

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council
Held in the Reading Room on 22nd April 2008 at 7.30pm

Present: K McCormick Chairman
G Penning
A Young
T Terry
R Atkins

Apologies: J Cockerton.

Amendments to the Minutes of 11th March 2008 were agreed & then signed by the Chairman McCormick.

MATTERS ARISING:

Open Session:

Chairman McCormick welcomed Mr Sanders to the meeting. Mr Sanders asked that the original Standing Orders be re-sent to him. Chairman McCormick will do this & thanked Mr Sanders for attending the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

Land for Sale: Some residents had received letters regarding land for sale by Mr Pigg. Concern was voiced that this land might be sold to Travellers. Councillors will keep a watchful eye on these sites – cost of each site is in the region of £5,000.00 per acre. Cllr Atkins will inform Richard Tiffin at NHDC Planning Department of this item.

Milestone Cleaning/Painting:

Cllr Terry reported that the sign had been painted black, as agreed. It was suggested that the actual stone, which is quite large, might look better left the colour it is and coated with a natural sealant to protect it. All Parish Councillors will look at this and report on their views at the next meeting.

Royal Mail Post Box:

This item has still not been moved to the agreed site in Periwinkle Close. Clerk will speak to Mr Renwick (Royal Mail) to find out why it has not yet been removed.

Parish Map:

Cllr Penning reported that the Map had been received but the wrong font had been used and not as requested by Mr Dieter Iwan & Cllr Penning. Clerk reported that a new Board has been delivered. Cllr Penning will look at this to make sure all is correct. Mr Iwan will check that the area in front of the Pond is “not live” & the sign will then be placed there in an agreed position.

Mr Doig will lead a Village Walk on the 8th June at 10.00am starting from the Village Pond, so that all who attend can view the new Sign. Mr Iwan & Cllr Penning will be in attendance to answer any questions on this walk that relate to the Map's features.

Recreation Ground:

Cllr Terry reported that the Plastic Bottle Bank was again full and not being emptied promptly. A sign is to be made to ask residents not to leave any plastic bottles at the site if the container is full. The Bank should be emptied every two weeks. Cllr Terry & Clerk will monitor.

Seat for the Recreation Ground has still to be purchased with a donation by Mr King. Costs are very high and further companies to be sourced for this seat. Clerk will ring for Catalogues.

RoSPA report:

Rubber matting needs to be lifted and re-laid. This must be done as soon as possible. Parish Councillors will all help with the lifting & replacing of the tiles. A wooden retainer rail is needed to keep the tiles from moving outwards.

Youth Extension/Football Pavilion:

It was agreed that the Parish will look into the possibility of building a Youth Club & New Pavilion. Plans need to be drawn-up & Grants from as many sources as possible requested. Cllr Terry will speak to Mr Roy Rowe on possible plans to be drawn-up.

Wheatsheaf Meadow House:

Chairman McCormick reported that not a lot has happened recently. The Housing Enabler had been unwell. Some residents were taking the relocation packages that had been offered. Only 7 residents remain in the complex.

Chairman McCormick & District Cllr Marshall have been in constant communication to try to get some responses to their numerous e-mails – but progress has been slow. The Housing Enabler from Essex C.C. has agreed to do this survey in May and this will be completed by the end of June. She will attend the May Council meeting. A meeting has been arranged with Mr. Kevin Thompson, C.E. NHH. Cllr Marshall, Cllr McCormick to review the situation

Travellers Sites:

The NHDC Cabinet meeting went as envisaged – decision date will be in June. An air of optimism now that all 6 villages will be removed from the list of possible sites.

Village of the Year 2008.

Clerk will start the form filling and request help needed to complete this form from various Village Organisations. We have until the 6th May to send our written application in.

PLANNING:

3 Sets of Plans have been received, viewed and commented on as follows:

78 High Street, Barkway. Opposed to the “revised plan” sent 2nd April 2008

Highfield Farm, Barkway. Opposed to this application. 25th March 2008

Cokenach Farm, Barkway. Re-siting of Grain Store Buildings - No Objections.

FINANCE:

The following cheques were approved by the Council and duly signed.

HAPTC Annual Payment	£ 13.50
HAPTC “	£400.38
Communi-Corp	£100.00
G Bentley – Street Cleaning 8 weeks	£120.00
T Drake – Recreation Grass Cutting x3	£ 165.00

Any Other Business:

Cllr Penning requested that at the meeting with Barkway Golf Club that permission be requested for a permissive path across the proposed area.

Cllr Terry asked that the Clerk write to Mr Dimsdale asking if the Yew Trees that overhang the footpath near the junction with Church Lane be cut back. Debris is constantly landing on the pavement making walking difficult.

Youth Club: Have bought a Table Tennis table & now have their own keys to the Social Club. The Club will run for a 3 month trial period.

Cllr Penning is a Social Club member & Cllr Terry will represent the Parish Council on this venture. Chairman McCormick congratulated all those involved in the venture and wished the project the Council's best wishes.

Cllr Terry & the Clerk will liase and look into what Grants are available for building a Youth Club and a new Football Pavilion on the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Young asked when the Bus Stop Markings outside the School will be instigated. Clerk will speak to Highways.

Trees are overhanging the 30mph sign at the South end of the Village & need trimming back. Clerk will ask for this to be done.

Rubbish is being tipped in Burrs Lane & on the field by the Stables. Clerk to speak to Community Police and ask if this is Fly Tipping.

Dog Bins in Burrs Lane are not being emptied on a regular basis. Clerk to report to NHDC.

The Clerks salary is to be reviewed; her last increase was in March 2002. Chairman McCormick asked Cllr Atkins to bring this up to date and to report to the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed by: Chairman K McCormick