

## **BARKING PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall Annexe at 7.30pm  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr A Smith - Chair  
Cllr S Butler *Vice -Chair*  
Cllr M Bailey  
Cllr A Ross  
Cllr R Fellowes

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*  
County Cllr Anne Whybrow  
District Cllr Anne Killett  
One member of the public

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr M Smith – Family commitment

*The Vice Chair – Cllr Butler took the Chair and opened the meeting.*

### **BPC115/17 PUBLIC FORUM**

There was one member of the public present.

### **BPC116/17 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Smith.

19.32 Cllr Michael Bailey arrived at this point.

### **BPC117/17 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Councillor Anne Whybrow - Report attached to these minutes**

County Councillor Anne Whybrow was present and reported on pot holes – in particular the ones in Parsons Lane; County Farm lettings – 13 acres let to a shepherdess; Energy from Waste, GCSE Results, Neighbourhood Planning - handbook is now available; and invitations are invited for the Locality Budget .

*The Chair – Cllr Alex Smith arrived at this point and took the Chair.*

### **BPC118/17 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT Councillor Anne Killett - Report attached to these minutes**

District Cllr Anne Killett was present and reported on the Joint Local Plan Consultation now underway – Government formula sets out how much housing is needed for Mid Suffolk, settlement hierarchy identified - Barking described as ‘Hinterland Settlement’, where should development go? How much growth should be allocated to each settlement category? Where is it feasible for housing to be allocated? Cllrs are invited to a meeting planned for 28<sup>th</sup> September at Needham Market. This will be followed at a later date with a Public Meeting in Stowmarket – fliers have been issued to all households. Move to Endeavour House – planned move date put back, some staff moved to Stowmarket ‘hub’.

### **BPC119/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There was one declarations of interest from Cllr Ann Ross in relation to item 9 a) ii on the

agenda – Land to the northeast of Battsford Road, Barking.

#### **BPC 120/17 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

#### **BPC121/17 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017.**

**Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Butler, Seconded Cllr Fellowes.

#### **BPC122/17 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017.**

**Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Bailey, Seconded Cllr Butler.

#### **BPC123/17 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2017.**

**Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Butler, Seconded Cllr Ross.

#### **BPC124/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK'S REPORT**

- i. **Barking Tye Bylaws - High Cottage** – The vehicle was removed from the Tye as requested.
- ii. **Play Equipment** - this has now been sold and is due to be removed any day.

#### **BPC125/17 PLANNING**

i. **DC/17/4091 - The Acorns, Barking.** The applicant was present and was invited to speak, but he declined to do so. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to SUPPORT this application as it is not considered to be harmful to Planning Policy, the proposed alterations will enhance the appearance and use of the property, and will have no detrimental impact on near neighbours. Provided that the criteria set out in the Barking Village Design Statement are followed, the Parish Council is supportive of this application.

*Cllr Ann Ross left the meeting at this point.*

ii) **903/17 – Land to the northeast of Battsford Road, Barking - Appeal.** It was reported that an appeal has now been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. **Decision** – It was resolved to repeat the comments previously made to MSDC, to the Planning Inspectorate and also to mention that the proposed development would also be against the new Draft Plan as the site is not included in the site allocations for consideration. Also to mention that whereas the recent application for 5 bungalows meets the already identified future housing needs of Barking (Parish Plan) and is located on a suitable site which is included in the new draft Local Plan, this application however does not and is still considered to be inappropriate development.

Clerk to respond accordingly within the deadlines given.

*Cllr Ross re-joined the meeting at this point.*

#### **BPC128/17 FINANCE**

- i) **Clerk's Finance Report (attached to these minutes)**

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was £36,990.

- ii) **Authorisation of Payments**

**Decision** - Payments totalling £907.75 from the Community Account were approved and cheques signed. Clerk to action.

- iii) **Village Hall Account** – It was resolved to close the Village Hall Account as the

Clerk

project has now been completed. Clerk to action.

#### **BPC129/17 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT VILLAGE HALL**

It was reported that the bulk of the play equipment had now been removed and there now remain a few posts above and below ground, matting and bark. A quote had been received from Michael Smith to remove all remaining equipment, to fill in with top soil and seed. All for £200. There may be a small extra cost if the exercise is more complex than expected. **Decision** – It was resolved to accept the quote of £200 as it was considered to be a very reasonable price for the amount of work involved. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC130/17 INSURANCE RENEWAL**

**Decision** – It was resolved to renew the Parish Council's insurance with the Zurich via Community Action Suffolk @ £468.66. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC131/17 BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

It was suggested that this consultation is too detailed to be dealt with at this meeting. Clerk to arrange a separate meeting with Chair and Vic Chair to go through the details, then to come up with a proposal for the next meeting. Bearing in mind the deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> November, an extension may be needed. Clerk to arrange a separate meeting mid-October if at all possible.

Clerk

#### **BPC132/17 NON-INTRUSIVE MAGNETROMETRY SURVEY**

It was reported that Cameron Bate would like permission to re-do his non-intrusive magnetrometry survey of the Tye as the previous one he conducted last year was not conclusive due to faulty equipment. **Decision** – It was resolved to agree to this request but to restrict the time period to October only. The Council does not want this activity to be protracted. There will be more limited daylight hours in November, and the weather and ground conditions will be much worse in November than in October. It is understood that the survey will only take two days to complete, so it was felt that four weekends during October should be quite sufficient for him to be able to complete the task. Also same requirements as last time. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC133/17 BARKING VILLAGE SIGN**

It was reported that the Barking Village Sign is in a very poor state of repair and that it will soon need urgent attention. The lettering is peeling off and the colours have nearly all faded. A quote has been received from Barking Engineering (who manufactured the original sign over 25 years ago), for £620 plus vat. **Decision** – Although concern was expressed over the high cost of the proposed repairs, it was considered to be a necessary expense. It was therefore resolved to authorise Barking Engineering to proceed with the repair. Clerk to action.

Clerk

#### **BPC134/17 HEDGE AT TYE GREEN**

It was reported that at last a much more reasonable quote of £950 plus vat has been secured to cut the hedge (Tye side and the top), down to 2 metres in height if required. It was further reported that verbal quotes for double that cost had been received during the past 2 years. It could be done for as little as £700 if the clippings are removed by the Council. The contractor has stated that in future years the cost will be much less as the hedge will be a more manageable height. It was reported that a much cheaper quote was received two years ago, but the contractor has failed, despite repeated requests, to provide evidence of public liability insurance. It was agreed that the council could not employ a contractor to undertake this type of work without evidence of insurance. **Decision** – It was resolved to instruct James Firmin to cut the hedge at a suitable time, down to a height of 2 metres if at

all possible, but that the Council will contact all affected residents beforehand to inform them. Clerk to action.

Clerk

**BPC135/17 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Cllr Bailey reported that the rear door to the Annexe is being insulated, another door in the annexe is being changed, the removal of the play equipment has been approved by the Committee, and a quote has been received for replacement windows. The Committee was prompted to apply for funding from both Cllr Killett and Cllr Whybrow.

Cllr  
Bailey

**BPC136/17 CLERK’S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

None were reported.

**BPC137/17 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The ‘correspondence for information’ folder was circulated. All reminded again to circulate this folder promptly.

**BPC138/17 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

None were reported.

- i) **Trees on the Tye adjacent to Rivendell** - It was reported that several trees need their canopies lifting as it is getting difficult to see under them when leaving properties such as ‘Kittlesfield’. Clerk to check with the Tree Warden for his advice. Clerk
- ii) **Trees adjacent to Fox Meadow** - It was reported that a new tenant to one of the new Fox Meadow houses has reported that the trees on the Tye adjacent to her property are getting very big and blocking her light. It was suggested that MSDC be made aware as the houses were only built in the last couple of years, yet the trees have been there long before the houses, so if MSDC wished to reduce the size of the trees they would need the permission of the Parish Council. There is no onus on the Parish Council to reduce the height of the trees in this instance. Clerk to contact MSDC Housing. Clerk
- iii) **New General Data Protection Regulation** - It was reported that due to the new General Data Protection Regulation which is due to come into force in May 2018, the Council will be required to appoint a Data Protection Officer. The Clerk has the opportunity to attend a briefing session at the SALC offices on 10<sup>th</sup> October at a cost of £22 plus vat. It was suggested that the Clerk should attend as this is a very important change that will have possibly far reaching consequences for the council. Clerk to action. Clerk
- iv) **Tree Preservation Order** - It was reported that the TPO application made by the Clerk in January and again in June has still not been actioned. The matter is being followed up now and District Cllr Ann Killett has been informed.
- v) **Un owned land** – It was asked if a piece of land (such as the piece adjacent to Rectory Farm) can be registered as a Parish Asset. Clerk to find out. Clerk

**BPC139/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next scheduled meeting will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to be held at Barking Village Hall Annexe at 7.30pm.

*Meeting closed at 9.25pm*

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

Anne Whybrow  
Bosmere  
September Newsletter  
Covering Badley, Barking, Battisford, Baylham, Combs, Great Bricett,  
Little Finborough, Needham Market, Nettlestead, Offton,  
Ringshall, Somersham, and Willisham



**Anne Whybrow**

Suffolk County Councillor  
The Old Rectory  
Ringshall  
IP14 2HZ  
07525288635

### Highways

Following restructure of Suffolk Highways there are now three area offices dealing with local issues and our area will fall under Phoenix House in Ipswich. When reporting any problems the public and Parish Councils should use the Customer Service Centre: telephone number 0345 606 6171 as the point of contact for all enquiries. From Monday (4<sup>th</sup> September 2017) the new team is in place, I am sure there will be teething problems but they have been working within this area before and have been working with previous officers with the aim to make the transition seamless. I visited the new team last Monday and discussed the long list of repairs needed across the Division. I have a Highways Locality Budget of £6,666 annually when I report to you (Unsuitable for HGV) signing could cost £1,200 from this budget you will understand that the budget doesn't go very far across 13 Parishes! I now have a copy of a Matrix that shows how decisions are made as to mending potholes, I am told that when repairs are made in the future common sense should be used if one close by also needs repairing. Should you have any problems with reporting problems do let me know or ask the Parish Clerk to send me a list.

### County Farm Lettings 2017

This year there are two new lettings on the County Farms estate. These consist of 13 acres of bare land at Bardwell and 69 acres of bare land at West Row. The properties were advertised, applications were assessed and prospective tenants interviewed. The new tenancies will be for a period of 5 years and will commence on 11 October 2017. The tenancy of the land at Bardwell has been awarded to a 33-year-old shepherdess who is starting her own flock of sheep as a new enterprise, demonstrating how County Farms can give opportunities to aspiring young farmers. Whereas the tenancy at West Row has been let to an established local farmer who is paying a premium rent to help maximize the return on council assets (we also understand taking on the land will allow the tenant to employ a part time member of staff on a full-time basis).

### Energy from Waste

Open events are regularly held at the Suffolk Energy from Waste facility to allow people to come and have a look around, and since the visitor centre opened in 2015 over 2,600 people have been round the plant to find out more about how Suffolk's waste is being used to create electricity for 30,000 homes. Each visit includes a short presentation, time in the interactive visitor centre and the control room, and a tour of the plant. Not only do visitors learn about the Energy from Waste process but also about the 4 R's - reduce, reuse, recycle and recover. Further open events are planned in the Autumn. If you would like to come to an open day, you can email [suffolkefw@sita.co.uk](mailto:suffolkefw@sita.co.uk) to reg

**Suffolk students celebrate as GCSE results continue to rise**

Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools released today show that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year. This year, there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

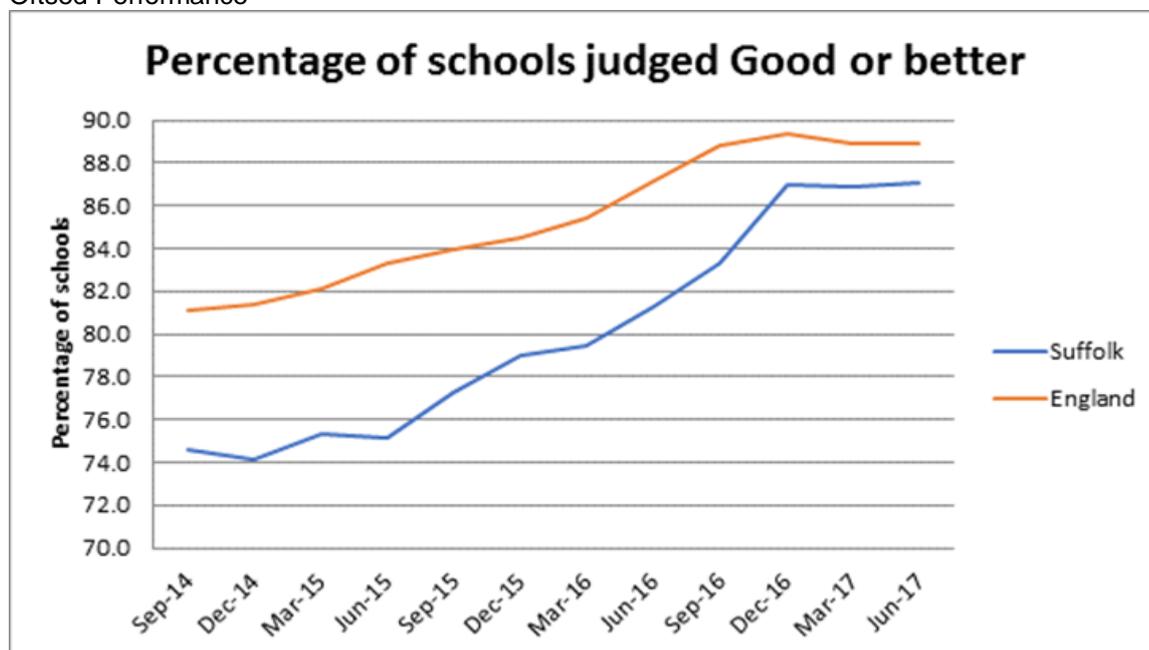
More than 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results. According to provisional results collated from around 80% of schools in Suffolk, 63% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and maths this year. The figures suggest more than 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and maths, compared with last year.

Some schools have made significant gains compared to last year:

- Ormiston Denes Academy: 20% increase to 53% of pupils achieving the threshold for English and maths.
- Holbrook Academy: 15% increase to 88% of pupils achieving the threshold for English and maths.
- Stowmarket High School: 15% increase to 60% of pupils achieving the threshold for English and maths.

The self-reported figures also show a significant increase in the number of disadvantaged pupils achieving the threshold measure in English and maths. Approximately 6% more students in Suffolk achieved this measure this year compared to last year.

#### Oftsed Performance



#### More students in Suffolk pass A level exams than across the country

Provisional A level figures show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A\*-E grades awarded above the national average. Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A Levels in Suffolk. Although yet to be verified, the figures show that 98.2% of A levels taken in the county have been awarded an A\*- E grade, compared with 97.9% nationally. 77% of A level grades achieved were within the A\*- C bracket, in line with national figures and a 1% increase on last year's results. Early indications show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen to 33.37 this year, compared with 30.44 last year. Pass rates remain high across the county, with St Benedict's Catholic School and Newmarket Academy both reporting a 100% pass rate (A\*-E grade achieved). Students at Sir John Leman High School made a significant 11% gain in the number of A\*-C grades awarded this year, increasing from 71% to 82%.

## **Report to Barking Parish Council – 21st September 2017**

Anne Killett, District Councillor

### **Consultation on Joint Local Plan**

The draft Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts is now open to consultation. The aim of the consultation is to give the public, parishes and others the chance to identify the planning issues that are important to them, and to say how the plan might address those issues. The Plan describes the vision and objectives for the years to 2036, the housing requirement for the districts, and how these could be delivered. The plan is clear that delivery has been below requirement over the past few years. The document argues for allowing for contingency sites. The Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAN) per year 2014-2036 is set at 452 (total 9,951), with the

Now is the time to say as a community how many homes are needed in Barking. Although there is not currently a Neighbourhood Plan, the officers working on the Joint Local Plan have assured us they want to hear from communities about their suggested allocations for housing.

There is a review of the Settlement Hierarchy with Barking classified as a ‘hinterland village’;

- Ipswich fringe area (e.g. Bramford, Claydon, Great Blakenham)
- Urban areas and market towns (e.g. Needham Market)
- Core villages (e.g. Somersham)
- Hinterland villages (e.g. Barking)
- Hamlets and countryside (e.g. Offton and Willisham)

The consultation document presents options of how much growth should be allocated to each settlement category. The percentage of the district growth proposed for core villages varies in four options – 20% (county town focussed), 20-25% (market town/rural area balance), 30% (transport corridor focussed), 15% (new settlement focussed). All options propose 5% growth for ‘hamlets and countryside’, with varied emphasis on Ipswich fringe, market towns or new settlements to provide the growth.

There are maps included of settlement boundaries including proposed changes, and potential development sites.

The Plan also considers economic and retail needs.

Two representatives from your Parish Council / Parish are invited to attend the following briefing:

Date: Thursday 28th September 2017

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Needham Market Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, IP6 8BB

### **Move to Endeavour House**

The planned move date of 1<sup>st</sup> October will be put back for some staff as negotiations between management and staff about parking charges have proved more difficult than allowed for. This received media coverage last week. As the Green group, and official opposition, we have requested an extraordinary Cabinet meeting to consider the implications, particularly in light of full council and Cabinet meetings in September being cancelled.

## CLERK'S FINANCE REPORT

21st September 2017

Clerk's report on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last report:

i)	Community A/C (██████████)	Balance at 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b>4,510.48</b>
		Less o/s cheques to be presented	n/a
		<b>Total balance</b>	<b><u>£4,510.48</u></b>

**Payments**

101638	39.49	Environment Agency	Drainage Fee
101639	84.00	Four Parishes magazine	Donation
101640	200.00	St Marys Church Barking	Donation
101641	360.00	MSDC	Bin Emptying 2017/17
101642	52.00	William Dalby	Litter Picking May
101643	284.54	R Cochrane	Clerks Salary May 2017
101644	284.54	R Cochrane	Clerks Salary June 2017
101645	52.00	William Dalby	Litter Picking June
101646	32.00	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses May 2017
101647	20.00	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses June 2017
101648	1,222.06	Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting Qtr 1
<b>Total out</b>	<b>£2,630.63</b>		

**Receipts**

17/7/2017	306.15	MSDC	Cleansing Grant
14/9/2017	100.00	Crystal Blemings	Sale of Village Hall Play Equipment
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£406.15</b>		

**Payments for authorisation**

101649	120.00	R Nash	Grass Cutting
101650	65.00	W Dalby	Litter Picking July 2017
101651	284.54	R Cochrane	Clerks Salary July 2017
101652	52.00	W Dalby	Litter Picking August 2017
101653	284.54	R Cochrane	Clerks Salary August 2017
101654	101.67	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses July & August 2017
<b>Total to be authorised</b>	<b>£907.75</b>		

ii)	Barclays Active Saver (██████████)	Balance at 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b><u>£4,588.43</u></b>
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Payments: n/a

Receipts: n/a

iii)	Barclays Base Rate Reward (██████████)	Balance @ 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b><u>£27,907.44</u></b>
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Payments: n/a      Receipts: 1/8/2017      £5.54      Interest

1/9/2017      £5.92      Interest

**Total Receipts    £11.46**

iv)	Parish Paths Partnership (██████████)	Balance at 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b><u>£83.65</u></b>
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Payments: n/a      Receipts: n/a

v)	Village Hall Extension Project (██████████)	Balance @ 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b><u>£0</u></b>
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Receipts: n/a

Payments: n/a

**Total funds held @ 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017    £36,990**R Cochrane 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017