

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council
Held in the Reading Room on 10th July 2007 at 7.30pm

Present: K McCormick
I Sanders
G Penning
T Terry
A Young
J Cockerton
R Atkins

Amendments to 19th June Minutes:

Web site time scale start time 1st October 2007.

Phase 2 from 1st January 2008.

Summer Party on the Rec: Monies owed all paid to Parish Council.

The Minutes were then duly signed by Chairman McCormick.

P3:

Cllr Penning reported that all drawing work was complete and items were with Deiter Iwan who is in the process of putting all the work onto Disc, this will then be forwarded to FitzPatrick Woolmer who will then produce the work on to a Map Board. Estimated completion time scale possibly 1st October 2007.

An invoice has been received from Jon Harris for all design work, this was for £200 – it was agreed that due to the extensive work that Mr Harris provided the sum of £500 be paid. This is within the budget for P3.

Recreation Ground:

Cllr Terry reported that the new Twister will be installed within the next two weeks.

New goal posts have been ordered and will be delivered within 4 weeks. Clerk to keep Mr John Penny informed of progress.

Free safety tiles: Clerk spoken to Knebworth Parish Council and we will be able to have some of the tiles – these will be available as soon as their new equipment and tiles are in situ – time scale –August. Clerk to ask Arthur King if he would collect and deliver these items when available.

Donation for Fencing -£210. Arthur King donated a sum of £210 to provide wooden fencing around the Childrens Play Area. After discussion it was decided that this item would be open to vandalism. Councillors agreed that a bench with Mr Kings' name on it would be more suitable. Chairman McCormick will speak to Mr King about this.

Hot Air Balloons:

A request has been received from a prospective resident of Barkway if it would be possible to fly Hot Air Balloons from the Recreation Ground. They stated that they are covered by their own Insurance. Check with our Zurich Insurance (Parish) if we would be covered. It was also stated that in some instances, a vehicle is needed to pull the Balloon to get it air born. This could damage the pitch area. It was suggested that there are several other places in the vicinity that would be more suitable, i.e Nuthampstead Air Field or fields belonging to the Barkers at Nuthampstead. Clerk will investigate.

Summer Event on the Rec:

Cllr Terry reported that this had been a huge success. £2,800 was raised which will help to improve toilets and committee room in the Village Hall. The recreation ground was left immaculate after the event.

Youth Extension – Grant towards costs:

Charles Lee will draw up plans for an extension to the front of the building. Grant application needs to be in by the 1st week in September. Estimates to be obtained for this work.

Use of Toilets: Cllr Cockerton to be given a set of keys for the Pavilion.

RoSPA Report:

Clerk reported that the “Mud Humps” were too high and needed to be lowered to meet our insurance requirements.

Spring Bird: Completely broken – to be removed.

Bird deterrents strips to be placed on top of all Swing Units.

Barkway High Street Milestone:

A request has been received stating that the milestone is in need of cleaning. Cllr Penning will speak to Herts C.C if we are able to maintain and paint this item – if so, this will be done shortly.

Wheatsheaf Meadow House:

CC Tony Hunter joined the meeting and apologised for being late. All are very concerned about the closure of part of this unit. Chairman McCormick suggested a meeting with CC Tony Hunter prior to the scheduled meeting with NHH Ltd. This was agreed to – 30minutes before the start of the meeting at 10am. Mr A Buchan & Ms V Hisgrove will be attending from North Hertfordshire Homes Ltd at 10am to explain the situation to the meeting.

Royal Mail Post Box:

No reply has been received requesting the replacing of the post box from the corner of Windmill Close, which was moved without any consultation with the Parish Council. Chairman McCormick will write to Miss Leach and send by recorded delivery. If no reply received within 30days contact will be made with Post Watch to deal with this item.

Lexisnexis Book:

Still waiting delivery of this item. Clerk to chase.

Bus Shelter Tiles:

Clerk to ask Mr A King if he is still willing to replace the missing tiles, as requested some time ago.

Street Cleaner:

It has been reported by a member of the public, and noted by the Parish Clerk that our Street Cleaner is not wearing his protective yellow jacket when collecting litter on behalf of the Parish Council. After several requests to Mr Grant Bentley this item is still not being worn. Chairman will draft a letter for the Clerk to send.

OPEN SESSION:

Cllr Atkins reported that excessive speed is a problem along the Royston Road. Clerk will speak to PC Marina and ask for more speed checks along this part of the road. Speed figures are to be requested. Speed figures to be reported at the next Parish meeting. Item on Agenda.

PLANNING:

FINANCE:

The following cheques were approved and signed.

Barkway Chapel – Annual Grass cutting grant	£153.00
Barkway Church - Annual Grass cutting grant	£306.00
Brett Landscapes Recreation Grass Cutting x2	£211.50
Clerks expenses – postage & photocopying	£ 25.12

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters received from 3 Barkway School children. A reply to be sent, Cllr Cockerton & Clerk to deal with this item.

All other correspondence was placed in the box for perusal by Parish Councillors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk to chase Water Company about the inspection pit by the Telephone Exchange on the Cambridge Road – the cover is missing and needs replacing immediately.

Clerk to chase Highways re: Repair work to the road to Newsells Village.

Clerk to ask if Mr King could prune back the bottom half of the trees either side of the entrance to the Village Hall, this is a hazard when exiting the Car Park as vision is impaired.

Footpath Sign: Gas Lane – this item has still not been replaced. Clerk to contact Mr E Bell to organise the work.

Cllr Terry reported that it appears that a very large stone/rock might be blocking the pavement outside no 145 High Street. Clerk to ask Highways to look into this matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

Signed
Chairman K McCormick.