

**Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting  
Held in the Reading Room on 12 January 2010.**

**Present:** R Davidson (Chair)  
G Baker (Vice Chair)  
G Penning  
K McCormick  
A Terry  
J Cockerton

**Apologies:** V Styles

**Minutes:** Approved and signed as read.

**Matters Arising:** Cllr. Baker had met up with Mrs Pooley from the Community Group, it had now been agreed that the idea of an internet café in the Reading Room is unfortunately not practical.

The Parish Council are still seeking a new Linesman for the forthcoming season to mark out the pitches in the Rec.

**Public Session:** No one present.

**Portfolios:**

**Cllr. Baker** reported that he has had communication with Tony Hunter, NHDC and Awards For All regarding Grants for the Reading Room heating and insulation. Tony Hunter is possibly prepared to give £800-£1000 towards this project. NHDC will also consider a Grant. Applications need to be submitted along with 3 quotations. The clerk to organise for quotations as soon as possible. **CT**

**Cllr. Penning** reported that the 3 Right of Way signs for the footpaths had now been put in place around the village. The cost of these is covered by the P3 Project Grant.

Cllr. Davidson mentioned that there was a large barrel blocking a footpath at the end of Church Lane. Cllr. Penning to investigate. **GP**

Cllr. Howard Marshall was welcomed into the meeting.

**Cllr. Cockerton** reported that Mrs Pooley had asked if the children's drawings from the Parish Plan competition could be displayed in the Church on Barkway Market Day.

**Cllr. Terry** had nothing to report.

**Cllr. McCormick** has now taken over the Portfolio of Special Projects from Cllr. Davidson. He will now handle the Reading Room project to allow Cllr. Terry more time for the Pavilion Project and Recreation Ground.

**Cllr. Davidson** reported that he has had conversations and a meeting with Pelham Construction Company regarding the old RAF Mast Site. A Planning Application has now been submitted to establish a use for this site. There is a good chance that the mast will come down as there is no viable commercial avenue for this.

**Adoption of New Code of Conduct:** Since this was adopted in 2007 we automatically adopt the new version which is due to be revised in May 2010.

**Bad Weather Emergency Plan:** No plan currently exists. In recent bad weather some areas of the village lost their electricity for 6 hours. HCC did not use snow ploughs and there was only late gritting. Cllr. Davidson has already written to Cllr. Hunter on behalf of the Parish Council to complain that we were left to fend for ourselves. The village can become cut off in these circumstances. It was also noted that we still have no salt bins despite repeated requests to Highways by Cllr. Davidson.

There is currently nowhere for the older people to go and keep warm. An agreement with the Village Hall could be made so that it could be made available for the community in these circumstances. It was suggested that a list be made of the more vulnerable people in the village in order that they can be helped in poor weather conditions.

**Community Council:** An idea that would allow all the Village Organisations to work together for the general betterment of the village. Cllr. McCormick to look into. **KM**

**Permanent Parish Clerk Position:** Advertisements have been placed on village notice boards, on the village website and on the HAPTC website. Closing date is 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, (or 25<sup>th</sup> Jan for HAPTC website). Cllr. McCormick to manage the recruitment. **KM**

#### **Planning:**

**106 High Street** – no problem, all in keeping with existing.

**Wheatsheaf Meadow Site** – no progress here. Cllrs. Davidson and McCormick have a meeting this Friday (15<sup>th</sup> Jan.) with Richard Tiffin to discuss this development. An opportunity will be set up as soon as possible for the village to see the ideas that the Architects and Planners have come up with. It is expected that Wheatsheaf Meadow House will be dismantled and the new development built in the summer of 2010.

**Parish Plan:** The results of the questionnaire have now been analysed. It is hoped to get groups together to work on projects / issues raised. The Parish Plan Steering Group would then look at these, report and then decide on next actions to be taken.

**Website:** Front page has been redesigned for easier navigation. The website is a huge success. It provides up to date information for the village and contains useful links to other websites. Businesses will be asked to make a donation towards the refurbishment of the Reading Room in return for the advertising space.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** The Clerk to check out availability of the Village Hall and agree a date with Cllr. Davidson. **CT**

**Finance:** Many thanks were expressed to Mrs Baker for taking the time to compile a spreadsheet for us, which will make enable us to have a regular budget control system in place. A meeting will take place next week with the Clerk and Cllrs. Davidson and Baker to set budgets for 2010/2011.

Since the last meeting:

Receipts: £195.00 Football Fees

Payments: None

Cheques to be signed at this meeting:

Parish Council Account:

£13.39 R Davidson Expenses – Reflectors for wooden bollards Royston Road.

£533.31 East Herts Signs – New Right of Way Signs x 3

£75.00 Thomas Bentley – Street Cleaning x 5 weeks

£287.00 Catharine Toms – Agreed monthly Clerk’s salary

Reading Room Account:

£72.95 Catharine Toms Clerk’s Expenses – Fire Extinguishers x 2

£18.00 A Terry Expenses – Gas cylinder for Reading Room heating

The bank balance is currently £3191.41 but it is projected that we only have £543.00 surplus to the end of the financial year at 31.03.10. The Clerk to look into reclaiming VAT paid out. **CT**

**Correspondence:** The query received regarding the War Memorial has now been resolved.

**Cllr. Howard Marshall** reported that he is involved with many Committees and is on the Board of North Herts Homes. He is currently working on a specific project of sustainability and reduction of emissions. He expressed disappointment at losing the Anstey Quarry campaign but was pleased that the Golf Course development had been halted.

Potholes in the High Street – he is very conscious of the problems that the vibrations from vehicles are causing to properties and is campaigning for swift repair works to the road surface. It was noted that Barley has been allocated a budget of £26k for road repairs, with Barkway only being given £9k.

Thanks were given by the Parish Council to Cllr. Marshall for attending the meeting.

**AOB:** A donation of £10 has been received from Nicholas Tufton for use of the football pitch.

It was said that the jetty on the village pond is in dangerous condition. Ownership of this jetty needs to be established and the jetty closed off and made safe. Alan Fleck at NHDC and Countryside Management Services to be consulted as to funding available to resolve the problem. It was also noted that the Pond needs attention in terms of dredging as does the Wheel Wash in Church Lane. Cllr. Penning to look follow up. **GP**

Cllr. Baker mentioned about the criteria required to acquire 'Quality Parish Status'. It was suggested that a Parish Council Newsletter be produced quarterly, Cllr. Baker has agreed to be Editor. It was also suggested that Parish Council Surgeries should be held regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every month in the Reading Room. **GB**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

**Date of next meeting: 9th February 2010, in the Reading Room 7 for 7.30pm**