**BARKING PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm

on Thursday 15th September 2016

**PRESENT:**

Cllr A Smith

Cllr S Butler *Vice* *-Chair*

Cllr M Smith

Cllr M Bailey

Cllr R Fellowes

**IN ATTENDENCE:**

Mrs R J Cochrane *Clerk*

County Cllr Julia Truelove

District Cllr Anne Killett

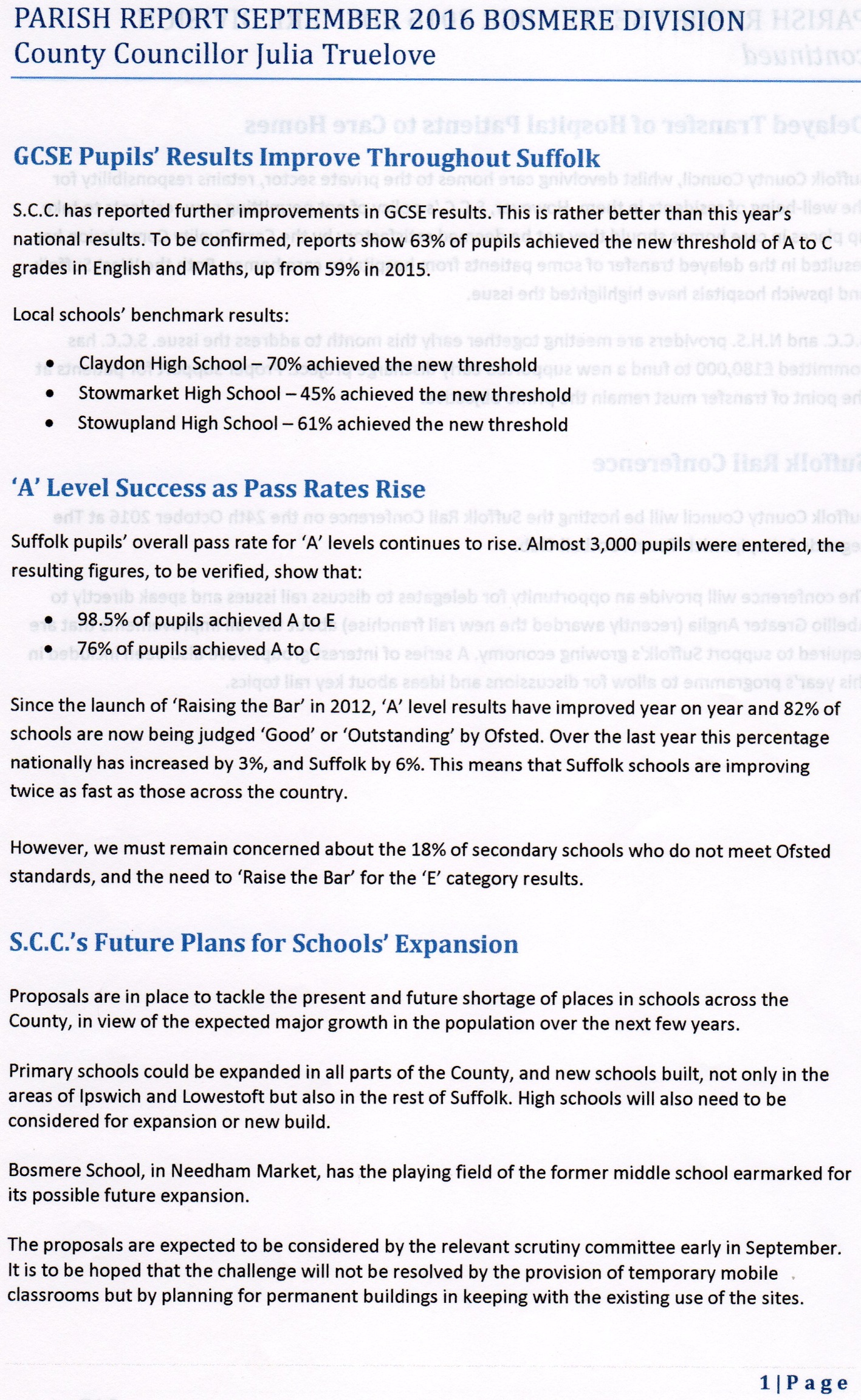
**APOLOGIES:**

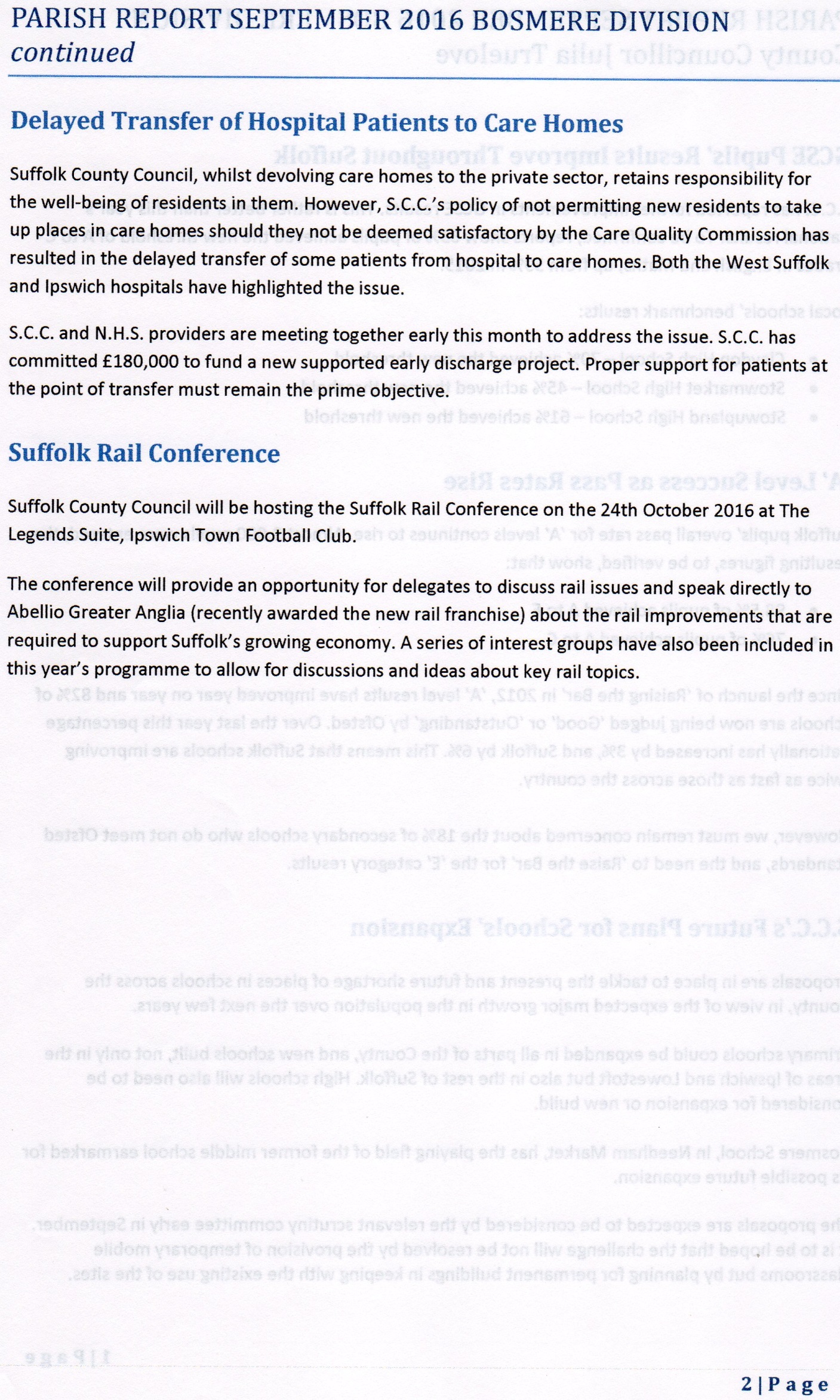
Cllr A Ross – *family commitment*

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| **BPC106/16 PUBLIC FORUM**  There were 16 members of the public present, who were invited to ask questions/make statements :  All question/statements in were relation to planning application 3506/16.   * Council asked to strongly object to the application and not leave it unchallenged as it could create a precedent. Need to take a long term view and ignore short term benefits. If Council votes to object that a sub committee be set up and a meeting held with MSDC planning officer. * Does building in Barking set a precedent ? Value of land near the proposed site will increase – offers are already being made for land. New Prime Minister has stated she is minded to accept building on green belt only in exceptional circumstances. * In the past it has been a battle to gain planning permission – now the opposite is happening. * Once development starts – where will it lead ? * Only 6 bungalows included in the plans – the rest will be 2/3 storey ?   **BPC107/16 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**  Apologies had been received from Cllr Ann Ross.  **BPC108/16 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANNE KILLETT’S REPORT (see attached report)**  Councillor Killett reported on planning application 3506/16 – extension granted until 23rd September. Application will go before committee after 13 weeks; Middle School site purchased for housing (playing field not included in the development site as Bosmere is likely to expand; Boundary Review for MSDC based on the numbers of people being able to vote - to be in place by 2019; Plans for changes to council staff; and Devolution.  **BPC109/16 COUNTY COUNCILLOR JULIA TRUELOVE’S REPORT (see attached - electronic report o/s)**  Cllr Truelove reported on GCSE results – improving; A level success as pass rates rise; SCC future plans for schools expansion; delayed transfer of hospital patients to care homes; and Suffolk Rail Conference.    **BPC110/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  There were no declarations of interest received.  **BPC111/16 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**  None had been received.  **BPC112/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st JULY 2016**  **Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2016 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Butler, Seconded Cllr Fellowes.  **BPC113/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH AUGUST 2016**  **Decision** - The minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2016 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Bailey, Seconded Cllr Butler.  **BPC114/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - CLERK’S REPORT**   1. **Landowners Options** – Cllr Killett reported that it is not a legal requirement that landowners who have options on parcels of land have to declare the options. 2. **Container at Barking Forge** - It was reported that MSDC Planning Enforcement have acknowledged the Council’s request to look into the matter of the temporary container (the Council had requested a consistent approach to the siting of containers). 3. **Defibrillator** – It was reported that the telephone mechanism can be removed and that telephone box can now be purchased by the Parish Council for £1 so that the defibrillator can be installed. See minute no BPC122/16. 4. **Hay Crop –** It was reported that the hay crop was cut and removed before the ragwort flowered/set seed. This was at no cost to the council. 5. **Gateway –** It was reported that SCC Highways has still not responded to the Clerk’s request for details of the proposed gateway. Cllr Truelove then reported that the cost is likely to be £5,000 and that she has requested a breakdown of the components of the cost. She hopes to have this information before the next meeting.   **BPC115/16 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**  It was reported that there have been no applicants, however there has been no Four Parishes Magazine for September. Clerk to advertise in the next issue. Item deferred to the next meeting.  **BPC116/16 PLANNING**   1. **3189/16 Sugar Loaf, Barking** The applicant was present and was invited to speak/give background information – original application for a single dwelling house, since turned into 2 flats; council tax being paid by both flats since 2004; evidence that both flats rented for at least 10 years. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved that this application should be supported. Clerk to respond to MSDC Planning within the deadline. 2. **3056/16 Land at Barking Road, Needham Market/Barking**   **Decision -** After a very lengthy and detailed discussion, it was proposed and resolved unanimously to object to the application for the following reasons (Proposed Cllr Fellowes, seconded Cllr M Smith):   1. **Departure from the Local Plan -**Barking Parish Council regards this proposed development as a blatant departure from the Local Plan and it is feared this development will inevitably lead to yet another boundary review and a further loss of parish land to Needham Market. 2. **Visual Impact -** Barking’s boundary will be compromised - there will no longer be a buffer between Barking and Needham Market and Barking will lose its identity as a separate entity from Needham Market. This incursion into the buffer zone is totally unacceptable. The visual impact of this proposed development cannot be understated. 3. **Barking Village Design Statement - 2002/Barking Parish Plan 2011** The Parish Council has to ask what is the point of small communities such as Barking, spending time and money undertaking Parish Plans and Village Design Statements (and encouraged to do so by Suffolk County Council and MSDC) when this hard work is largely ignored. 4. **Highways/Traffic** It is accepted that 61 – 65% (2011 census) of people’s preferred mode of transport is the private motor car, so it is predicted that the junction with the Barking Road/B1078 will see an expected 200 + vehicle movements a day from this development alone. The Barking Road/B1078 is already a very busy, fast and dangerous road (60mph at the proposed junction). There have been two fatal accidents very close to the proposed junction already – one on 16th July 2005 and the second this year on 15th March 2016. Both incidents have been totally overlooked by the developers.The only reference to highway safety appears to be a suggestion that the 30mph limit is extended along the Barking Road/B1078 as far as SCC Highways deem appropriate. Clerk to request a further traffic survey if at all possible. 5. **Biodiversity** The site is home to numerous species of wildlife on which the negative impact of this proposed development will be felt. Once again, such large housing developments on greenbelt and in particular prime agricultural land is totally unacceptable. 6. **Impact on the Community** The residents of this proposed new development, despite any efforts by the community of Barking, will inevitably feel they live in Needham Market, will have a Needham Market address and will feel no affiliation to the other residents of Barking. There may be a desire and need to provide more housing across the district, but these developments must take place in more appropriate locations. The preservation of the parish and its countryside setting should not be sacrificed. Barking Parish Council is appalled by the total disregard by Hopkins Homes of Barking Parish - possibly only mentioned twice in the whole application …. and then only in respect of CIL and consultation (a separate consultation was held with the people of Barking only after an intervention by the Parish Council). 7. **Flooding** There is a proven flooding issue at Foxglove Avenue, and the Barking Road/ B1078 just beyond ‘Oak Hill’ has regularly flooded in the past, and this was just from surface water running off the fields. There appears to be a token ‘dry’ pond adjacent to the proposed new surgery car park. This is an inadequate response to potential serious flooding at this location. 152 additional new homes will inevitably lead for further serious flooding issues at this location. The applicant has not demonstrated an adequate resolution to likely serious flooding at this site. 8. **Provision of Services** The Needham Market Country Practice has stated that it will be able to cope, but where is the evidence that the Practice can cope with the extra demand that will be placed on both the surgery itself and the pharmacy by the addition of approx. 365 new patients resulting from this proposed new development alone. Local residents will testify now that the Practice cannot currently meet the demands of the local community. The addition of more car parking spaces has been needed for many years, but it is the capability of the Practice itself to meet the needs of 152 new homes that is being challenged, and is considered to be unsustainable. 9. **Need** We have recently seen the completion of 3 new affordable homes within the settlement boundary of Barking, close to the village centre. There is no strong case made for a large housing development within Barking. … and the local infrastructure cannot support one anyway. New residents will see themselves as living in Needham Market and will access services and amenities in Needham Market, not Barking. There will be a complete disconnect with Barking residents. Small villages have been encouraged by both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council to engage with their communities and to produce Parish Plans and Village Design Statements, both of which have been completed by Barking residents. Are these documents now being ignored? How is the village to represent, engage with, and provide local services to residents of a disconnected housing development?   Summary - Barking Parish Council urges Mid Suffolk District Council NOT to grant outline planning permission for this site to build 152 new homes. There is every likelihood that permission will inevitably lead to further development on the adjacent sites (a fact that has been acknowledged by Hopkins Homes themselves quite openly and it is understood that nearby land owners are already being approached to sell their land for development). It is very important that this application is not dealt with in isolation and that there is a long term strategy by Mid Suffolk District Council in place. Without it, it is inevitable that more applications will follow for land adjacent to this site. Clerk to respond to MSDC Planning within the deadline.  There was debate as to whether the Parish Council needs to meet with the Planning Officer, but it was resolved that it was sufficient for the Clerk to present the Council’s comments.  **PC117/16 FINANCE**   1. **i) Conclusion of Audit/External Audit Report 2016** 2. It was reported that the External Audit has been completed by BDO LLP and that no matters of concern were brought to the attention of the auditor. The Audit is therefore satisfactorily concluded.   **ii) Clerk’s Finance Report *(attached to these minutes)***  The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance @ 15th September 2016 was £45,536.74. Bank Statements were checked by Cllr Fellowes and signed.   1. **Authorisation of Payments**   **Decision -** Payments totalling £1,453.46 were approved and cheques signed. Clerk to action. It was agreed to transfer £3,000 to the Base rate Reward Account.  **BPC118/16 CHANGES TO ONESUFFOLK WEBSITE SERVICES**  It was reported that SCC will no longer support the OneSuffolk portal. The service is being moved to Community Action Suffolk effective from 1st November 2016 for an annual fee of £50. **Decision -** It was proposed and resolved that the Clerk speak to SALC (and the Needham Market & Barking Welfare Charities as they also have a OneSuffolk website) but if necessary sign up for 1 year @ £50 to enable the website to be supported in the short term.  **BPC119/16 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE TYE**  It was reported that a request has been received from a Barking resident for permission to undertake a non-invasive archaeological/geophysical survey of the Tye as a project for his university dissertation. He had already started but the Clerk and Chair had decided not to prevent it and to encourage an application for consideration at a full meeting. **Decision –** it was proposed and resolved to approve the request subject to the Councils terms and conditions as follows:   * Full Risk Assessments are carried out * Full Insurance cover is on force * The work is confined to the area of the Tye already identified * No trip hazards (tapes/sticks/canes/equipment are left out unsupervised * No invasive work takes place (no digging at all) * The work is completed by 1st October 2016 (the deadline given by the applicant) * No more than 5 people are on site at any one time * The Council receives a report and presentation upon completion   If he needs longer he will need to approach the Council again for permission PRIOR to any work being undertaken. The Council understands that the work was planned to take 3 weeks to complete and it was commenced on 28th July 2016. Clerk to respond accordingly.  **BPC120/16 PLAY EQUIPMENT BEHIND VILLAGE HALL**  It was reported that ROSPA has inspected the equipment and some items need to be repaired. **Decision -** It was proposed and resolved that the Parish Council no longer wished to maintain the equipment, primarily because there is little evidence of it being used. It was proposed and resolved to sell the equipment, but to give first refusal to Barking Pre-School. After that Clerk to advertise in the Four Parishes Magazine.  **BPC121/16** **LITTER PICKER**  It was reported that Martin Pryke has resigned as Litter Picker and that William Dalby has taken over the role. The Parish Council wishes to record its’ thanks to Martin for keeping the Village clear of litter over the past 2 years, in his role as Litter Picker.  **BPC122/16 DEFIBRILLATOR**  It was reported that the 90 day consultation period has ended and that BT has now confirmed that the telephone mechanism can be removed and that telephone box can now be purchased by the Parish Council for £1, so the defibrillator can be installed. The contract with BT now needs to be signed – the Clerk can do this on behalf of the Council. Once the legalities have been concluded, the telephone box can be cleaned and the defibrillator installed. Training will also be arranged, although this is not essential as full instructions are given when the defibrillator is activated. It was suggested the inside of the box could be decorated by the Pre-School. Clerk to check if this is possible/a good idea, given the future use of the box.  **BPC123/16 VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION UPDATE**  It was reported that a decision is due any day on the Viridor Landfill funding application (£26,646.60), however, there is still likely to be a shortfall. An application has also been made to Suffolk Community Foundation (for up to £4,000) - decision not expected until mid-October. If material prices have increased, (an allowance of 10% is recommended by the contractor), there may still be a shortfall of up to £3,000 - 8,000. **Decision -** It was proposed and resolved that the Parish Council grant a loan of up to £5,000, interest free, repayable over a 5 year period by regular monthly payments, if it is needed. This is in addition to the grant of £4,000 already awarded to the project.  **BPC124/16 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SENIORS**  It was proposed that the Parish Council hosts a Christmas Meal for seniors in the village – date to be agreed. **Decision –** It was proposed and resolved that, in principle, this is a great idea, and that the cost of the meal would be met by the Council, however it is entirely possible that food could be donated by local traders. Cllrs Fellowes and Ross to progress this idea.  **BPC125/16 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS**  It was proposed to defer this item to the next meeting.  **BPC126/16 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**  Cllr Bailey reported that the barge boards are being painted and a Pat Test has been completed.  **BPC127/16 CLERK’S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**   1. Tye – A contractor had been employed to remove brambles around the pill box and for long grass to be cut (an area of Tye outside the ELS/HLS agreement). Cost £60.   **BPC128/16 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**  The ‘correspondence for information’ folder was circulated. All reminded to circulate/hand in all earlier folders as a matter of urgency. Several are still in circulation.  **BPC129/16 REVIEW OF CLERK’S TERMS AND CONDITIONS/HOURS**  It was proposed to defer this item to the next meeting.  **BPC130/16 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**   1. **Road sign vegetation** – It was requested that SCC take action to remove excess vegetation from road signs that are being obscured. Clerk to action. 2. **Play Equipment on Tye** – it was suggested that a new piece of equipment be provided for the Tye. Item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.     **BPC131/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  Date of next scheduled meeting will be Thursday 17th November 2016 to be held at Barking Village Hall at 7.30pm.  *Meeting closed at 10.20pm*  Chairman ……………………………….. Date ……………. | Cllr Truelove  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Cllr Fellowes Cllr Ross  Clerk  All  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |

**MSDC Councillor Report to Barking Parish Council 15th September 2016**

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| **Planning application 3506/16** | Outline planning permission for 152 residential dwellings, Barking Road, Needham Market. As Rosemary Cochrane may also be able to report, the planning officers are able to extend date for hearing from the Parish Council on this to 23rd September, as they value the input from local residents. They are happy to meet the parish council, contact Lisa Evans (Planning Administration Team on 01449 724541 or 01449 724540) for an appointment. In the next 13 weeks the planning officers will follow up on any comments/objections, work on legal arrangements for the affordable housing component and the application will go to a development control committee for a decision. If necessary the council will ask for an extension on this 13 weeks. |
| **Assets** | The District Council has purchased Needham Market Middle School site for redevelopment into housing. We hope this will include a significant amount of affordable housing. Other similar plans are in the pipeline but nothing, we understand, for the Bacton Middle School site. |
| **Boundary review for Mid Suffolk District Council** | The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) will be carrying out an electoral review of MSDC because 11 out of the 30 wards have a variance of over 10%, in other words some councillors represent more electors than others. The review is based on the electorate, not on population, and aims to be ‘future proof’ to be at an optimum in 5 years time. Barking and Somersham with 1,827 electors for one councillor, is 4.6% below the average size for the district. The first stage of the review is for the council to put forward it’s view on the future size of the council. Following this the LGBCE will take evidence from the organisations and members of the public on the most appropriate pattern of wards (January to March next year). |
| **Plans for council staff accomodation** | The administration are in favour of the staff from MSDC in Needham Market and BDC in Hadleigh moving to Endeavour House in Ipswich. I asked a written question at the council meeting on 28th July about the impact of this on Needham Market and Hadleigh. Mike Evans the strategic director said work by Carter Jonas ‘broadly demonstrated a positive impact on Needham and Hadleigh if the sites were redeveloped, however further work is being undertaken alongside the options appraisal work to verify this.’ The decision will come to the council on 22 September 2016. |
| **Devolution**  See [www.eastangliadevo.co.uk](http://www.eastangliadevo.co.uk) for more information. | The consultation with the public has now been analysed. Just over 50% of respondents supported principle of devolution, particularly local decision making on road maintenance. The findings will be presented to the Secretary of State who, if in agreement that they support devolution, will allow the devolution proposals to go to the participating councils to vote on next month. |
| **Contact** | Anne Killett 01473 658127 anne.killett@midsuffolk.gov.uk |

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