

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council
Held in the Reading Room 11th December 2007@ 7.30pm

Present: K McCormick - Chairman
I Sanders - Vice Chair
G Penning
A Young
T Terry
R Atkins.

Apologies: J Cockerton.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Cllr Atkins stated that the Agreed Precept for 2008/09 had not been minuted. The amount agreed by all Councillors at the meeting on the 13th November 2007 was £11,640.00 in line with present inflation of 2.1%

The minutes were then duly signed as correct.

Matters Arising:

Cllr Atkins reported that he had spoken to Richard Tiffin regarding the revised plans for the General Manager's House for Newsells Stud. Apparently, the reason that the Parish Council had not received notification of the revised plans, when in fact the residents of Newsells Village had, was due to the fact that the plans had already been passed by the council subject to certain conditions. The revised plans were merely reflecting the changes resulting from the conditions placed on the applicant and had been sent to residents for information purposes only.

Open Session:

Chairman McCormick welcomed Mrs Julie Styles to the Meeting.

Mrs Styles requested help and approval for opening a Youth Club in the Village for 8-14year old children. Venues were discussed. Suggestions were to use the Pavilion or Social Club. It was explained that there are many grants for such projects - Mrs Styles who is a District Nurse asked if the Parish Council would support her in this venture – all were in agreement. Grants were available & the Clerk will look into what we might be entitled to. It was envisaged that table tennis and snooker would be well used. A lot of work would need to be done in the Pavilion to bring it up to date. Barkway School to be asked which evening would be most suitable for this venture.

Chairman McCormick suggested asking Mr Kevin Thompson from North Hertfordshire Homes if the Wheatsheaf Meadow House facilities might be used for this venue. Cllr Jo Cockerton would be available to help with the running of this venture. A registration fee would be charged and a small charge would be made for entry. Times were discussed and in general 7-8.30pm was agreed. Mrs Styles is a District Nurse and, it is understood, has all the necessary qualifications to run such a Club.

Cllr Penning will speak to the Social Club about the possible use of their building.

Port Folio's:

Summary: Sharing of the work load between Parish Councillors by each having a Portfolio in recognition of the increasing complexity and volume of correspondence, projects and related matters coming before council. This should make for a better organised Parish Council. Chairman McCormick had talked to Cllrs Hunter and Marshall who both consider this good practice. This concept will also show a village working efficiently together.

Proposed Distribution of Responsibility:

Cllr Atkins ----- Planning – Liaison with Planning Department
Cllr Cockerton --- Portfolio for School, Play School & Young People.
Cllr Penning ----- Environment P3/Walks/Nature/Recycling
Cllr Terry ----- Recreation Ground.
Cllr Young ----- Highways/Drains etc.
Clerk ----- Fund Raising
Cllr Sanders --- - Emergency Services/Police Liaison

Note: Cllr Sanders is unable to commit to a Portfolio at this present time due to pressure of work.

Final decisions to the above items deferred until January 2008.

- P3.** FitzPatrick Woolmer has produced a draft copy of the Map – which was viewed by members at this meeting. All members were delighted with the final plan of the Map. Leaflets will be produced and Cllr Penning will ask if copies of the Map could be purchased.

Recreation Ground

Safety Tiles: these need laying under the toddler's roundabout. RoSPA report items still need addressing. Cllr Terry stated that some of the tiles under the Climbing Frame would need to be lifted and then replaced. Need advice on how to lay these correctly. Working party to help with this work.

Wooden seat to be purchased with the £210 donation received from Mr King. A plaque to be purchased with Mr King's name on it.

Pavilion Extension. Need to ask advice from the Police. Clerk to speak to Chris Brabrook (Community Police Officer).

Milestone: Mr John Cliff has agreed to paint this when the weather has improved.

Wheatsheaf Meadow House:

Person who was to do the housing survey has been un-well. It is hoped that the NHDC Housing Enabler will start in January in liaison with Council. Cllr McCormick will speak to Mr Kevin Thompson to ascertain what progress is being made on the way forward for WMH. How many residents are still living there & how many want to stay where they are. Members of the Wheatsheaf Meadows Action Group Mrs. Greening & Mrs West have been in contact with the residents & are aware of their wishes.

Post Box: Clerk has spoken to the Royston Post Office & they have stated that it takes some time to organise the removal of this item to a more suitable site by the Bus Shelter on the corner of Periwinkle Close. Chairman McCormick will speak with Mr. Heald about this item.

Bus Shelter Tiles:

Clerk to find suitable replacement tiles for this item.

School Duck Crossing Sign's:

The above signs are now in place it was stated that the 30mph signs would also be on these poles Cllr McCormick asked if the speed limit could be reduced to 20mph within the near vicinity of the School when pupils are arriving and leaving. Clerk to ask Highways if these two items could be implemented. School Bus road markings are still to be addressed.

Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work on these items.

Travellers Sites – Update.

Update; Information pack had been delivered to every household in Barkway, Newsells & Nuthampstead with information on how to follow-up with letters on this item.

Sandon have written an excellent paper about these proposals. Sandon to be asked if we can be publically associated with this paper.

Chairman McCormick will also speak to Mr. Ian Simpson to solicit his view on these matters.

Chairman McCormick has spoken to Mr Marshall and asked for information to be given to Mr Heald.

Councillors were asked to encourage residents to write-in about this issue.

A sub group needs to be formed: Volunteers are most welcome. A number of individuals were discussed and will be approached by Councilors.

Mrs Streeter knows someone who will come and talk about his experience with Travellers Sites if Council wishes.

PLANNING:

78 High Street, Barkway.

The time for a decision on this item had been extended to the 20th December. There was some discussion as to the possibility of a prejudicial interest on the part of Cllr Sanders. Chairman McCormick stated that the Parish Clerk had spoken to the legal team at the District Council about this matter and had been advised that although a Councillor would be able to take part in any discussions, it would be inappropriate for the Councillor to vote on any decisions.

However as not everybody had been given the chance to view the plans in detail it was agreed to defer any further discussion and decision until a subsequent meeting, which Cllr Atkins would arrange.

Council subsequently adopted a recommendation from NHDC Legal Department concerning interaction between planning applicants and members of Council.

Applicants are welcome to attend Council meetings and may address Council during the Open session only if they so wish.

FINANCE:

The following cheques were approved and signed.

Clerks ¼'s Salary Oct/Nov/Dec 2007 - £705 & Expenses £31.75

SLCC Annual Membership £ 70.00

S Scott – Whiteley Hill Grass Cutting £ 29.37

Filcris Ltd – Notice Board Signs £ 47.00

G Bentley – 4 weeks Street Cleaning £ 60.00

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk asked permission to send Christmas Cards from the Parish Council to the following:

Jon Harris, Deiter Iwan, John Penny, Steve Scott & Arthur King.

Permission was granted – also a small donation to Arthur King in recognition of his service to the Parish Council over many years.

All in agreement with the above proposal. Clerk to obtain suitable cards.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next Meeting date: 8th January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.