

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Barkway on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm.

- 1. Attendance:** Cllrs:
Mr W Dennis (Chair)
Mr P Baker (Vice Chair)
Mr N Stuart
Ms J Cox
Ms L Fletcher
Mr D Marchant

Also present: Mrs C Toms (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the Public: Three members of the public were present (including two members of the Police).

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr. G Swann (on holiday), District Cllr. Martin Prescott and County Cllr. Ruth Brown. 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 – No report.

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

Standing Orders were suspended.

7. To receive report from the Police – There had recently been a high value burglary at Newsells and it was thought to have been part of an organised crime. Some speed checks are booked in to take place in Barkway. They were organising Police drop-in events around the villages, the Barkway session would be held on 15th August. It would be an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns they had with the Police. They had recently attended the Barkway Coffee Morning and the Barkway Lunch and would be attending the Barkway Market in May. The Police were thanked for their report and they departed from the meeting at 7.37pm.

8. Public Session – to receive representations from members of the public – No one wished to speak.

Standing Orders were resumed.

9. Council Administration – To finalise arrangements for the Q&A session with MP Chris Hinchliff on Thursday 12th February – There had been an interest in attending by 40 people so far. It was agreed to meet up at the hall at 7pm. It was also agreed to accept the kind offer from Mr Wornham to set up the hall for the event and to accept the quotation of £100 for the Audio Visual assistance from Mr Courtice.

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 – There had been no recent overall update from Redrow. It was agreed that Cllr. Baker should contact Mr Case (an Environmental Consultant previously used) to review the matter of the sewage treatment plant and its capacity and the inconclusive response received by North Herts Council (NHC) from Thames Water to enquiries as to whether the plant would be upgraded to deal with the extra volume resulting from 140 additional homes. He would be asked to produce another report that would make NHC Planners think very seriously about the sewage situation and the need to prevent ongoing spills of untreated sewage into the protected River Quinn Chalk Stream and to ensure that Condition 10 (formerly 9), of the Outline Planning Permission granted, was adhered to. **Action: PB**

10.2.2 To consider and make comment on planning application:

Full Permission Householder : Erection of detached shed following demolition of existing detached shed.

17 High Street, Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EA – Case Ref No: 26/00018/FPH

After consideration of the application it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that there was no objection. The Clerk to respond to North Herts Council (NHC). **Action: Clerk**

10.2.3 To ratify comment submitted on planning application:

Reserved Matters : Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the erection of 140 residential dwellings with associated landscaping, highways, drainage, public open space and ancillary infrastructure pursuant to outline permission reference 25/02234/S73 granted 03.12.2025

Land Between Royston Road and Cambridge Road, Barkway, Hertfordshire. Case Ref No: 25/03149/RM – It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all. Ratified. (See Appendices A & B).

10.3 Highways - To receive update on progress to implement measures to combat speeding through Barkway – It was reported that the present government was finishing with the Police and Crime Commissioners Offices. Officers there had been the obstacle in restarting of the Community Speedwatch initiative in Barkway, as they had constantly rejected proposed sites from which to operate the Speedwatch sessions. Cllr. Dennis to send Cllr. Marchant all the information he had on Speedwatch and this could now be revisited. **Action: WD/DM**
Cllr. Marchant would also put together a proposal for the March meeting for the purchase of speed cameras that displayed both car registrations and speed, as these were considered to be more effective in deterring speeding vehicles. **Action: DM**

In order to implement a 20 mph zone through the village it needed to be demonstrated that residents were in support of the idea. Once this was established then County Cllr. Brown would be able to add Barkway to the list for implementation by Herts County Council (HCC). Cllr. Stuart to put together a survey for the website. **Action: NS**

10.4 Sports and Recreation – To receive update on football activities - The Clerk reported that most matches had to be cancelled recently due to poor weather conditions. Cllr. Baker reported that further to the Annual Play Area Inspection, a number of essential repairs had been highlighted. A quotation had been received from Playground Facilities Ltd of £5,092.23 + VAT to resolve these issues. Cllr. Baker would attempt to obtain another quotation, but if this was unable to be obtained within 5 working days, it was agreed for reasons of health and safety of the children, to go ahead with Playground Facilities, requesting that the works were completed before the start of the easter holidays. **Action: PB**

10.5 Community Property - To receive update on progress with the interior re-fit of the Reading Room – All was progressing gradually, insurance and security issues were yet to be resolved. A grand opening was being planned for the end of March.

10.6 Environment – To receive update on Carriage Wash Restoration and set a date for next meeting of Working Party – Cllr. Cox reported that a meeting had taken place earlier in the day with Mr Ed Morton and two colleagues from The Morton Partnership (Structural Engineers). With the advance permission of the landowner's, they had been able to inspect the rear of the southern wall of the Carriage Wash and do a full inspection of the Carriage Wash itself with waders. They would produce a full report within 2-3 weeks to provide a schedule of works and specification.

Steve Parnwell from Greenwillows Associates (Ecologists) also attended site whilst the structural survey was taking place. He would consult with Natural England to ascertain whether

a conservation licence would be permissible recognising the construction element and associated timetable and then produce outlines to cover the ecology requirements.

Restoration and Conservation were key to the project. If it was considered to be restoration then a conservation licence would be needed, but if more building work was involved then it would need listed planning permission and a licence. The Ecology aspect made things a lot more complicated.

Mr Morton would be asked to provide a further quotation to assist with procuring the works and the administering the works over the contract period

With regards to potential sources of funding – two options had been found for larger grants, East Region Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England. Initial enquiries had indicated that both were quite interested in the project. The next step would be to place an expression of interest and then hope to be invited to go to the next step and formally apply for funding. Cllr. Cox to follow both of these up. **Action: JC**

Cllr. Cox was thanked for all her hard work on this.

10.7 Media and Communications – To receive and agree proposed draft of Easter edition of the Bulletin – Cllr. Stuart to email round the draft designs to be agreed and have the final version ready for printing by Friday 20th March. **Action: NS**

11. Finance – 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 10.02.2026: £23,468.96

The Carriage Wash Fund A/C balance: £13,969.60

Petty Cash £9.28

Receipts since the last meeting:

Parish Council A/C:

CR £540.00 – Buntingford Cougars – Hire of Football Pitches

CR £30.00 – Buntingford Cougars – Hire for Friendly Game

11.2 To authorise payments to be made

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £96.49 – Nest – Pension

DD £13.20 – Sage – Payroll Software

DD £62.79 – EDF Energy – Electricity Pavilion

DD £57.54 – BT – Broadband Pavilion

DD £31.67 – Castle Water – Water Pavilion

DD £170.56 – North Herts Council – Quarterly Charge for Waste Collection

BP £150.00 – J Williams – Refund of Hire Deposit

BP £50.00 – Barkway Village Hall – Hire of Hall for Q&A Session MP

BP £147.54 – Community Heartbeat Trust – Replacement Pads for Defibrillator

Approval of payments to be made at meeting:

By bank transfer:

BP £1,280.86 - Catharine Toms – Clerk's Monthly Salary

BP £48.89 - Annie McPherson – Litter Picking Jan

BP £25.50 – Sophie & Charlotte Anderton – Litter Picking Jan

BP £162.50 – R Bonfield – Maintenance Pavilion & Rec. Jan

BP £330.00 – Tim Drake – Line Marking Jan

BP £375.00 – Deluxe Perfect Cleaning Ltd – Pavilion Cleaning Jan

BP £90.00 – GeoXphere Ltd – Parish Online Mapping Software

Reading Room Accounts:

Bank Balance at 10.02.2026 was £1,816.24

Receipts since last meeting: None

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £48.00 – NHC – Rates

DD £135.12 – British Gas – Electricity

Proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

12. Correspondence – None.

13. Items to be deferred to the next meeting – Carriage Wash restoration project, Survey of Seats and Benches, Reading Room re-fit, Social Media Policy for 2026, Village Pond, Security measures for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Traffic speeding.

14. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10th March 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.42pm.