



BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting

9 June 2009

Reading Rooms, High Street, Barkway 1930h

Present

- Dr Bob Davidson (Vice Chair)
- Tony Terry
- Graham Penning
- Vince Styles

- District Cllr, Howard Marshall

Apologies

- Ken McCormick
- Jo Cockerton

In the absence of a Parish Clerk, minutes were taken by the Chair, Dr Bob Davidson

In order to allow Cllr. Marshall to make another appointment, the meeting was adjourned to allow him to address the Council

Cllr Marshall

Informed those present that Wheatsheaf Meadow house should now be a priority for BPC to open dialog with NHH on the future development of the site.

Cllr. Davidson informed Cllr. Marshall that BPC were in the process, through Cllr McCormick, of setting up a site meeting with NHH on 25.6.09

Cllr. Davidson also informed the council of the intention of Royston Fire Brigade to conduct a training exercise at WMH on 16.6.09 involving smoke. Cllr Davidson was concerned that this action, agreed to by NHH, will render the building with odour, and give NHH an addition excuse to refuse to redevelop the existing building and instead to demolish and rebuild.

Cllr Davidson confirmed that there is still a family present in the building and that currently they have not signed any contract on a property offered to them in Barley, as the property is not in fit and inhabitable state. They intend to accept the property but only when they are satisfied it is habitable.

Anstey Quarry

The recent acceptance of the variation in vehicle movements at the quarry still causes concern. As a result Cllr Marshall is pushing to have the roads repaired in Barkway to the best possible standard. Herts Highways have actually confirmed the roads were not built to withstand this type of traffic, and that proper repairs will cost approx £23K. To fully resurface the High Street will cost around £50k. There are not enough funds to conduct either therefore Cllr Marshall therefore will continue to fight for funding to make repairs

Cllr Terry proposed that we should monitor any road repairs/works conducted by the services and if they begin to sink, report them to the company involved. Cllr Marshall informed the Council is better to report it to District Cllr Hunter and the Highways Dept for them to chase the original company to make good their repairs. It was agreed that the Council will therefore begin a monitoring program where any new road repairs are recorded, photographed and monitored, and should they "sink" or "break up", they be then reported. This duty could fall under the planning portfolio duties, or created as a new portfolio.

Barkway mast.

In order to inform Cllr Marshall of new information, Cllr Davidson broke from the agenda to inform those present of recent developments with RAF Barkway.

RAF Barkway has been acquired by the company which owns, Igloos Ltd, located in Hare Street and Stevenage. Cllr Davidson learned this and contacted the Managing Director Luke Neale to try to learn of the company's intentions for the site. Mr Neale informs that the site has been indeed acquired by his company and contracts should be exchanged week commencing 15 June 2009. Mr Neale informs he has no actual plans for the site. He will conduct a feasibility study upon completion and based on this draw up a plan. This could involve commercial or domestic use. Mr Neale informs he has lived locally all his life, and is extremely concerned about ensuring any development is done with careful consideration for the locality. Whatever plans do come up, Mr Neale will contact BPC in due course and discuss them with the Council from the outset. Mr Neale does not expect to have any feasibility study completed before September 2009.

On asked for the future of the actual mast, Mr Neale informs he has no idea. He is aware of the 50-50 split in the public on the desire to keep the mast, and he himself is unable to say what the future for the mast will be, until he has conducted a feasibility study.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at 0800 and Cllr Davidson resumed with the agenda.

Minutes-

Minutes of the May Meeting were discussed and corrections made before signing by Cllr Davidson.

Vacancy for Councillor

It was agreed that we should attempt to fill the vacant seat as soon as possible. Cllr Davidson will write to the two members of the public interested in adopting the office of a Parish Councillor and attempt to set up an extra-ordinary meeting of the PC to co-opt a Councillor. The interested parties will be asked to write a short letter expressing why they are interested in taking office and what they can offer the Parish Council and the Parish. They will then be invited to a meeting where they can be questioned if necessary before any decision by vote is made.

RSD

Parish Clerk

Sue Neilson has stepped down temporarily as Parish Clerk due to ill health. It goes without saying that the Council wish Mrs Neilson a fast and speedy Recovery and that we hope to see her resume duties as soon as possible. Cllr Davidson informed the council that Cllr McCormick has ascertained from HAPTA that our Legal obligation states we must advertise for Acting Clerk, on a temporary contract, of not less than 6 months, reviewable at the end of the period.

K.McC

Portfolios

Before requesting the portfolio reports, Cllr Davidson informed that Council that due to the changes in the Council, it might be time to review the portfolios and holders. Cllr Styles agreed to take on the Police Portfolio. Cllrs were invited to consider the portfolio they had and make any suggestions to improve the portfolio/change portfolios to Cllr McCormick

Cllr Terry

Plans for new pavilion were shown. The plan requires modification slightly to better locate food preparation area, but all agreed to move onto next stage of costing the project.

Roundabout repairs will be put off until after Music on the Rec event due to time constraints.

Disclaimer and dog fouling signs now in place on the play area.

Cllr Penning

Land through which P14 runs is owned by Mr Thomas Kier, an absent land owner. The adjoining Filed is rented by Cockenach estate. Cllr Penning will therefore ask Mrs Neilson to try and put the Council in touch with the former agent Mrs Carter Mouatt to try and establish contact with Mr Kier, thought to be resident in the USA.

GP

Paths Flyer- artwork now with the print/design company

Cllr Davidson

Police - speed monitoring issues resolved. Villages will received 10 speed checks per month 3 of which will be conducted by police officers and will be enforceable
First was conducted 8.6.09

Parish Plan – initial meeting took place on 3.6.09 and office bearers appointed.

- Lead- Simon Taylor
- Secretary – Cecilia van der Heijden
- Treasurer – Kate Beale
- Fundraising – Paul Danter
- Parish Council liaison – Ken McCormick or Bob Davidson

Next meeting – 18 June 2009 – which will be attended by CDA for Herts

Sign Boards - Periwinkle Sign should be fitted to end of bus shelter. Cll Davidson will obtain fittings for both signs and try to fit as soon as possible

RSD/TT

Other Matters

Reading Rooms

Painting of outside of Reading Rooms - appointed to Phil Hales
Internal - Cllr Terry to finish shelf painting as soon as possible
Low level table required.
Single bench to be disposed of.

TT

Planning

Appeal by Highfield farm to construct dwelling on their property has been rejected

Finance

T. Bentley £60
Jewsons £21.84
S. Neilson £328

There being no further business meeting was closed at 2137h

Date of Next meeting – 14 July 09