

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council  
Held in the Reading Room on 11 September 2007 at 7.30 pm

Present: I Sanders - Chairman  
G Penning  
A Young  
R Atkins  
  
H Marshall  
J Pooley  
T Hunter

Apologies received from K McCormick, T Terry and J Cockerton.

Minutes of the last meeting

There were no amendments so the minutes were duly signed by the acting Chairman.

Matters arising

As the Council had not met during August there were a number of updates on items from the minutes of the previous meeting and the following were matters arising that were not on the meeting agenda:

- Hot air Balloons: It was noted that for use of the Recreation Grounds our insurance would increase dramatically and also it was considered that launching of hot air balloons could damage the surface on the ground. Clerk to formally write a letter of rejection to the applicants.
- Related to the above Councillor Young explained that the hot air balloonists had informed him that they intended to install a gas tank for filling of cylinders at their premises in Burrs Lane. Originally this was proposed for the front of the property. Clerk had spoken to Planning and their view was that it would spoil the Lane scene. Councillor Young now understood that this gas tank would be installed at the rear of the property. Until a formal application is received we are unable to express a further view.
- Speed checks: Clerk has emailed PC Marina who has emailed back that speed checks on Royston Road had been added to his list. Councillor Atkins reported that speeding on this approach to the village is still an ongoing problem. Clerk to speak to PC Marina again.
- BT inspection pit cover has been replaced.
- On the subject of repairs to the road to Newsells village Councillor Atkins agreed to continue a watching brief.
- AK has pruned the trees either side of the Village Hall Car Park, making exiting the site safer.
- FP sign Gas Lane: Clerk to speak to Mr Bell (Rights of Way) to ascertain when this will be re-instated on site.
- Large rock etc...on the corner of Gas Lane: Clerk to check with Highways if these objects are on the highway and if they are causing a viewing problem along the highway when entering or exiting the lane. Need to define the boundary.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### Wheatsheaf Meadow House

The meeting then returned to the Agenda when it was agreed that the item concerning the proposed closure of Wheatsheaf Meadow House would be brought forward.

Opinions were sought from the floor. HM talked of the concern and distress this had caused and is still causing residents. All the residents have been offered a package (inducement?) if they agreed to move. From the recent survey only 6 people want to stay which will leave a large number of units unoccupied. After some discussion it was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Group should focus on all the possible options to safeguard those who wished to stay and for the longer term future of WMH, prior to their next meeting with North Herts Homes. These two meetings should take place as soon as possible in order to maintain continuity and impetus.

### P3

Councillor Penning reported that although the map has been completed there was a delay in map reproduction. P3 Annual Meeting with Mr Iwan and Mr Bell to sort out funding for producing leaflets of our map. Installation date will be confirmed asap. A question was asked if we were going to sell maps but as it was intended that only a few would be produced then the answer was no. A reduced copy of the map will be on the leaflets.

3 gates across FP13 are difficult to open & shut. Councillor Penning check what is wrong with them and report back to the next meeting.

It was reported that the posts were missing from the street end of FP11. Clerk to ask Councillor Terry if these had been put in store.

Councillor Sanders reported that stinging nettles were making it impossible to sit on the bench at the junction of FP 11 and FP12. Clerk to ask Mr S Scott when our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual cut of Parish footpaths will be done and to include this nettle patch in his cutting list.

### Recreation Ground

Clerk reported that the new Twister and the new goal posts had been delivered and installed.

Mr King has donated a sum of £210 with the suggestion of fencing around the play area. After discussion at the July meeting it had been decided that a bench would be more suitable, with Mr King's name on it. Chairman McCormick will be contacting Mr. King regarding this.

Youth Extension: One set of plans and a quote have been received. We require two further quotes. This needs to be addressed quickly, as all grant funding applications need to be in by the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain the grant forms for Parish Challenge and that an application be made before the deadline date in anticipation that quotes will be to hand. Councillor Terry to again approach Mr Rowe for a quote.

RoSPA report: Some items marked on the most recent report need attention. These have been and the outstanding items will be addressed asap. A working party will be required to rectify all items that can be fixed - time & date to be decided. Clerk to ask about the 2Bay Swing -4 flat seats.

### Milestone Cleaning

Councillor Penning had discussed this issue with Tom Doig. It would appear that the milestone is a grade 1 listed monument but the actual ownership is still unclear. Clerk to speak to Listed Buildings Department at NHDC to seek advice, particularly on appropriate materials for repairs.

### Royston Road Mail Box

Letter received regarding the removing of this item to another site. It was suggested that it should be placed next to the Bus Shelter on the corner of Windmill Close. Clerk to monitor.

### LexisNexis Book

After many approaches to obtain this manual it was decided, at present to use the one already owned by the Parish Council, and check for updates if needed at anytime.

### Dog Bin

This will be installed within the next 7 days. Clerk will meet with installation team to clarify the position of this item.

### Bus Shelter Tiles

These still need replacing. Clerk to speak again to Mr King.

### Street Cleaner

Letter sent to Mr Bentley regarding the necessity of wearing the yellow jacket, at all times, when collecting litter on behalf of the Parish Council. At present this is being done.

### OPEN SESSION

Howard Marshall reported that the LDF will enter the public consultation phase from 20<sup>th</sup> Sept until the end of Oct. It has thus far been proposed that no changes should be made to the current plan.

### PLANNING

24 High Street – fire damage repair. No objections.

Rushing Wells – Stable Block & Conservatory. No objections. (Councillor Penning mentioned that there is a proposal currently with Herts CC for rerouting a footpath along the fence line to the field where the proposed stables are to be sited).

### CORRESPONDENCE

Items were placed in the box for perusal by the Councillors.

It was reported that a letter had been received from Earls Wood Cottage concerning the installation of a telephone line which necessitates laying the line along FP14. This has

been discussed with Highways who have no problem with this proposal. Rights of Way had also been approached some years ago and at the time did not have a problem with this. Clerk to check that this is still correct.

## FINANCE

The following cheques were approved and signed:

S Neilson - Clerks salary for previous 3months and expenses	£736.15
CA King – General Maintenance work: Tree Pruning, Play Area Grass Cutting	£130.00
Jewsons Ltd	£ 24.58

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Parish Plan: should we do this? Therfield are in the process of completing their plan. District Councillor H Marshall will find more information for us.
- Reading Room Exterior Painting: The previous quotes obtained for this work are now out of date. Clerk to ask previous people quoting for this work to tender for this work again. Mr King, Townsend Close, Mr Terry & Mr Hales to be asked to re-quote. These will be all as sealed bids to be opened by the Chairman at a near future Parish Council meeting. The meeting should then decide which bid provides the best value for money.
- Water leak junction Nuthampstead Rd/Barkway High Street has been temporarily repaired so that there is now no standing water on the highway. More detailed repairs will be required. Clerk spoke to Highways and this item is on their agenda and we understand that these repairs will take place toward the end of October or beginning of November.
- Recycling Policy: There is a grey area concerning recycling plastics as not all plastic can be recycled. The new recycling procedures to be started in October do not make this very clear but all plastic bottles can be deposited at recycling points - in Barkway at the Rec. This is an imposition to our elderly parishioners. To be discussed further at next meeting.

Their being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed  
I Sanders Vice Chair

Next meeting date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007.