

**Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Reading Room, Barkway on 8th May 2017 at 8pm.**

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

Also present: Mrs C Toms (Clerk/RFO)
District Cllr. Gerald Morris
County Cllr. Fiona Hill

Members of the Public: Mrs Lynette Tully, Mr Tom Wornham

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence: None received

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 - Mrs Lynette Tully was present to address the Council about the new proposed car park on the Recreation Ground. She apologised, due to just having had a baby, for not having been able to attend a consultation meeting which had been organised on 3rd May. (See meeting notes - Appendix B). She informed the council that she knew of many people, including herself, that did not want car park built there and asked how the Council planned to let everybody know about the proposal. She had a number of reasons for being concerned, the main reason was that she had a severely disabled son with limited life expectancy who benefitted greatly from the family being able to easily access the play area from their back garden. Having listened to Mrs Tully, the Parish Councillors were very sympathetic to her situation. It was however pointed out that the position of the proposed car park would not affect her current access onto the Rec. and that wire mesh could be put on the post and rail fencing around the perimeter of the car park to prevent children climbing through the fence. It was also pointed out that the proposal included creating a fenced in play area which would surely make it a safer and cleaner area for children to play. Mrs Tully asked if the Council could make more people aware of the proposed plans before making a decision. It was therefore proposed by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and seconded by Cllr. Swann and agreed by all to allow a further 2 weeks consultation period until Monday 22nd May. An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting would be arranged for Monday 22nd May, to be held in the Pavilion, where any additional comments regarding the proposal would be considered and a decision would then be made. **Action: Clerk**

Tom Wornham, Chair of Barkway Village Hall, was present to address the Council regarding the car park proposal. He stated that he could see both sides of the argument, for and against the project, but having listened to Mrs Tully, did not have anything else he wished to add.

Mrs Tully thanked the Council for letting her speak and she then departed from the meeting.

Mr Wornham remained as he wished to hear about the planning application relating to the Tally Ho.

6. Council Administration

6.1 To finalise arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 17th May - Cllr. Fiona Hill gave her apologies for Weds. 17th May as she was already attending a meeting elsewhere. The Clerk agreed to buy in drink and crisps for the event. She would confirm details with the guest speaker, Mr Ken McDonald from the Hundred Parishes Society. Councillors were all asked to attend. The Clerk would help the Chair with information to be included in her presentation to residents. **Action: Clerk/SFR**

6.2 Update on Parish Councillor recruitment - There was no further progress to report although resident, Tom Wornham, indicated he would give becoming a Parish Councillor some thought.

7. To receive updates from Portfolio Holders

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan - update. It was reported that Cllrs. Falaschi-Ray and O'Sullivan had attended a 1.5 hour meeting with Planning Consultant, Lorraine Hart earlier that day. It had been a productive meeting. One thing that she pointed out was that by allowing the Tally Ho to get planning permission on that corner plot had continued the strip development of the High Street and that it could mean that planners may look favourably on allowing the land behind, belonging to Thomas Keir, to be developed. The same principle applied in allowing planning permission on the site adjacent to High Peak. It was reported that in general Lorraine Hart would take care of the technical aspects of producing the Neighbourhood Plan but would rely on the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party to provide her with local knowledge. Essentially, in order to complete the Neighbourhood Plan, evidence needed to be provided to support the statements within the Plan.

Mr Wornham asked if he could add some useful information to the meeting at this point.

The Chair agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr Wornham to speak.

He pointed out that he thought there would be an environmental health issue with allowing planning permission for development within 450m of an existing poultry farm. He agreed to provide the Clerk with an electronic link later to prove the legality of this. Cllr. Davidson measured the distance on a map and indicated that this could affect decisions made on both the High Peak and Tally Ho applications. **Action: Tom Wornham/Clerk**

Standing Orders were then resumed.

7.2 Planning

7.2.1 To consider and make comment on planning application: Full Planning Permission: 2 x 3-bed detached dwellings with new shared vehicular access from London Road together with all ancillary works

High Peak, London Road, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EY - Case Ref No: 17/00678/1 -

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray, seconded by Cllr. Davidson and agreed by all to object to this application on the following grounds:

- 1) It was considered that the housing density would be too high for the site.
- 2) To allow planning on the site would be creating a strip development (ref: item 7.1).
- 3) It was considered that there may be environmental health issues with the proposed development as it would be located within 400m of a sewerage plant and within 450m of an established poultry farm.

It would also be asked if the planning case officer was mindful to approve the application, that in the public interest, it be called in before the Planning Committee.

The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.2.2 To consider and make comment on listed building application: Listed Building: Retention of re-pointed facing brickwork following removal of white painted finish

75 High Street, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EB - Case Ref No: 17/00653/1LB - after examining the application it was proposed by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray, seconded by Cllr. Morss and agreed by all that there was no objection to this application. The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.2.3 To consider and make comment on outline application: Outline planning permission for one two bedroom house (layout and scale reserved)

Tally Ho, London Road, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EX - Case Ref No: 16/0369/1- further to a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray, seconded by Cllr. Davidson and agreed by all to strongly object to this planning application on the following grounds:

- 1) The Design and Access statement was out of date and therefore misleading. It referred to the 'beer garden' on the opposite side of the car park. That garden had since been sold. The 'partly built extension' referred to had already been demolished and they had created a small patio area. The remaining space at the northern end of the plot would have made a good safe family space and beer garden. Instead they proposed to build a two bed dwelling in that area which would leave very little outside space for users of the pub. The success of any rural pub was surely to have an attractive outside place, which would attract passing trade and be welcoming for families with small children. A beer garden in a country pub was clearly essential to the future viability of the business.
- 2) There were further inaccuracies in the application form.
- 3) The applicants stated that they needed to build the house for the Chef. However, the pub already had upstairs accommodation which could be used by the Chef. Currently one of the rooms upstairs was let out to someone totally independent of the pub.
- 4) The applicants stated that they would wish to tie the new house to the pub. The Parish Council understood that this was a condition which could be reversed at any point upon application. This therefore did not secure the property indefinitely to the pub.
- 5) The pub and garden were registered as an Asset of Community Value.
- 6) The access to the site was poor. It was very steep and badly located opposite the junction of Buckland Road and the High Street. The Parish Council was sure that Highways would not find this acceptable.
- 7) The plan showed no recreational area for the occupants of the proposed new dwelling.
- 8) The site adjoined the Conservation Area.
- 9) The site was not included in the NHDC Local Plan.
- 10) Allowing that dwelling to be built would be creating a strip development.
- 11) The Parish Council understood that there could be an Environmental Health issue as the property would be built within 400m of a sewerage treatment works and within 450m of an established poultry unit.

It would also be asked if the planning case officer was mindful to approve the application, that in the public interest, it be called in before the Planning Committee.

The Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

7.2.4 To consider and make comment on Full Permission Householder and Listed Building: Single storey rear extensions. New roof to existing extension.

124 High Street, Barkway, Royston, SG8 8EG - Case Ref No: 17/01035/1HH & 17/01035/1LB - It was proposed by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray, seconded by Cllr. Davidson and

agreed by all to defer this item until the June meeting. The Clerk to request additional time from NHDC to make comment. **Action: Clerk**

7.2.5 Barkway Mast - To approve expenditure on Listed Building Application - The Clerk reported that an email had been sent out to all those residents on the email database asking for opinion on whether or not they were in support of spending £1,000 - £2,000 on applying for a fast track assessment for listing the Mast and associated buildings on the former RAF Barkway site. 34 emails were received in response, the majority fully supporting the proposal and only 2 responses did not support it. Cllr. Davidson reported that if the listing application was successful then it may make future nearby planning applications to build more difficult. He considered that this application would be of benefit to Barkway. It was proposed by Cllr. Davidson, seconded by Cllr. Morss and agreed by all to proceed with the application. This would be done by Cllr. Davidson but in the name of the Parish Council. **Action: RD/Clerk**

7.3 Highways

7.3.1 Highways report - Cllr. Swann reported that Herts County Council (HCC) Highways were doing some repair work along the Joint. They had repaired the passing points and the Newsells Road had since been closed for repair. He was still chasing for the gully to be cleared at the bottom of Royston Road, this had been ongoing now for a year and a half. He reported that Windmill Close was now on the list for re-surfacing this year and he would ask if repairs could also be made in Periwinkle Close. He reported that a letter had been received from resident Alison Gower who was concerned about safety of the children on the High Street. She had asked if the Council could look into the provision of a crossing in the village in order that all villagers could travel around safely. Cllr. Davidson said that this matter had been looked into some years ago with no success due to cost and the fact that it would mean introducing street lighting. Cllr. Swann said he would contact Gary Henning at Highways and ask for a current opinion on this. **Action: GS**

County Cllr. Fiona Hill and District Cllr. Gerald Morris asked to be excused and departed from the meeting at 9pm. They were thanked for attending.

7.3.2 Update on land behind Windmill Close - Cllr. Swann reported that there was no update. There was no mechanism in place with HCC for the Open Spaces application to be withdrawn but it could be abandoned if HCC asked for information which couldn't be provided. Therefore currently this was between NHDC and HCC being sorted out.

7.4 Sports and Recreation - Cllr. Morss reported that the football season was almost finished. Both Royston A and Barkway Vets had finished their games but the Royston Town under 16's still had a few matches to play. He mentioned that it was now the time of year to consider pitch maintenance and he was seeking advice as to what needed to be done and he was also thinking ahead and was going to investigate the cost of an ongoing maintenance package for care of the pitches. **Action: BM**

7.4.1 Report from meeting held with David Baulk from Royston Town Football Club (RTFC) - It was reported that a good meeting had been held, attended by Cllrs. Morss, Davidson, the Clerk and David Baulk (see Appendix A).

7.4.2 Update further to shed break-in and damage to line marking equipment - The Clerk reported that further to the shed break-in over the early May bank holiday weekend, it appeared that nothing had been stolen but the line marking machine had been damaged by the intruders. The Dodkins had since repaired the shed door and Sam Methven had managed to patch up the line marker. Cllr. Morss recommended that the Council should consider investing in a new line marking machine. He had asked

David Baulk if RTFC could recommend someone to contact in order to get advice but he had not yet come back with any information. **Action: BM**

7.4.3 Play area maintenance update - It was reported that for safety the play bark needed topping up around base of the slide and the fort. Approval was requested to purchase additional bark, agreed by all. In addition, the pigeon spike needed replacing on top of one of the baby swings. The Clerk to check if there was any left in stock. **Action: BM/Clerk**

7.5 Community Property

7.5.1 Pavilion & Recreation Ground - Report from consultation meeting on 3rd May regarding new car park on the Rec. - Despite being widely advertised, letters hand delivered to all nearby residents, a mention on the website, notices on the Parish noticeboards and an email out to all those on the email database, giving two weeks notice, only 5 residents turned up to the meeting. A Powerpoint presentation prepared by Cllr. Morss was delivered by Cllr. Falaschi-Ray and residents were invited to ask questions. The proposed area of the new car park had been marked out on the Rec. for people to see. The residents present were not over keen on the idea, but once the history and current situation was explained to them, they understood why the proposal was being put forward as a possible solution to the parking issues now being experienced along Cambridge Road when multiple events were taking place at the venues simultaneously.

7.5.2 To consider quotations received for proposed new car park and agree any action to progress the project - Item deferred (see public session item 5).

7.5.3 War Memorial update - The Clerk reported that the grant awarding panel had met on 26th April and decision letters would be sent out on 18th May. The case officer dealing with the application at the War Memorials Trust was happy now with all the information submitted and would be recommending approval, so confidence was high of a positive outcome this time.

7.6 Environment update - Cllr. Frapporti informed the Council that water levels in the village pond were very low and some residents were concerned. However it was not thought that there were any fish in there. The situation to be monitored. **Action: GF**

7.7 Media and Communications

7.7.1 Police Report - There had been a significant number of burglaries recently in the village. Shortly after Easter there had been 3 outbuilding burglaries along the High Street and in addition, a resident in Royston Road had his van, trailer and sit on mower stolen off his drive overnight. The shed was broken into at the Recreation Ground. Between 3rd - 4th May a burglary had occurred at 3 properties currently under development on Cambridge Road. Tools and building materials were taken. On Friday 5th May a property in Townsend Close was burgled. Offenders gained entry over a locked gate and smashed rear patio doors. Jewellery was stolen along with a key to a high performance car. It was noted by the Council that there had been an increased Police presence in the village as a result.

7.7.2 Website update - There was no update to report. The Council continued to be appreciative of the support from Gordon Baker in maintaining the website. Cllr. Swann requested that something could be put on the website about dog owners being responsible about keeping their dogs under control whilst out walking. He pointed out that not everyone liked dogs and it could be frightening for some people and children if loose dogs approached them whilst out walking. All agreed. **Action: Clerk**

7.8 Special Projects - Reading Room update - Cllr. O'Sullivan reported that he had emailed the valuation office. He had established that the Reading Room would be liable for Council Tax if it was converted into residential accommodation. He would chase up the matter to request someone to come out and do a valuation. **Action: RO.**

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 08.05.2017 was £74,552.12

Receipts since the last meeting:

£48.00 - S Anderson - Hire of Community Room

£75.00 - Barkway Village Hall - Hire of pavilion and Rec. for Music on the Rec.

£70.00 - FWAG East Consulting Ltd - Hire of Community Room

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

8.3 To authorise payments:

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £51.00 - EDF - Direct Debit Electricity Pavilion

DD £13.00 – Affinity Water – Direct Debit Water Pavilion

DD £120.12 - NHDC - Quarterly Waste Collection from Pavilion

CHQ 102472 £70.00 - FWAG East Consulting Ltd - Refund - Cancelled Pavilion Hire

Approval of payments to be made at meeting:

CHQ 102473 £34.91 - Jewson Ltd - Pitch Maintenance

CHQ 102474 £919.80 - Catharine Toms – Clerk’s Monthly Salary + Office Allowance

CHQ 102475 £75.00 - Claire Methven - Litter Picking April

CHQ 102476 £161.25 - Sam Methven - Groundsman April

CHQ 102477 £62.95 - Janine Reay - Pavilion Bookings Clerk + Cleaning April

CHQ 102478 £24.35 - Catharine Toms - Clerk's Expenses *

* £4.19 - Barley Stores - Coffee for Reading Room

£20.16 - Post Office - Stamps

Parish Council - Pavilion Account:

Bank Balance at 08.05.17 was £1,088.06

Receipts since the last meeting: None

Payments since the last meeting: None

Reading Room Accounts:

Bank Balance at 08.05.17 was £1,681.27

Receipts since the last meeting:

Trf. from Barkway Parish Council £382.12 for rates 2017/18

Trf. from Barkway Parish Council £500.00 for electricity 2017/18

Payments since the last meeting:

DD £40.12 - NHDC - Rates

9. Correspondence - Letter from Alison Gower (see item 7.3.1)

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 12th June

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.35pm