

**Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting  
Held in the Reading Room on 10 November 2009.**

**Present:** R Davidson (Vice Chair)  
J Cockerton  
V Styles  
A Terry  
G Baker

**Apologies:** K McCormick (Chair)  
G Penning

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

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Rural Policing Report:** PC Paul Mariner and PCSO Chris Brabrook reported there had only been 7 reported crimes over the 6 months. 4 burglaries, 2 thefts from motor vehicles and 1 drug related crime.

Concerns were voiced by the Parish Councillors about parking issues at Bonfire Night. The police can no longer provide cones but suggested that Parish Council investigates 'a cone sharing scheme' with other villages for such events.

The Chief Constable is looking at speed detection and assisting Neighbourhood Watch groups to acquire equipment.

There is a Security Awareness Operation starting early 2010.

The Police were thanked for their actions when there had been an incident at the Village Hall recently.

**New Councillor**

Cllr. Gordon Baker was welcomed onto the Parish Council.

At the Co-option meeting there were 2 very strong candidates. Gordon has agreed to take on the Portfolio of 'Grants and Contributions'.

**Cllr. Bob Davidson** had nothing to report.

**Cllr. Vince Styles** reported that a suspicious red vehicle had been seen. He has spoken to our local police.

**Cllr. Tony Terry** reported that the football pitches were now fully booked at the weekends. The Pavilion heating needs looking at – it may be that some help is available with this.

The Fireworks went well and not too much to clear up. Sparklers were popular. It was suggested that maybe the children could sort out some lights for the footpath next year.

The roundabout in the Rec. still to be done, also the mats under the climbing frame need relaying – a date needs to be set with a working party.

**Cllr. Jo Cockerton** reported that following the School / Playgroup Auction of Promises Night, that of the £140 raised by auction of the RAF sign, £100 was to be donated to Shirley Streeter to go towards the cost of the new village notice board.

Parents have been consulted about raising money to reinstate the mud humps in the Rec. but there was not much enthusiasm.

**Cllr. Gordon Baker** reported that he had managed to secure a grant of £250 from NHDC towards the cost of the Parish Plan questionnaire. A further £250 may also be available.

Projects need to be prioritised and relevant funding looked at. Grants are available if the criteria is met.

### **Reading Room**

A Risk Assessment report is to be done by Jenny Forster-Davidson.

It was noted at this stage that too many books were piled up and that there were no fire extinguishers. This will all be addressed once the report has been completed, along with any other issues brought to light.

Heating still an ongoing problem. The clerk to contact EDF for advice. (CT)

Sue and Rosie who run the Book Exchange in the Reading Room wished to express their gratitude to Cllr. Terry for all his hard work and support with their project.

### **Parish Plan**

It was reported that the Steering Group had not made much progress. Cllr. Davidson and Cllr. Baker attended last meeting. Group has been reconstituted and is now moving forward. The Terms of Reference have been drafted, Bank Account opened and a questionnaire is being worked on.

1<sup>st</sup> part of questionnaire is to find out what issues people think need addressing in the village. 2<sup>nd</sup> stage would be to report back to village with the identified problems and ask which solutions they prefer. Without a Parish Plan the village cannot obtain Local Authority funding.

It was proposed that Cllr. Baker should be on the Parish Plan Committee in an advisory role.

## **Mission Statement**

“Barkway Parish Council is committed to promoting and safeguarding community values, to enhancing the quality of village life and civic pride in Barkway”

The Council’s Corporate Objectives are:

1. To promote and represent the interests of the village, to embrace progress and to improve the quality of life for the local community.
2. To engage in a continuing open dialogue with residents, to understand their concerns, needs and aspirations, to explain how the Council will address these within the resources and powers available.
3. To encourage and promote social and community values in the village by working with and supporting, where practical, local organisations, groups and agencies to provide additional services and facilities to the village.
4. To encourage and promote the long term viability and vitality of the village, where and when applicable, through partnerships with other Parish Councils and levels of government.

The Council’s Mission Statement was adopted and will be posted on the website.

**Adoption of New Code of Conduct** – this will be done at a later meeting.

**Website** – has had over 200 visits this month. There is still nothing on the website about the War Memorial, The Chapel, The Reading Room or the Youth Club. It was requested that the Webmaster be kept up to date with events.

**Planning** – Cllr. McCormick and Cllr. Davidson met up with North Herts Homes to discuss the re-development of Wheatsheaf Meadow House and possibly the end of Windmill Close. It is early stages as yet. The Architect / Designer will visit the Barkway to gain insight as to a fitting proposal for this development. The Parish Council has concerns that the development is suitable for the village and that, following the Housing Survey carried out, it meets the identified need for affordable housing for people in or with connections to the village.

## **Finance**

The Clerk is still continuing to liase with Barclays to sort out the Bank Mandates.

Have cancelled annual contract with Playsafety Ltd for inspection of Playground equipment. This will now be done by a company recommended by NHDC at a more reasonable rate.

Annual donations to Barkway Chapel and Barkway Church were increased by 2%, as agreed.

Fireworks were at a net cost to the Parish Council of £73.79 following the bucket collection.

Receipts since last meeting:

Bucket Collection at Fireworks Night - £320.86

Payments since last meeting:

Barkway Chapel - £160.00

Barkway Church - £319.00

Cheques approved and signed at the meeting:

Royal British Legion – Wreath for Remembrance Day - £16.50

Tom Bentley – Street Cleaning 4 weeks - £60.00

Steve Scott – Cutting Heritage Verge - £28.75

Catharine Toms – Clerks agreed monthly salary - £287.00

Tim Drake – Grass Cutting Rec. - £55.00

Cllr. Terry expenses - £471.84

(£453.84 fireworks, £18.00 gas cylinder Reading Room heater)

Bank Balances: Parish Council £4428.08

Reading Room £229.52

**AOB:**

Cllr. Terry mentioned that the parking on the pavement is an ongoing problem and needs to be discussed at a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

**Date of next meeting: 8th December 2009, in the Reading Room at 7pm promptly.**