

# **BARKING PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm  
on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015

## **PRESENT:**

Cllr S Butler (Chair)  
Cllr M Smith  
Cllr M Bailey  
Cllr A Ross  
Cllr C Eagles

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*  
District Councillor David Card

## **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr A Smith - family commitment  
County Councillor Julia Truelove - holiday

### **BPC107/15 PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **BPC108/15 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr A Smith, County Cllr Julia Truelove and the Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood Team.

### **BPC109/15 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT**

It was reported that the Police will not be routinely attending meetings in the future due to other priorities, and that no report will be given. The Clerk will need to proactively check on any criminal activities that may have occurred area. Clerk to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing the Council's disappointment at the lack of Police Reports.

Clerk

### **BPC110/15 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DAVID CARD'S REPORT (see attached report)**

Councillor Card reported on Devolution of Powers, Joint Strategic Plan to 2019, follow-ups from previous report, Police and Crime Watch Schemes – Police Direct now Police Connect, and Community/Locality Grant Fund. There were no questions for Cllr Card.

### **BPC111/15 COUNTY COUNCILLOR JULIA TRUELOVE'S REPORT (see attached report)**

Cllr Truelove was unable to be present, but had sent a written report ahead of the meeting. Main points : Devolution Bid, Child Sexual Exploitation, Educational Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, Suffolk's Walking Strategy, Success for Suffolk Scamnesty and Aviva Tour of Britain due to travel through Barking.

### **BPC112/15 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **BPC113/15 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

## **BPC114/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

## **BPC115/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported on actions taken.

- i. **Hay Crop** – It was reported that no one was interested in taking the hay crop free of charge. One person offered to remove the crop but would charge up to £900 for doing so. The Clerk, under her delegated powers, appointed Michael Smith to cut the crop at cost for a total of £300 plus vat. It is a requirement of the ELS/HLS Agreement that the hay is cut and there was a considerable fire risk to the crop if it were not cut.
- ii. **Parking on the Tye** – Clerk has approached 2 contractors so far and is meeting one next week.

## **BPC116/15 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

It was reported that no applications had been received. All Councillors to approach at least 2 people before the next meeting. Clerk to continue to advertise the vacancy.

All  
Clerk

## **BPC117/15 PLANNING**

### **i) 2916/15 Broadlands, Barking Tye**

It was reported that one letter of objection had been received from a member of the public citing loss of a view. **Decision** – It was resolved to support this application as it was considered that there were no relevant material reasons to object. Clerk to respond accordingly within the deadline.

**ii) 3140/15 - Plots 5 & 6 Moat Farm Barns** – It was reported that this application had only just been received, and it was not in time to be placed on this agenda. It was agreed to call another meeting for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm to enable this matter to be considered. Clerk to action.

## **BPC118/15 FINANCE**

### **i) To receive Internal and External Auditors Reports**

It was reported that the Annual Audit for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 has now been completed and both the Internal and External Auditors Reports have been received. No matters were to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council by either Internal or the External Auditor.

### **ii) Clerk's Finance Report (*attached to these minutes*)**

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was £48,122.77. All Bank Statements were checked by Cllr Ann Ross and signed.

**iii) Authorisation of Payments** **Decision** - Payments totalling £8,065.72 were approved and cheques signed.

## **BPC119/15 RENEWAL OF WATER MAIN**

It was reported that works to replace the water main have commenced. Concern was expressed about the inadequate signage. **Decision** - Clerk to write to Anglian Water representative to request that the signage be reviewed.

Clerk

## **BPC120/15 NEEDHAM MARKET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was reviewed. It was suggested that there is little reference to the railway station in Needham Market and that this should be included as an important facility for Needham Market and the surrounding area. **Decision** – Clerk to write to Needham Market Town Council in support of the Plan and also highlighting the omission of the reference to the

Clerk

railway station and requesting that it be included.

### **BPC121/15 GAMBLING ACT 2005/LICENCING ACT 2005 CONSULTATION**

It was reported that both consultations have been received from Mid Suffolk District Council.

**Decision** - It was resolved not to comment on either consultation.

### **BPC122/15 NEEDHAM MARKET & BARKING WELFARE CHARITIES**

#### **REPRESENTATIVE**

It was reported that Susan Marsh is standing down as a representative at the AGM in October and so a replacement nominated representative of the Parish Council needs to be appointed.

**Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to appoint Cllr Craig Eagles. Clerk to inform the Charities.

Clerk

### **BPC123/15 NEW FOUNDATION AWARD**

This item was deferred from the previous meeting. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved that although the Council is sufficiently confident that it is working effectively to the highest standards, it does not want to spend public money to seek an award/ an external endorsement to confirm that it is, especially when there would appear to be no additional benefit from being a Foundation Award holder. It was agreed that the Council would ensure all the relevant criteria are in place but would not be seeking the Award. Only two criteria still to be met – to adopt a Training Policy and to have a Plan of Action in place. Clerk to circulate the draft Action Plan again and to place on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk

### **BPC124/15 TRAINING POLICY**

It was proposed and resolved to adopt the draft Training Policy as presented.

### **BPC125/15 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Cllr Bailey reported on the completion of Phase 1 of the Village Hall Extension Project – store room and new oil tank. Next phase is the meeting room – tenders will now be sought. There was some discussion about who would seek the tenders and it was agreed that the Village Hall Committee should do that, with the Clerk managing the finances as she did for Phase 1. Other matters – the key code needs changing, there is new lighting in the rear passageway, and the exterior of the building is being decorated.

### **BPC126/15 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Clerk reported on urgent decisions made since the previous meeting:

- i) **Removal of diseased tree** – The Clerk authorised the removal of a tree on the Tye following advice from the Barking Tree Warden – cost £120 plus vat. This decision was approved.
- ii) **Hay Crop** – It was reported that no one was interested in taking the hay crop free of charge. One person offered to remove the crop but would charge up to £900 for doing so. The Clerk, under her delegated powers, appointed Michael Smith to cut the crop at cost for a total of £300 plus vat. It is a requirement of the ELS/HLS Agreement that the hay is cut and there was a considerable fire risk to the crop if it were not cut. This decision was approved.
- iii) **Aviva Men's Cycle Tour of Britain** – To protect the Tye and to help to manage the event, Clerk had approved (following discussion with the Chair) to allocate a parking area on the Tye (free parking following consultation with Councillors), to cone off the whole Tye to prevent unauthorised parking (cost borne by MSDC) and to permit Skoda UK to set up a stand on the Tye for the event, including opening up the Village Hall to provide toilet facilities for the Skoda UK team.. These decisions were approved.

**BPC127/15 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The ‘correspondence for information’ folder was circulated. Also, two items of correspondence received by the Clerk in connection with the hay crop and the Aviva Men’s Cycle Tour were brought to the attention of the Council. It has been suggested that the Parish Council seeks a retrospective donation from Skoda UK. It was suggested and agreed that the Council wanted to host a free event and it would not want to seek a donation. Skoda UK had handed out free tea/coffee and cake all day which effectively meant that the Parish did not have to lay on anything and just enjoy the event. Clerk to respond accordingly.

Clerk

**BPC128/15 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- i) **Hedge from Barking Forge to Barking Hall** - It was asked if SCC can ask the landowner to trim the hedge while the road is closed. Clerk to action.
- ii) **Hedge o/s Hillside** - It was asked if SCC can ask the owner of Hillside to trim the hedge again. Clerk to action.
- iii) **Pill Boxes** – It was proposed that the Council consider cutting back the briars that obscure the two pill boxes on the Tye so they can be seen. Item to be placed on the agenda for next meeting.
- iv) **Hedge at Barking Hall Nursing Home** – It was reported that Cllr Michael Smith had been asked by a member of the public if the Council can request that the hedge growing as a screen at Barking Hall Nursing Home be cut back so the Church can be seen from the road. It was reported that this is not a Parish Council issue, but it was agreed that the Clerk try to find out if the maintenance of the hedge was planning condition when the first extension was built.

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**PC129/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting will be Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm to consider a planning application, followed by the next scheduled meeting on a 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm.

*Meeting closed at 9.30pm*

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



## **Councillor Julia Truelove Report September 2015**

### **DEVOLUTION BID**

Colin Noble, Leader of S.C.C., has reported the position regarding a potential bid to Government to be given devolved powers in the future. Councillors and staff from every Borough, County and District councils are working on this bid. Colin Noble reports, 'Suffolk is now the exemplar at national level when it comes to collaborative working across boundaries and structures. It is this experience, along with a desire to get some real influence and power at local levels, that is the background for our devolution work'.

The next update to councillors will be some time after early September. The deadline for the bid to be submitted to Government is September 18<sup>th</sup>.

At the time of reporting the above I have not seen a draft of the submission.

### **C.COUNCILLORS TO BE BRIEFED ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Local Safeguarding Children's Boards are responsible for ensuring that appropriate local procedures are in place to tackle child exploitation. This is the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18, into sexual activity, in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status.

All County Councillors are now required to attend an induction meeting to be held in the near future, in order to be fully apprised of the issues.

### **S.C.C.'S REPORT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At this meeting, the Assistant Director for Education's current Report will be scrutinised. Six factors are listed which block Suffolk achieving its ambitions. Amongst them is the degree of aspiration and problems relating to teacher recruitment. 'Too many leaders, teachers and parents are not inspirational enough'.

The above report is an important subject for scrutiny, notwithstanding the improved attainments in G.C.S.E. and Primary School ratings. The County Council wants all schools to be rated, 'good', or outstanding by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **SUFFOLK WALKING STRATEGY**

This is a plan over the next five years to get more people walking. It aims to encourage walking as a means of transport for all journeys under 20 minutes. The Council will engage with rambler groups and walking challenge events. There will also be work to promote more people into sports.

The project should encourage local people to help ensure that footpaths and other rights of way remain in place and are easily accessible.

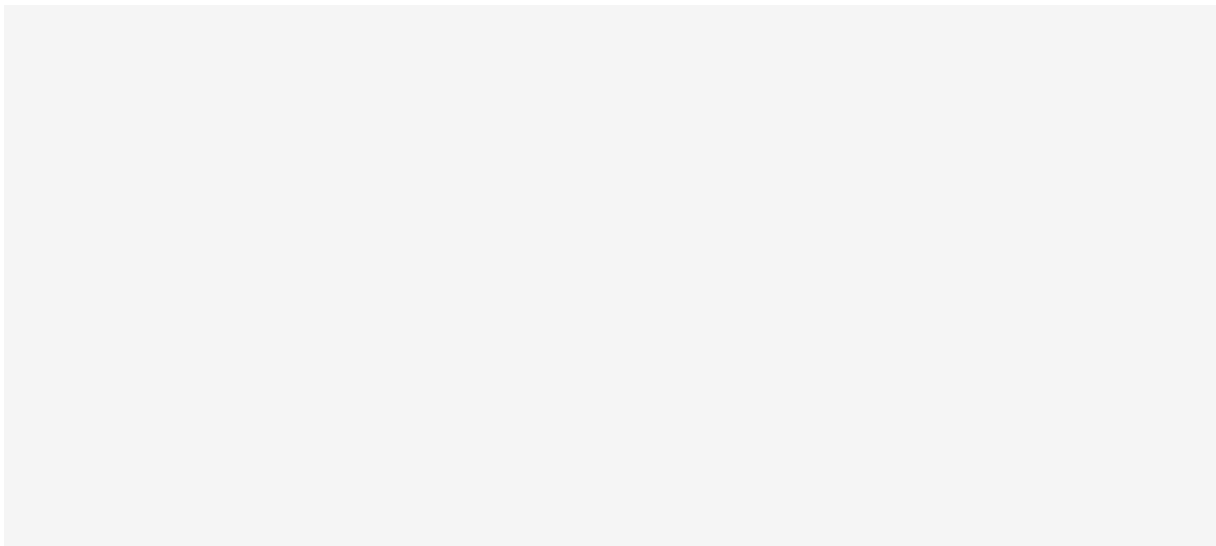
### **SUCCESS FOR SUFFOLK SCAMENSTY**

As a result of the 'Scamensty' campaign reported recently, 8,000 pieces of scam mail were destroyed. These were collected since January 2015.

The mail continues to be logged and information sent to the National Trading Scams Team to utilise their enforcement and in their training work with other agencies, such as Royal Mail.

### **AVIVA TOUR OF BRITAIN – STAGE 7 – Sept.12<sup>th</sup> – SAT.**

Wattisham Flying Station is to host a runway sprint for the professional cyclists participating in the event. Up to 120 top cyclists will race on the Base's 2,400 metre runway. The whole distance covered in this stage is from Fakenham to Ipswich. Cyclists will also travel through Barking.



## District Cllr David Card Report September 2015

### Follow up from Previous Reports

Baylham Planning application. This was debated on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. I had asked that it be “called in” for committee decision. Following a full and open debate where all sides had the opportunity to state their case the committee decided to follow the officer’s recommendation and refuse permission.

MSDC Treasury Management Plan. I have tabled a question for the September Full Council meeting that seeks clarification on the idea of making Long Term Investments of up to £10million from reserves to provide a new income stream of some £250,000 per annum.

Food Enterprise Zones. I have suggested that all local food Businesses be invited to a meeting to learn what this could mean for them.

The “Save the Somersham Duke” Campaign have issued their prospectus inviting investors to help.

Barking Water Main – at last progress on plans to replace the old failing pipeline but with accompanying Road Closures.

### Recent Useful Information

Police & Crime Watch Schemes- “Police Direct”

Information from the public is a major help in the fight against crime and to keep our community a safer place. Following lead thefts from church roofs once again Rural Crime has become a hot topic. You can be more involved and Police Connect is a useful information system that helps. It is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone. Police Connect replaced Police Direct last year and subscribers to Police Direct were not automatically transferred to Police Connect, which means people need to sign up again.

You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area. There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are **free**. By taking a few moments to fill out a simple form, you become more informed about what's happening in your community and can become more involved in helping to prevent and reduce crime.

To register go to the [Police Connect](#) web page on the Constabulary website, and sign up on line.

District Councillor “one off” £5,000 Community/Locality Grant Fund

Details of a one off scheme have been announced. So any organisation who have a community project that requires a grant should contact me to start their bid by completing a Grant Application form.

### An Emerging Debate: Devolution of Powers

The Government’s Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill is being talked about. The Bill makes provision for the public sector including local authorities to ‘bid’ to run functions currently delivered centrally by devolving powers to a more local level.

Whilst most attention has been given to the so-called Northern Powerhouse, other councils in other parts of the country have also been talking with Government. This includes a consortium from Suffolk.

All Suffolk Councils (district/borough and county) agreed to register a statement of interest as a starting point for future and more detailed discussions with ministers and civil servants. The areas being considered are **education & skills, health, housing and productivity & growth**. It may be a couple of years before the work needed to plan for these devolved powers and responsibilities is agreed by Central Government and we see the changes begin to happen.

### Joint Strategic Plan to 2019

This Plan remains at the core of MSDC thinking and approach (quote *“the plan acts as an inspiration for all our communities ....to work with us to deliver the best ways of achieving the plan’s outcomes”*). Babergh District Council have reviewed their plan and I continue to push MSDC to follow suit.

So far we have reviewed these topics from the Plan:-

- Housing- *“Explore innovative approaches to housing delivery such as Self build, co-Housing, Community Land Trusts and Equity share”... especially for the First Time Buyer*
- Economy & Environment- *“... adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy (whereby developers contribute to new facilities with some of the monies retained by town and parish councils) and work with communities to ensure that local infrastructure is invested in, to support new developments”*
- Communities- *“Identify and work with communities who wish to take up their rights (community right to build, community right to buy, community right to challenge, community right to bid, neighbourhood planning)”*

For this month Economy & Environment- *“Community led planning will be supported and we are already making good progress where communities are prepared to lead sustainable growth in their areas”*

- What is your experience?