehicular right of way over the common land owned by the Parish Council could be proven, the application will fall within the criteria for granting a Deed of Easement in perpetuity. The applicants may need to obtain a Statutory Declaration to this effect. Clerk to respond accordingly.

Clerk

BPC109/12 BEACON

Decision - It was further proposed and agreed that the Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacon be erected on the Tye to the front of the Village Hall where it could be planted with flowers next summer. Clerk to research the cost of erection with Barking Forge. If less than £100, Clerk has authority to proceed. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC110/12 STREET LIGHTS

It was reported that two options have been researched and costs obtained.

- i) **Intelligent Lighting Systems** could be installed @ £45 per unit. 10 units = £450. This option would enable SCC to turn off the lights at night to save energy and would also enable SCC to monitor the lamps and to pick up faults, thus enabling lamps to be replaced before they fail. Research has shown that this option would pay for itself in 2-3 years. **Decision** – It was agreed to install ILS @ £450. Following a vote it was decided to request SCC to turn off the lights from 11pm – 5.30am. (results of vote: midnight to 5.30am - 2 for, 3 against, 11pm to 5.30am - 3 for, 2 against) . However, it was agreed that two of the lights, placed at road junctions should stay on – the one at the junction of Willisham Road/B1078 and the one at the junction of Battsiford Road/B1078. The Council would seek the views of SCC on which other ones should remain lit. Clerk to action.
- ii) **Lantern Changes** would also make a difference to energy efficiency, but at nearly £6,000 this could be cost prohibitive at the moment. Another issue is the fact that Barking owns 6x G39 lamps which are now in short supply. When SCC runs out of the existing supply, there are no more left and these will have to be replaced with new lanterns at some point, or as and when they fail. **Decision** - It was agreed to look at setting aside the required figure when the budget for 2013/2014 is considered. Clerk to action.

Clerk

Clerk

BPC111/12 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – CLLR M BAILEY

Cllr Bailey reported that the container previously identified is no longer available and that a white line has been painted along the kerb surrounding the Village Hall, as someone reportedly tripped over it in the dark.

BPC112/12 CLERK’S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- i) **Road Sweeping** - It was reported that MSDC was asked to carry out some road sweeping in Barking as the weeds growing in the gutters of Fox Meadow were very unsightly. Cllr Hollocks reported that her neighbour had cleared away the vegetation. It was proposed that a vote of thanks be made to James Coe and MSDC informed that the work had been undertaken by a resident. Clerk to action.
- ii) **Fly Tipping** at the Recycling Centre at the Village Hall had been reported to MSDC. Laminated signs have been erected to tell people that it is an offence to fly tip.
- iii) **A Coffee Morning** has been arranged for 29th September to be hosted by the Parish Council. Cllrs Butler, Baily and Alex Smith all agreed to help with the

Clerk

refreshments. Proceeds will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Care.

BPC113/12 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence pack was presented for circulation.

BPC114/12 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

i) **MOLE TRAPS** The Chairman reported that he will set some more traps on the Tye.

BPC115/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting was agreed as 22nd November, as the 15th is the date of the Police Crime Commissioners Election and the Village Hall had been booked for the Poll.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman Date

DRAFT