

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Barkway on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 7.30pm.

1. Attendance: Cllrs:
Mr W Dennis (Chair)
Ms L Fletcher
Mr W Sapsford
Ms J Cox
Mr G Swann

Also present: Mrs C Toms (Clerk/RFO) and Dist. Cllr. Martin Prescott

Members of the Public: Three members of the public were present.

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr. D Marchant (away on business), Cllr. P Baker (on holiday). The Police (on rest days). Apologies were accepted.

3. To receive Councillors' Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and to remind Councillors of their requirement to update register of interests under change of circumstances – None.

4. Minutes

4.1 To approve the minutes of the last meeting - Proposed, seconded and all in favour to approve. Resolved. **Action: Clerk**

4.2 To consider any matters arising from the last meetings – None.

5. To receive report from District Councillor – Cllr. Prescott spoke about the new waste collection arrangements now in place and checked that all the new waste bins had been delivered.

6. To receive report from County Councillor – no report.

7. To receive report from the Police – The Police had been investigating the vehicle racing issues along the Nuthampstead Road and would continue to conduct regular surveillance in the area.

Standing Orders were suspended.

8. Public Session – to receive representations from members of the public – Two members of the public were present to introduce themselves as the purchasers of the land beyond Barkway Service Station on London Road. They planned to have stables on the land and keep their ponies there.

Standing Orders were resumed.

9. Council Administration - to note end of public rights for the year 2024/25. This period had ended on 25th July and there had been no requests received to inspect the records.

10. To receive updates from Portfolio Holders

10.1 Corporate Governance – Nothing to report.

10.2 Planning

10.2.1 To receive monthly update report from Redrow regarding BK3 development and agree any response needed – Redrow had appealed their S73 application for alterations to Conditions 3 & 20 of the Outline Application 18/01502/OP granted on 23rd July 2023. This was due to lack of response from North Herts Council (NHC) to their 24/01994/S73 application. They would consider withdrawing their appeal if NHC responded. Appeals were taking up to 36 weeks at the moment to be processed by the Planning Inspectorate.

Condition 20 was to do with the necessary changes needed to make the proposed land drainage function properly on the site, so that was considered to be reasonable.

Redrow had asked for the Condition 3 to be amended in a way that would reduce the ability of the condition to ensure that details of the reserved matters did not change the requirements of the decision notice on 18/10502/OP. Barkway Parish Council had already responded to NHC in October 2024 objecting to the amendment commenting that Redrow needed to be clear about each deviation that they wished to make and that each one should be considered on its own merits, considering Redrow's justification. That way, there would be no need to amend this condition.

Any additional response would need to be submitted to NHC by 8th Sept. Action: GS

The request, two months on, to meet with the NHC Urban Planning Officer to discuss the latest site layout plan produced by Redrow had not yet been responded to. Cllr. Prescott agreed to pursue the matter at NHC.

Condition 9 wording to be checked, as agreed by the NHC Planning Control Committee on 23.07.2023, for accuracy on the Decision Notice published on the NHC website. **Action: GS/Clerk**

10.2.2 To receive update on matters relating to the Open Space agreement between NHC and the Parish Council – NHC Solicitors were now requesting confirmation that the Village Green Application had been withdrawn by residents. The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the declaration signed by the applicants, however, this had not been considered sufficient evidence. Barkway Parish Council Solicitors to contact Herts County Council (HCC) for the necessary information. Cllr. Swann to check to see if he had a copy of the document and forward to the Clerk. **Action: GS**

In the meantime, the area had now been cleared of debris and was looking very much smarter and able to be enjoyed by the local residents, where communal gatherings were being held.

10.2.3 To receive update on status of the Barkway & Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan (BNNP) – It had been found out through the Planning Consultant doing research that the BNNP had been 'made' by delegated authority at NHC on 15th May. However, the had not been notified to BPC by NHC and the NHC website had not been updated to reflect this status. The Clerk to email Cllr. Prescott who would follow this up with NHC. This was very concerning as Redrow and maybe Planning Officers at NHC were not aware of this when determining planning applications, particularly those relating to site BK3.

10.2.4 To receive update on development proposal for land off Barkway Road, Royston – Cllr. Swann was in contact with a member of Barley Parish Council and was awaiting a date for a meeting to discuss a united submission of objection to a planning proposal which would undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the roads network both in Barkway and Barley. **Action: GS**

The concern was that as NHC couldn't demonstrate a 5 year land supply, it was allowing hostile planning applications such as this to be successful through a presumption of approval by the Planning Authority.

Cllr. Prescott departed from the meeting at 8.10pm.

10.3 Highways - To receive for consideration costings for alterations to speed indicator signs or alternative equipment – No additional costings had yet been obtained. The idea of having the white fencing, creating an effect of a gateway into the village at the three entrances was discussed further. The Clerk had emailed County Cllr. Brown to ask for financial support for equipment/measures to deter speeding, however, no reply had been received as yet. The Clerk to email Karl Stonebank, head of grants at the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ask for advice and grant support. **Action: Clerk**

Three members of the public departed from the meeting at 8.27pm.

10.4 Sports and Recreation – To receive for consideration costings for silent fireworks for Bonfire Night 05/11/2025 – to be deferred to the September meeting.

10.5 Community Property

10.5.1 To receive update on progress with improving security measures for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground – to be deferred to the September meeting.

10.5.2 To receive quotations and agree to proceed to order blinds for the Reading Room – Two quotations had been obtained. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to opt for the New Dawn quotation at a cost of £273.27 + VAT. It was understood that the Barkway Local History Group (BLHG) would be paying for the blinds from their own funds. Resolved.

10.6 Environment - To receive update on progress with Carriage Wash Restoration Project – Cllr. Fletcher reported that since the last meeting a further grant of £3k had been awarded from The Hundred Parishes Society, £1k from the Stansted Airport Community Fund and £1k from Barkway Market Committee. Some grants awarded would only be released once the project was underway. A response from the Pilgrim Trust was still awaited.

The Parish Council extended thanks to Cllr. Fletcher for her hard work and perseverance on the matter as this was really good progress.

Cllr. Dennis to write to County Cllr. Brown to see if the non-toxic sludge from the Carriage Wash could be deposited on the Reserved School site, as it was now left fallow. **Action: WD**

10.7 Media and Communications – Nothing to report.

11. To receive finance reports from the Clerk

11.1 To provide update on current financial position

Parish Council Account:

The Parish Council bank balance at 12.08.2025 was £25,202.60 (of which £11,920.46 is ring-fenced in the Carriage Wash Fund A/C)
Petty Cash £9.28

Receipts since the last meeting:

None

10.2 To authorise payments to be made

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £91.97 – Nest – Pension
DD £13.20 – Sage – Payroll Software
DD £31.08 – EDF Energy – Electricity Pavilion
DD £37.16 – Castle Water – Water Pavilion
DD £61.94 – BT – Broadband Pavilion
DC £16.79 – Zoom – Software Subscription x 2
DD £170.56 – North Herts Council – Quarterly Waste Collection Charge

Approval of payments to be made at meeting:

By bank transfer:

BP £1,395.79 - Catharine Toms – Clerk's Monthly Salary
BP £41.25 - Annie McPherson – Litter Picking July
BP £22.50 – Sophie & Charlotte Anderton – Litter Picking July
BP £336.00 – Deluxe Perfect Cleaning Ltd – Cleaning at Pavilion July
BP £112.50 – R Bonfield – Maintenance Pavilion & Rec. July
BP £180.00 – Tim Drake – Line Marking & Grass Cutting July
BP £1,020.00 – Stewart Bullard Ltd – Patching and Overseeding of Football Pitches
BP £40.00 – CDA Herts – Annual Subscription

Reading Room Accounts:

Bank Balance at 12.08.2025 was £5,707.64

Receipts since last meeting: None

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £44.99 – British Gas – Electricity

DD £48.00 – NHC - Rates

12. Correspondence – An email from a resident alerting the Parish Council to a rotted section of the bridge on Footpath 15 over the Quinn. The Clerk had reported this to the HCC Public Access Officer and asked if it could be repaired.

13. Items to be deferred to the next meeting – Carriage Wash restoration project, Survey of Seats and Benches, Reading Room re-fit and funding, Open Space agreement with NHC, Barkway Bulletin, Village Pond, Security measures for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Traffic speeding, Bonfire Night, Meeting with Urban Planning Officer regarding BK3.

14. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Cox for September and November meetings and from Cllr. Fletcher for December and January meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.20pm