

# BARKWAY BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BARKWAY



ISSUE 19

MARCH 2014

WELCOME to the first edition in 2014 of the Barkway Bulletin. It contains many items including the Parish Precept for the next financial year and an update on the Pavilion Project. We hope that you find the articles informative and if you have any questions please pass them to the Parish Clerk. I would also like to request that you put the date of this year's Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, into your diaries. I am very pleased to welcome Steve Foster to the Council. He will be a great addition to the team and means that we almost back to being a full complement.

STEVE ALSOP, CHAIR, BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH PRECEPT

In December 2013 the Finance committee of the Parish Council reviewed our financial performance against the budget for the current year, 2013 / 14. We can report that costs are being managed effectively against a background of increasing demands on the budget. The committee then produced the budget for the next financial year ( 2014 / 15 ). The review concluded that there were additional expenditure required in a number of areas, plus a need to realign the clerk's salary to reflect current responsibilities. The overall figures calculated also assumed that the new Pavilion & Community room would be operational during the year. For this reason a proposal to request an increase the Parish Precept by £2000.00 from £22000.00 to £24000.00 for the next financial year commencing 1st April ,was approved by the full Council. This increase will be reflected in the forthcoming Council Tax statements produced by NHDC.

## RECREATION GROUND

Following the latest annual safety assessments on the playground equipment work is underway to rectify the small number of issues identified. We will also be repainting the metal frame of the childrens' fort, which is a popular piece of play equipment, during the coming weeks. The clearance of the boundary along the southern perimeter of the Rec is also progressing well ,with a large amount of the scrub and bracken already now removed. We will also be planting some of the saplings, which we received free from the Woodland Trust, along the open boundary sides ( north and east ) next week.

## PAVILION AND COMMUNITY ROOM PROJECT

Last November we submitted our application to the Football Foundation for a grant of £50,000.00 towards the above project . We were informed that we would receive the result of our application within 12 weeks. Those 12 weeks have now passed , without any confirmation of whether we have been successful or have been rejected. We have now contacted the Football Association to seek clarification of the current situation, but we have not received any formal response. This is a very disappointing situation and we just have to wait for news, but, we still remain optimistic! As soon as we have any further information then we will let everyone know.

## VILLAGE WEBSITE

The village website needs your support! We use the website to communicate Parish Council news and information to the village. Parish Council agendas and minutes are published there, plus legal documents which set out how the Council must operate. But there are lots of pages where you as a parishioner can contribute. Send us your news and do let us know about any local events which need publicising. All village organisations are welcome to send us articles, and please do check on your entries on the Village Organisations page, and advise us of anything which needs updating. You can contact us through the website or by direct email – [webmaster@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@barkway-village.co.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Council meetings are held in the Reading Room on the second Monday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. Scheduled meetings for the second quarter of 2014 are 10th March, 14th April ,12th May and 9th June

# PARISH MATTERS.....

## HOLE IN THE ROAD

### ROADWORKS IN THE HIGH STREET CALM THE TRAFFIC

This is a saga, and relates to damage to a very old (maybe 200 years old) drainage culvert that runs under the High St. The actual course and detail of the culvert are not recorded on official maps so it is a journey of exploration.

Rainfall has been exceptional and has exposed problems. The utilities connections in the High St outside the phone box seem to have been the last straw. After the flooding/overflowing gully situation, our County Councillor, Tony Hunter, stepped in at County Hall and convened a meeting between the Utility Companies, the Road Contractors (Ringway) and HCC officers. The result was to expose the recent works to daylight, and indeed it seems they were not carried out to specification.

However, they also uncovered previous works that had also damaged the culvert. HCC therefore embarked on a CCTV survey of the culvert and the overflow drain from the wagon wash. It seems the problem lies mainly in the High St and not with the wagon wash drain. They found other blockages to the culvert, as yet unexposed to daylight. That is the next stage.

As one can imagine there is a huge bill here waiting to land on someone, and so insurance companies of several parties are involved and this may drag on. There will be no speedy outcome unless pressure is applied, which it will be.

If anyone has memories or knowledge of the culverts in the High St and Church Lane, it would be appreciated if they could put them in writing, or a sketch, and send them to the Parish Clerk.

Every cloud has a silver lining however. We now have a temporary traffic calming measure in the middle of the village. Any views about making something of this size (but obviously prettier and without the hole) permanent, and/or having two of them, would also be appreciated, as would any objections to such an idea.

## DOG FOULING IN THE VILLAGE

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, dog fouling **continues to be a problem** in parts of the village, particularly on the Recreation Area, where children play and sport takes place, and on pavements in the village. There are plenty of dog waste bins around the village, with a new one at the Pavilion entrance to the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has a policy of following up on all reports of individuals failing to pick up after their dogs and NHDC will apply hefty fines to offenders. If you wish to report someone for failing to pick up, you can do so on the governments website, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) where there is a link. You will also find this link on the 'Useful Information' page of the website.

## READING ROOM BOOK EXCHANGE

The Reading Room, at number 12 High Street, is not only the home of the Parish Council, and venue for small meetings, but also our very own village library! It has been transformed by a number of volunteers into a warm & welcoming room, filled with books to suit all reading tastes from fiction through to fact. The Reading Room is currently open to all every Saturday morning from 10am to 11am starting March 8<sup>th</sup>. Do pop in and borrow, return or donate books. Many thanks go to those who are running the library.

## VILLAGE POND

The tree, which fell into the pond during the Christmas gales will be removed shortly. During the period of heavy rain the water level in the pond rose significantly and work was urgently required to ensure the overflow pipe was not blocked. It is the first time in many years that this drain has been used, let us hope that it is not a regular annual occurrence!

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Steve Alsop: (Chair) Environment & Pavilion Project	<a href="mailto:steve.alsop@barkway-village.co.uk">steve.alsop@barkway-village.co.uk</a>
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### BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL HAS A NEW COUNCILLOR

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Councillor. Steve Foster was co-opted to the Council on Monday February 10th, welcome Steve!

If you have any comments on the content of this edition of Barkway Bulletin, please contact the editor, Fiona Tomkins at [fiona.tomkins@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:fiona.tomkins@barkway-village.co.uk) - we are always interested in hearing your views.

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