

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*
District Councillor David Card

APOLGIES:

County Councillor Julia Truelove

BPC136/15 PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present but no questions were raised.

BPC137/15 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DAVID CARD'S REPORT (see attached report)

Councillor Card reported on MSDC Treasury Management Plan, Stowmarket Food Enterprise Zones, Stowmarket Technology Hub, Barking Road Closures, Community Infrastructure Levy, Locality Funding, Community Achievement Awards, Community Led Planning, Scam Warnings (Council Tax Rebates), Devolution of Powers Debate and the Joint Strategic Plan to 2019. There were no questions for Cllr Card.

BPC138/15 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 : Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme, Road Closures, Suffolk's Devolution proposals, Revue of care support to live at home, Working Together Awards Programme. There was also an offer from the SCC Highways Director to meet with Barking Parish Council to respond to concerns raised by members of the public regarding recent and planned road closures. It was resolved to take up the offer and request that the meeting take place ahead of the next road closures planned for January if at all possible. Clerk to action. It was reported by the Chair that he and the Clerk will attend a meeting on 1st December with County Cllr Truelove, Police and senior Highways staff to discuss what can be done about the bend adjacent to Barking Hall Nursing Home. A report will be given at the next scheduled meeting.

Clerk

Chair, Clerk

BPC139/15 TO RECEIVE APLOGIES

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Julia Truelove.

BPC140/15 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

BPC141/15 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

BPC142/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Decision - The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC143/15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Decision - The minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2015 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

BPC144/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK'S REPORT

There were no matters arising from either meeting other than what will reported at various points during this meeting.

BPC145/15 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

It was reported that one application had been received from Mrs Rosamund Fellowes, who was in attendance. It was proposed that Rosamund was well known in the community, was a long serving member of the Parochial Church Council and would be a great asset to the Council. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to co-opt Rosamund Fellowes with immediate effect. The Declaration of Acceptance form was duly completed and Rosamund joined the meeting as a member. Register of Interests to be completed within 28 days.

Cllr Fellowes

*8pm. The Chair briefly left the meeting to attend to an urgent personal matter.
Cllr Alex Smith (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting from this point.*

BPC146/15 PLANNING

i) There were no applications for consideration.

ii) **2916/15 Broadlands, Barking Tye** - It was reported that this application has been granted by MSDC with a recommendation from Suffolk Fire Service that a sprinkler be installed due to the barn's distance from the nearest water hydrant.

The Chair returned to the meeting at this point.

iii) **3140/15 - Plots 5 & 6 Moat Farm Barns** – It was reported that this application has been refused by MSDC. It was proposed that the Council further considers what can be done at the Moat Farm Barns site to improve highway safety. All to look for good examples of traffic calming in other parts of Suffolk.

All

Cllr Butler chaired the meeting from this point.

BPC147/15 FINANCE

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

The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 19th November 2015 was £42,448.44. Bank Statements were checked by Cllr Ann Ross and signed.

ii) **Authorisation of Payments**

Decision - Payments totalling £2,012.63 plus £17 for the Poppy Wreath were approved and cheques signed.

iii) **Draft Budget 2016-17**

The draft Budget for 2016 – 17 was presented for consideration. All to feed back any comments to the Clerk well ahead of the next scheduled meeting, when the Budget and Precept will be set.

All

BPC148/15 GRANT REQUEST – ST MARYS CHURCH , BARKING

It was reported that a request had been received from the Parochial Church Council of St Marys Church, Barking, for a grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard/grass cutting.

Decision - It was proposed and resolved to donate £200 this financial year and to review future on-going support at the next scheduled meeting. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC149/15 RENEWAL OF WATER MAIN

It was reported that works to replace the water main have been interrupted due to an unexpected mandatory 28 day consultation with the Commoners. This expires on 3rd December after which date it is hoped work will continue by laying the new water main in the Tye. It was further reported that another full road closure is planned from 11th January for one month to complete the works. It was suggested that any diversion route in January/February needs to be carefully considered as not all the diversion route is routinely gritted during bad weather. **Decision** - Clerk to raise this issue with SCC Highways.

Clerk

BPC150/15 ACTION PLAN 2015 – 2016 (see website)

A draft Action Plan was presented for consideration. **Decision** – It was proposed and resolved to adopt the Action Plan as presented. It will form the basis of pro-active actions to be taken by the Parish Council and will be kept under constant review. It was reported that one of the dog bins on the Tye (near Lower Farm) is full to overflowing. It was suggested that as the Village Caretaker, Dick Nash, is currently unwell and unable to empty the bin, that the bin be added to the schedule of bin emptying by MSDC. **Decision** –It was proposed and resolved that the Clerk arrange for the bin to be emptied now (under her delegated authority powers), and to consider the long term emptying at the next scheduled meeting. Clerk to action.

Clerk

BPC151/15 PILL BOXES ON THE TYE

It was proposed to cut down the brambles surrounding the two pill boxes on the Tye as they are getting very overgrown. **Decision** – It was resolved that Cllr Smith would cut back the brambles and only charge a rate of £25 an hour.

Cllr Smith

BPC152/15 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Bailey reported that Phase 2 of the Village Hall Extension Project was underway. Tenders are being sought from 3 contractors so the Clerk can start to look for funding streams.

BPC153/15 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

- i) **St Helena Hospice Cycle Ride** – It was reported that permission had been given, following consultation with all Councillors, for a refreshment stand to be set up on the Tye during the cycle ride in September.

BPC154/15 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The 'correspondence for information' folder was circulated.

BPC155/15 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- i) **Cedar House** – It was reported that a contractor was laying a block paving access from the property to the road, across the Tye. Work had been stopped and the Chair spoke with the contractor to inform him that only tarmac could be laid across the Tye land. The owner has subsequently spoken with the Chair having accepted this restriction.
- ii) **Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities** – Cllr Eagles reported that there is concern that the work of the Charities is not adequately promoted within Barking. All to

promote as best they can.

All

PC156/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be Thursday 21st January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman Date

CLERK'S FINANCE REPORT

19th November 2015

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

i) Community A/C (Current - 20154156): Balance at 16th November 2015 £3,145.34

Payments

101517	1,186.44	Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd	Grass Cutting interim payment
101518	234.75	R Cochrane	Clerks salary July 2015
101519	120.00	BDO LLP	External Auditor Report
101520	104.00	M Pryke	Litter Picking July & August 2015
101521	123.50	M Pryke	Weeding car park and play areas
101522	144.00	M Smith	Remove tree from Tye
101523	360.00	M Smith	Cut hay crop
101524	234.55	R Cochrane	Clerks salary August 2015
101525	414.50	CAS Ltd	Insurance Renewal 2015-16
101526	77.45	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses July 2015
101527	22.50	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses August 2015
101528	5,026.03	Suffolk County Council	Street Lighting upgrades
101529	18.00	SALC	Clerks Networking Day
Total out	£8,065.72		

Receipts

2/10/2015	104.00	HMRC	VAT Refund
22/10/2015	1,056.52	HMRC	VAT Refund
23/10/2015	1,207.75	RPA	ELS/HLS Payment
Total receipts	£2,368.27		

Payments for authorisation

101530	234.35	R Cochrane	Clerks salary September 2015
101531	1,186.44	Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting quarter 2
101532	112.14	R Cochrane	Clerks expenses September 2015
101533	90.00	R Cochrane	Finance Training
101534	52.00	R Nash	Litter picking
101535	66.00	Heelis & Lodge	Internal Auditor fee
101536	234.75	R Cochrane	Clerks Salary October 2015
101537	36.95	R Cochrane	Clerks Expenses October 2015
Total to be authorised	£2,012.63		

ii) Barclays Active Saver (33796183): Balance at 13th November 2015 £11,015.01

Payments: n/a Receipts: n/a

iii) Barclays Base Rate Reward (83036480) Balance @ 13th November 2015 £27,704.84

Payments: n/a Receipts: 1/10/2015 £11.38 Interest
1/11/2015 £12.14 Interest

Total Receipts £23.52

iv) Parish Paths Partnership (50502480) Balance at 13th November 2015 £83.65

Payments: n/a Receipts: n/a

v) Village Hall Extension Project (23784843) Balance @ 13th November 2015 £500.00

Receipts:
Payments: n/a

Total funds held @ 19th November 2015 £42,448.84

R Cochrane 19th November 2015

Councillor Julia Truelove Report November 2015

SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS SCHEME

Suffolk Public Sector leaders have unanimously agreed to support the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme by offering to take up to 200 refugees. The location of suitable services in greater Ipswich means that the refugees will be settled predominantly in that area. A county wide task group has been established to make sure Suffolk is ready to accept refugees. How the public might help will be known shortly.

ROAD CLOSURE ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION

Since the start of the Broad Band project laying cable from Stowmarket to Wattisham Base there have been prolonged and extensive road closures affecting most of the customary routes through the Division. Many of the road closures have resulted in long diversionary routes for most of us, two of them lasting months and one of them not finished yet. I have met the Chief Director of Services and will shortly be meeting the new Highways Director to discuss the serious issues arising and hope that S.C.C. will be more involved with co-ordination, communication and regular inspections. Following our meeting, S.C.C. Highways Director has offered to meet with Barking Parish Council to discuss the issues arising.

SUFFOLK'S DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS

One of the designated seven work streams has focussed on economic growth.

The key ideas include: Ways of boosting productivity, Mechanisms to unlock growth, Strategic partnerships to accelerate housing growth, Reform to the skills and education systems.

The above will be refined, discussed and agreed by the Challenge Session Team, then presented to senior politicians and civil servants in early November. The outcomes will be reflected on by S.C.C. and District Council Leaders together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership ahead of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on 25th November.

NEW HOME REVUE CARE SUPPORT TO LIVE AT HOME

S.C.C. , whilst remaining committed to delivering a new model of support have, for the time being, delayed its implementation. S.C.C. will now review the position case by case rather than from a geographical basis. The approach has arisen because of the complexities of the customer reviews and the changes to the systems to implement them. You will recall that social services and the N.H.S are now working more closely together to meet the needs of those requiring care.

AWARDS PROGRAMME – WORKING TOGETHER FUND

Awards of up to £10,000 could be made to community applicants whose work reflects outstanding service delivery or community activity achieved as a result of increased collaborative working. The fund is open to charities, community groups and not for profit organisations.

Contact the Grants officer on 01473 786912

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**District Councillor Report for November 2015 prepared by Cllr David Card 2 Nov 2015
for the parishes of Barking, Baylham, Darmsden, Nettlestead, Offton, Somersham and Willsham**

MSDC Treasury Management Plan - I was given reassurance following my question to the September Full Council meeting that making Long Term Investments of up to £10million from reserves to provide a new income stream of some £250,000 per annum is allowed under the rules. The Council had previously also agreed in principle to borrow up to £25million for an investment return aimed at mitigating reduction in central government grant funding.

Stowmarket Food Enterprise Zones. My suggested that all local food Businesses be invited to a meeting to learn what this could mean for them appears to have been taken on board. I await details of date and venue and will advise you accordingly. In the meantime if any local food business wishes to find out more do contact me.

Stowmarket Technology Hub – a proposal is being developed within the town that may have useful ramifications for us in the surrounding villages.

Barking and other Road Closures – I have had a number of complaints about the 24/7 long term road closures. Although this is not a District Council responsibility I have said I would welcome a meeting called by SCC to discuss the problems and the inconvenience long term 24/7 road closures cause. I am told the next Barking Road closure will be after Christmas in the New Year.

Community Infrastructure Levy - Although we were told that the decision to adopt this new levy would be sought at our September full council meeting this has still to happen.

District Councillor "one off" £5,000 Community/Locality Grant Fund - Each District Councillor has a budget of £5,000 of taxpayers money to recommend for local good causes. So far I have had no formal approaches and we have until early January 2016 to get bids in. Any organisation with a community project should contact me to start their bid by completing a Grant Application form.

Community Achievement Awards – nominations are sought across 4 categories- Rising Sta, Community Hero, Action in the Community and Outstanding Local Business. The closing date for nominations is the 31st December 2015.

Community Led Planning – Currently a much more formal and expensive scheme called Neighbourhood Plans has operated. The take up has not been that high so MSDC are proposing a simpler scheme called "Community Led Planning". Guidance on the scheme is expected to be made public shortly. This idea was last month's Joint Strategic Plan topic.

Scam Warnings – Council Tax Rebates - Fraudsters have been phoning victims telling them that they have been placed in the wrong council tax bracket for a number of years and are entitled to a rebate worth about £7,000. Once the victim is convinced, the fraudster tells them that in order to receive the rebate they will need to pay an administration fee in advance. The fraudsters have mainly been targeting victims aged 60 and over. Reports have come from the Sussex area, but it is likely that the fraudsters will also start to target victims in other areas.

Devolution of Powers Debate - The Government's Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill is being worked up behind the scenes. 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. Suffolk registered their interest in time only to be told to think again and work with Norfolk and consider an elected mayor. This is a fast moving debate that has already consumed much senior official and leading member's time and resource.

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 communitiesto 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.

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)*"

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*"

This month's topic:- Economy & Environment - "*Understanding our businesses and building relationships will help us to target our resources and deliver services directly to them or connect them quickly to the support available*".

The Food Enterprise Scheme and The Stowmarket Technology Hub are two projects being worked up. There is also a project called Gateway 14 around Ipswich. MSDC are holding events for networking with business and any business that wishes to find out more do contact me. I have suggested that a JOINT Local Business Forum with quarterly meetings and an annual forum with active member participation. That could include Procurement opportunities, infrastructure provision including the award of the new Rail franchise and what our communities expect of the new franchise, better roads and connectivity with both land lines and mobiles, broadband, water, waste.....etc....