

**Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Reading Room, Barkway on 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm.**

1. In attendance: Cllrs:
Rev'd S Falaschi-Ray (Chair)
Dr G Frapporti (Vice Chair)
Dr R Davidson
Mr G Swann

Also present: Mrs C Toms (Clerk/RFO)

Others present: District Councillor Gerald Morris
County Councillor Tony Hunter
Tom Duke (Wisbridge Farm, Reed), Shelley Coffey (Senior Planner - Rural Solutions), Steve Anderson (Royston Town Youth Football Club) and Nicholas Tufton (resident).

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence: PCSO Chris Brabrook, Cllr B Morss (illness). Apologies accepted.

3. To receive Councillor's Declaration of Interest: None received

4. Minutes

4.1 To approve the minutes of the last meeting - approved as read.

4.2 To consider any matters arising from the last meeting - None.

5. Public Session: It was proposed by the Chair, Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and seconded by Cllr. Davidson and agreed by all to bring forward item 7.1.1.

7.1.1 To hear presentation about potential planning application by Tom Duke of Wisbridge Farm - Mr Tom Duke was present along with his Planning Consultant Shelley Coffey to explain about a potential planning application for an additional grain store to go alongside his existing grain store situated on a site along the Reed Joint and next to the former RAF site, and in addition to that, a development of 25 houses to go on his 6.5 acre field lying between the end of the village and his grain store site. He informed the Council that he now owned the former RAF site with the communications mast. He had been considering applying for permission to build a gas peak power generation plant on that site within one of the existing ex-military buildings. However, earlier that day he had learnt that there was no scope for connectivity to reach the grid as he had hoped, via the Solar Farm plant connections, as this was at full capacity, so for the time being this idea had been shelved. He mentioned that he no longer had a business interest in the Solar Farm but that he did have a business interest in a property development company, Arbourer Homes. He explained that the extension to his grain store would double the capacity of the storage on the site which would enable him to produce a better quality of grain. The proposed housing development field was currently within an environmental scheme and where there currently grew wild flowers.

Shelley Coffey showed the Council a plan of the proposed development site. She explained that the scheme was on a scale that, according to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, the village should be happy to accept (she did not take into account the fact that some additional development had since already taken place in the village) . Of the 25 homes, 10 would be affordable homes. There would be a public open space at highest part of field and there would be open field space on the area behind the development. She

pointed out that Barkway had been identified by NHDC as suitable for development. Mr Duke informed the Council that he had already done some redevelopment in Reed and intended to retain an interest in this proposed site in Barkway until completion of the project. At this stage they would only be applying for approval of an outline application. With regards to design, they would draw inspiration from the existing High Street properties but were open to feedback and suggestions.

Cllr. Morris mentioned that an application by Reed House was refused 4 times by NHDC for a development along the Reed Joint. He therefore queried why this proposed development was thought appropriate when the other one was not. He said that this site was not one of the sites identified by NHDC for development in their draft Local Plan.

The Council informed Mr Duke that this proposal had very poor timing as the village was currently fighting off a vast outline application for a development on site BK3. If site BK3 got removed from the draft Local Plan then this new much smaller development site would be looked at by the Parish Council on its own merits. It was currently a very anxious time for Barkway Parish Council and likely to be a long time yet before any decision would be made by NHDC on site BK3.

Tom Duke and Shelley Coffey left the meeting at 8pm.

County Councillor Tony Hunter entered the meeting at 8.10pm.

It was proposed by The Chair, Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and seconded by Cllr. Davidson and agreed by all to bring forward item 7.3.1

7.3.1 Report from Secretary of Royston Town Youth Football Club - Mr Steve Anderson (Chair of Royston Town Youth Football Club) was present to talk to the Council about the 5 year agreement taken out some 24 months ago between Barkway Parish Council and Royston Town Football Club for use of the Pavilion facilities and football pitches. He had concern over the cost to use facility as he said that it was triple the cost of elsewhere. He had worked out that the cost to the Youth teams was £73.50 per game. An example quoted was the Eternit facilities which only cost £25 per game. He explained that he had taken guidance from Herts Football Association and they were aware that he would be attending the Parish Council meeting. He asked the Council if he could negotiate a reduced cost. Cllr. Davidson explained that Parish Council had inherited an agreement that was set up previously and that there was certainly no aim to make a profit. The Council noted what Mr Anderson had said and explained that no decision could be made until the figures had been looked at in fine detail. It was proposed and agreed to organise a meeting to review the finances. **Action: Clerk/SFR/RD/BM**

Dist. Cllr. Morris gave the Council an update on submitted planning applications currently going through the planning system at NHDC. BK1 for 13 houses was still running its course through NHDC, he thought that Highways may have an issue with the entrance and access onto the Highway, there had been a Tree Preservation Order placed on one of the trees on the site and he thought there could be a reduction in the number of dwellings. However, the final outcome was yet to be heard. With regards to BK3, there was no news as yet. Normally the set time for a decision on an outline planning application was 13 weeks but a decision could be held off for longer because in this case it could not be dealt with under the delegated authority of a Planning case officer, it would have to go before a full Planning Committee. In the meantime, Head of Planning at NHDC, Simon Ellis, had taken over the BK3 case and was due to have a site meeting with Cllr. Morris as he had not previously physically seen the site in question.

County Cllr. Hunter informed the Council that he aimed to bring his colleague Cllr. Fiona Hill along to the next Parish Council meeting on 13th March. She was potentially the new County Councillor for this area and was Chair of the Royston District Area Committee. He said that the big thing at the moment was obviously the NHDC Local Plan. Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Hill and himself had all put in detailed objections. He said that Developers were banging on doors of landowners for potential development sites. The key things were if a site had already been selected within the Draft Local Plan and whether it was sustainable. It was noted that some Developers had been refused permission for another large site in Puckeridge just recently. He mentioned that regarding Highways, extra gritting routes had been added onto the schedule this year and it was hoped that these extra routes would be retained going forward.

6. Council Administration - update on Parish Councillor recruitment to fill vacancies - Cllr Falaschi-Ray reported that she had approached someone about the possibility of becoming a Parish Councillor and they were currently giving this some thought.

7. To receive updates from Portfolio Holders

7.1 Planning

7.1.1 To hear presentation about potential planning application by Tom Duke of Wisbridge Farm - (see public session)

7.1.2 To consider and make comment on planning application: Full Planning Permission : Erection of a 4 bedroom dwelling with new vehicular access onto London Road and ancillary works

Land at High Peak, London Road, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EY - Case Ref No: 16/03122/1 - Further to examining the proposed plans in detail it was agreed that there was no objection to this application, however it was commented that Highways could have an issue with the vehicular access proposed onto London Road. The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.1.3 To consider and make comment on planning application: Full Planning Permission Householder : Erection of home office in rear garden Highfield Cottage, Highfield Grove, Barkway - Case Ref No: 17/00163/1HH - No objection. The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.1.4 To consider and make comment on planning application: Full Planning Permission : Two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension with front porch and ancillary works

65 High Street, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EB - Case Ref No: 17/00016/1HH - Further to examining the proposed plans in detail it was agreed that in principle there was no objection. However concern was raised that the plans did not demonstrate sufficient off street parking for a 5 bedroom property. It was wondered whether the front garden could provide additional parking. It was also noted that the plans only showed one bathroom/toilet for the property. The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.1.5 To consider and make comment on appeal lodged by Mr Cannon of Barkway Golf Club to refused planning application for a 4 bed dwelling - The Parish Council had no additional comments to make.

7.2 Highways

7.2.1 Highways report - Cllr. Swann informed the Council that he had reported some completely blocked gulleys in the village to Herts County Council (HCC) contractors Ringway. The worst ones were at the junction of Royston Road and the High

Street and by the War Memorial. He had photographed these and submitted them to HCC.

7.2.2 Update on Anstey Quarry / Winters lorries - Further to a number of complaints submitted by residents to the Parish Council regarding the number and speed of quarry lorries travelling through the village, Cllr. Swann had contacted HCC. He reported that the conditions of the licence held by Anstey Quarry meant that there should be no more than 60 HGV lorry movements (30 in and 30 out) in vehicles over 7.5 tonnes on any one working day (Monday to Friday) and 40 HGV lorry movements (20 in, 20 out) on Saturdays. The reason for this restriction was that in the interests of highway safety there would be no adverse effect on the free and safe flow of traffic along the highway in the vicinity of the site. There was however, no restriction on the amount of 7.5 tonne or less heavy vehicle movements. With regards to speed limits, the new regulations in England and Wales for HGVs were for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes 50mph on single carriageways, 60mph on dual carriageways. Cllr. Swann had been assured by Anstey Quarry that no vehicles left the site before 7am and that they were not operating outside their licensed hours. Residents had complained about noisy quarry lorries coming through the village at around 6am. It seemed that these were probably empty ones heading for the quarry that were causing all the noise and vibration. There had been also reports of lorries mounting the pavements along the High Street to avoid oncoming vehicles. It was thought it might be an idea to send out an email to the village to ask residents to provide evidence of any un-sheeted Quarry lorries spotted and any instances of poor driving by taking photos and noting down vehicle registrations. Unfortunately, as a result of all the development sites in Buntingford and Royston, there was a vast increase in HGVs taking materials to and from the waste recycling sites in Anstey and Fowlmere using Barkway and the B1368 as the shortest route. Cllr. Swann to draft an email to send out to residents. **Action: GS/Clerk**

7.2.3 To discuss the bus shelter near Townsend Close - an email had been received from a resident suggesting that as the school bus no longer picked up children at that end of the village and that other buses did not stop there either, that the new bus shelter could be removed as it cost the Parish money to clean and maintain it. After some discussion the Council decided that as there was a likelihood of some development in the village it would be best to leave the bus shelter where it was in case the provision of public transport changed.

7.2.4 Update on land behind Windmill Close - Cllr. Swann reported that NHDC Legal Department had requested that David Charlton completed a report to his Director to seek delegation for the lease. Herts County Council had asked NHDC to commence the process of voluntary registration, which would mean NHDC dedicating the revised plot of land as a Village Green. Cllr Swann informed the council that this would be the easiest and quickest way forward and something that the Parish Council had spoken to NHDC about right at the outset.

District Councillor Gerald Morris, County Councillor Tony Hunter and resident Nicholas Tufton departed from the meeting at 8.40pm. They were thanked for attending.

7.3 Sports and Recreation

7.3.1 Report from Secretary of Royston Town Youth Football Club (see public session)

7.3.2 Playground maintenance update - In his absence, Cllr. Morss had sent in a report. He had spoken to Joe Poulton about the necessary repair to the zip wire. Following a site visit to look at the equipment, Mr Poulton had suggested that the Council should think about renewing the complete structure which would give many years of

future use rather than just fix a little section each year. After some discussion it was proposed and agreed that Mr Poulton should just be asked to fix the section of wood with the identified severe rot at this stage. The reason for this decision was that when the proposed new parking was created on the Rec. some play equipment would need to be relocated and it was thought that at that point the zip wire could be moved alongside the other play equipment and that would be the best time to renew the structure. S106 monies was being investigated for the whole project and these funds would support new equipment but not maintenance on existing equipment. The Clerk to ask Cllr. Morss to contact Mr Poulton and request him to carry out the necessary repair work as soon as possible and get the zip wire back into operation again. **Action: Clerk/BM**

7.4 Community Property

7.4.1 Pavilion

7.4.1.1 BRGMC - Proposal to dissolve the BRGMC and have absorption of the BRGMC roles into Parish Council portfolios - Cllr. Davidson informed the Parish Council that unfortunately the BRGMC was a non sustainable committee. The remaining members had thought it a good idea to pass back the responsibility to the Parish Council. It was therefore proposed by Cllr. Davidson, seconded by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and approved by all to dissolve the BRGMC.

7.4.1.2 Proposal to reform BRGMC as a fund raising committee of the Parish Council for the Pavilion and Community Room - Cllr. Davidson explained to the Council that the members of the former BRGMC were happy to become a fund raising committee but would like to have some influence over how the money was spent. This was all duly approved by the Council.

7.4.1.3 Pavilion and Community Room maintenance report - Cllr. Davidson reported that the new matting purchased had reduced the echo in the Community Room slightly but he felt the main problem was the walls and invited ideas from other Councillors on how to deal with this problem.

7.4.1.4 Car park on the Rec. update on progress regarding S106 monies - Cllr. Davidson reported that he was still trying to get hold of Stuart Izzard at NHDC. **Action: RD**

7.4.2 To discuss and approve proposal from Tim Bond to legally amend boundaries between land at Bond's Crescent and Pavilion Driveway and Recreation Ground - Cllr. Davidson informed the Council that he and the Clerk had met with Tim Bond and his brother David who had explained about the pieces of land in contention with the Land Registry. It all made perfect sense to regularise these issues and it was proposed by Cllr. Davidson and seconded by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and agreed by all to instruct the Council's Solicitor Glynn Railton to proceed as per the email proposal from David Bond (see Appendix A). **Action: Clerk**

7.4.3 Reading Room update - it was agreed by all to postpone this matter until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

7.4.4 War Memorial update - The Clerk reported that she had emailed 8 companies, whose details had been found on a directory of conservation contractors provided by the War Memorials Trust (WMT). She had supplied a proposed schedule of work, as recommended by the WMT and had invited quotations from these companies. It was really hoped to be in a position to submit two quotations to the WMT in time for their next round of grant decision making on 31st March. **Action: Clerk**

7.5 Environment

7.5.1 Environment update - The Clerk reported that there was now no new evidence of horse riders using footpath 14. Cllr. Swann informed the Council that the restricted by-way on the northern side of Rokey Wood was very deeply rutted due to usage by motorbikers Greenlaning. These ruts, when filled with rain water were

hazardous for walkers. Cllr. Frapporti agreed to contact the landowner Tom Duke and ask if these ruts could be filled in. The Clerk to forward an email address to Cllr. Frapporti.

Action: Clerk/GF

7.5.2 To discuss air pollution in village due to residents burning unclean or wet wood and agree action to address this problem - It was reported that there had been a bad smell and air pollution in the village for many days. Initially it was thought it was due to bad quality wood burning. However, reports had since been received that Mrs Ann Smalley had been burning piles of horse manure on her field at the bottom of Burrs Lane and that contractors had been spotted burning waste on the Highfield Grove development site. Cllr. Falaschi-Ray informed the Council that she had visited both sites earlier that day and had photographic evidence that these businesses were breaking the law by burning their commercial waste. Cllr. Falaschi-Ray would visit both sites again and talk to the people concerned. **Action: SFR**

7.6 Media and Communications

7.6.1 Police Report - no report available. PCSO Chris Brabrook was hoping to attend the March Parish Council meeting.

7.6.2 Website update - After some discussion it was decided that unless a lot of use was proven with the website it would not be justified to spend any additional money. The proposed new Wix site had too much advertising on the front page which could only be lost at a price. The matter would be kept under review. It was something that could be addressed once new Councillors had been recruited.

7.6.3 To discuss and agree content for the next edition of the Bulletin - Due to recent workload generated by planning issues and lack of Councillors the Parish Council had struggled to bring together information for an edition of the Bulletin. Even though there was not much news to report on currently it was agreed that an edition needed to be published this Spring. Cllr. Falaschi-Ray would write a Chairman's report and cover the Precept application and budget for 2017/18 (financial information to be supplied by the Clerk).

Other possible topics included the renovated telephone box, a profile of new Cllr. Morss, a plea for new Councillors, crime prevention, updates on any new projects and inconsiderate parking by parishioners. The Clerk to forward Cllr. Falaschi-Ray a previous edition for her to begin to edit. **Action: Clerk/SFR**

8. Finance - to receive finance reports from the Clerk

8.1 To provide update on current financial position

Parish Council Account:

The Parish Council bank balance at 13.02.2017 was £63,446.48

Receipts since the last meeting:

£42.00 - J Solder - Hire of Community Room

£5.00 - Donation re: Welcome Pack

£1,469.25 - Royston Town Football Club - Quarterly Football Contribution

8.2 To authorise payments:

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £60.00 - NHDC - Playground Inspection

DD £117.65 - NHDC - Quarterly Waste Collection - Pavilion

DD £51.00 - EDF - Direct Debit Electricity Pavilion

DD £13.00 - Affinity Water - Direct Debit Water Pavilion

CHQ 102429 £156.00 - A Dodkin - Maintenance Pavilion

CHQ 102430 £125.00 - D Dodkin - Maintenance Pavilion

CHQ 102431 £212.40 - CTN Exhibitions Ltd - Matting for Pavilion (Solar Farm Fund)

Approval of payments to be made at meeting:

CHQ 102432 £78.78 - Jewson Ltd - Pitch Maintenance.
CHQ 102433 £36.00 - S Scott - Cutting of Heritage Verge
CHQ 102434 £100.00 - CommuniCorp - Annual Subs
CHQ 102435 £36.00 - CPRE for Hertfordshire - Annual Subs
CHQ 102436 £911.84 - Catharine Toms – Clerk’s Monthly Salary + Office Allowance
CHQ 102437 £60.00 - Claire Methven - Litter Picking January
CHQ 102438 £198.75 - Sam Methven - Groundsman January
CHQ 102439 £65.90 - Janine Reay - Pavilion Bookings Clerk + Cleaning January
CHQ 102440 £73.53 - Catharine Toms - Clerk's Expenses *

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£45.00 - Open Spaces Society - Annual Subs

£28.53 - Return Mileage to attend LCAS Risk Assessment Course in Bluntisham

Parish Council - Pavilion Account:

Bank Balance at 13.02.17 was £1,088.06

Receipts since the last meeting: None

Payments since the last meeting: None

Reading Room Accounts:

Bank Balance at 13.02.17 was £791.43

Receipts since the last meeting:

None

Payments since the last meeting:

D/D £43.00 - NHDC - Rates

9. Correspondence - The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Mrs Julie Styles that Barkway Youth Club had been closed until further notice due lack of attendance.

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th March 2017 in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.29pm