

**Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Reading Room on 1 June 2010 at 7.30pm.**

Present: R Davidson (Chair)
G Baker (Vice Chair)
J Cockerton
V Styles
K McCormick
A Terry
S Alsop

Thanks were given to all for attending at short notice, the revised date for this meeting.

Minutes: Approved and signed as read.

Matters Arising: Cllr. Davidson reported that the NHH drains relating to 8-14 Royston Road had been surveyed by camera and a blockage removed. NHH will continue to monitor these drains.

Quality Parish Council Status: - It was agreed that the Council should aim to achieve this by May 2011.

Public Session: No-one present.

Annual Parish Meeting De-brief: Positive feedback had been received. It was suggested that the Councillors wore name tags in future at this event and that it would be better to have an interval mid-way through, after the guest speaker and before the village reports. A technician to help with the Power Point presentation would also be an advantage.

Parish Plan: Copies had all been distributed. It must now be moved forward by asking all the Steering Groups to re-assemble and start work on their objectives. It was noted that Herts Highways had already passed the Plan on to the Strategic Planning Committee who will now investigate the points raised.

Community Speed Watch: Cllr. Davidson had attended a presentation at Police HQ. A summary presentation of the meeting was shown to the Parish Councillors. It was reported that Herts Police prefer a 'non-confrontational' system for the community to monitor speed and only their recommended equipment could be used. The system would be operated by volunteers, who would first need to pass police vetting procedures. The equipment would need to be purchased, although Grants may be available. There would be a choice of two systems only, costing £2,500 or £3,500. The speed monitoring must be done by a team of 3 volunteers and it cannot be done in either dark or wet conditions. Training for use of the equipment would take 5 minutes and this could be cascaded. A Speed Watch Co-ordinator would be required and would be trained to access the Police system and could then generate warning letters to offending motorists. Repeat offenders (3 times) would attract Police attention.

It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should adopt the principal of a Community Speed Watch but ask the Community to manage and fund the scheme with the support of the Parish Council. A meeting had been set for the 15th June in the Reading Room to present this to the village.

Portfolio Reports:

Planning –

Newsells had submitted plans to fit a new horse walker. No objections were raised. Land behind the Pump House owned by Robert Dimsdale had been put forward as suitable for development in the Land Allocation for the Local Development Framework. The Parish Council is against this and all comments have been submitted but as yet no decisions have been made.

Young Persons Affairs – It was reported that Mrs Heinzemann has agreed to stay on as Head Teacher of Barkway School for 2.5 days per week until Christmas as no suitable replacement had yet been found. New advertisements were being placed.

Environment – Mrs Pritchard of Royston Road has approached the Parish Council to ask if they could take responsibility for maintaining a boundary hedge in front of her house. Cllr. Alsop to investigate ownership of this hedgerow. **SA**

Mr William Lee has re-raised the issue of a pipe leaking water into his cellar. The Parish Council are not admitting liability and all communication must be conducted through our insurers Zurich.

Police – Cllr. Styles reported that there had been one crime reported to the Police in the last month. Metal feed shoots had been stolen from the Poultry Farm in Ashmill, value approx. £600. No arrests had been made to date.

Emergency Plan – volunteers needed to take on specific roles.

Neighbourhood Watch – PCSO Chris Brabrook was trying to organise a meeting with the village to encourage people to become Co-ordinators and get the scheme up and running again in Barkway.

Grants and Communication – Cllr. Baker reported that £5000 had been awarded from the Herts Grass Roots organisation for the Reading Room renovations. This money must be used by March 2011. We are awaiting approval of another Grant from the Locality Budget. £500 had been received in total from NHDC for the printing of the Parish Plan.

The 2nd edition of the Barkway Bulletin had been distributed.

The website has had 2462 hits with 1396 being first time visitors.

From the Parish Plan, the Barkway Forum is up and running and the Welcome Pack is being worked on.

Leisure – Cllr. Terry reported that the football season was finished. The grass cutting on the Rec. was going well until problems were encountered with the mower again. It was agreed that in the meantime the Clerk should contact Tim Drake to do a further one-off grass cut. **CT**

Pavilion Project – Quotes were being sought from builders based on existing plans in order to get an idea of costing.

Maintenance had been carried out on the area around the slide in the Rec. The roundabout still awaits to be sorted. **AT**

Special Projects –

Reading Room - it is hoped that approval from the Planning Dept. will be received by early July. A Management Committee for the Reading Room has been formed and it has been recommended by the Grants Committee that this should include 2 members from the local community. A draft schedule of the renovation works has been prepared and it is hoped to have the Reading Room back in full operation by the Autumn.

Reading Room and Recreation Ground – Land Registry – the original documents need to be found otherwise this will hold up the process.

Finance Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31.03.10 have been virtually approved by the Internal Auditor, apart from the figure for Assets. As the Asset Register has gone missing – a new one needs to be constructed. The deadline for this is 30.06.10.

The Parish Council bank balance at 01.06.10 is £6096.12

Parish Council Account:

Receipts since the last meeting: None

Payments since last meeting:

£51.00 – Eon - Direct Debit Electricity Pavilion

£15.00 – Veolia – Direct Debit Water Pavilion

Cheques to be signed at this meeting:

£52.12 – Gordon Baker – Printing Expenses Parish Plan and Newsletter

£55.00 – Tim Drake – Grass Cutting Rec.

£350.00 - Catharine Toms – Agreed monthly Clerk's salary

£41.70 - Clerk's Expenses

£45.00 – Tom Bentley – Street Cleaning x 3 weeks

£106.65 – Robert Davidson – Expenses for refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting

Reading Room Account:

Bank Balance at 01.06.10 = £1345.78

Receipts since the last meeting: None

Payments since the last meeting:

£22.00 - Eon Direct Debit for Electricity

Correspondence: None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Date of next meeting: 13th July 2010, in the Reading Room 7.15pm for 7.30pm