

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council meeting

14th July 2009

Held at the Reading Room

Present :

Ken McCormick - chairman
Bob Davidson - vice chairman
Graham Penning
Tony Terry

Apologies :

Jo Cockerton
Vince Styles

Howard Marshall

In the absence of a parish clerk, the minutes were taken by Councillor Penning

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2009 were approved and signed.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Open Session

This was brought forward to allow Carolyn Stokes to address the council.
She wished to give the council background information concerning her application for change of use to an agricultural building at Highfield Farm. (Application no. 09/01124/1)
There is currently permission for a mobile home to house a worker on site.
The building that the application requests change of use to is currently used for egg grading.

Portfolios

Councillor Cockerton had contacted the chairman to say that she had nothing significant to report on.

Councillor Davidson reported on the following :

- Anstey Quarry lorry movements to the cricket ground

He had been contacted by Adrian Cossor on behalf of the cricket club, to say that apart from the approach road, lorry movements had now finished.

He also mentioned that the quarry manager seemed eager to answer peoples concerns and be amenable.

- Wheatsheaf Meadow House (WMH)

A meeting held on the 25th June with North Herts. Homes (NHH) was attended by Councillors McCormick and Davidson. NHH were represented by Kevin Thompson (CEO), and Andy Wright. The meeting was cordial and productive, and lasted for one and a half hours.

NHH will go away for one month, and come up with some firm development concepts.

A first concept discussed was that WMH would be dismantled, and a number (9-12?) of affordable dwellings be erected on the site.

A second concept was following dismantling, a number (4?) of executive type bungalows be built on the site, and the money from that sale be used to provide affordable housing on the site at the top of Windmill Close.

Councillor McCormick reported that the recently conducted housing survey clearly showed a need for 3 types of home; viz. homes for couples, small units for single persons, and starter homes. He also suggested that a housing registry form be placed on the web site, to get interested people involved.

- Barkway Mast

Councillor Davidson advised that the mast height is 103m.

Councillor Penning requested that we continue to pursue the owners for an open day of the site to be held before any work on the site. Owner to again be approached. **Action BD**

- Traffic issue – Royston Road and High Street junction

It was considered that the position here was that there was not time to wait for the parish plan.

We should proceed with an application to have double yellow lines on all sides of this junction.

A letter will be sent to NHDC Highways. **Action KM**

- Web site

Nothing to report

Councillor Penning reported on the following :

- It has been reported by several people that dog droppings have been left on footpath 6 – at the side of Ashgrove. Councillor Penning reported that he had had a look at the path, and had pinned up a number of our laminated notices beside the path near to the High Street entrance. The dog bin alongside footpath 14 has become adrift from its moorings, and will be re-attached. **Action GP**

The first iteration of the walks leaflet has been received from the printers, and was passed round the meeting. There are only minor modifications to be made before full production.

Councillor Terry reported on the following :

- Midsummer music on the rec.

This event had been very successful for all concerned.

However there had been a number of thefts of items left overnight – a gazebo, bags, and tables.

The gate to the recreation ground had been left unlocked for the night. Next time it was suggested that the gate be locked and a notice pinned to it to say this gate will be locked at midnight.

Recreation ground – nothing to report.

Pavilion

He reported that a proper plan was needed before going ahead with grant applications.

The plan produced by Roy Rowe was only essentially an outline sketch.

He estimated that a plan would cost around £400. An architect was already involved.

Councillor Davidson stated that he had been to an NHDC meeting, and that £17k was available for grants, with a deadline of 30th September. He mentioned other parish councils who appeared to be very clued up on making grant applications.

Discussion followed on the urgent need to have a councillor onboard who would take on a fund raising portfolio.

- August council meeting

It was suggested that we had 2 short meetings in August, rather than a full council meeting. One meeting on new councillor co-option, and the other on planning.

It was suggested that the letter currently on the notice boards be distributed to all households urgently. Letter copies to be produced. **Action KM**

- Planning

An application for a timber built stable in land off London Road – agreed no objections.

The council members could not see why the application for a mobile home should be amended. (No. 09/01124/1)

Barkway Golf Course

Councillor Davidson has e-mailed our response letter to the proposal for introducing waste soil to the driving range, to all councillors. He will tomorrow have a meeting with W Lee for planning advice. The letter will be sent by Friday. A copy will be sent to Tony Hunter, who fully supports the objections. East Herts. Council will object he has been told. He will be having a meeting with Great Horstead council, and encourage them, as the village likely to be mostly affected, to make the presentation to the County Council. Nuthampstead parish meeting (Nick Rout), has expressed full support.

- Finance

Councillor McCormick has the cheque books. We are waiting for an invoice from Philip Hales for the Reading Room painting. (Everybody expressed their satisfaction on the painting)

- Any othe business

Councillor McCormick wanted future mail deliveries to come to the Reading Room. A letter box will need to be installed. **Action TT**

Councillor Penning suggested that we get the chimney swept, so that the Reading Room fire can be used in the winter. He will organise. **Action GP**

Councillor Terry asked that the council should automatically send out a condolence letter on a death in the village.

Councillor Davidson will ask Shirley Streater to go ahead with raising money for a new notice board to go by the phone box. **Action BD**

Councillor McCormick will write to NHH to express thanks for their attending to a toilet change for an ex Barkway resident at Kings Buildings. **Action KM**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.20.