

Minutes of Barkway Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Barkway on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30pm.

1. Attendance: Cllrs:
Mr W Dennis (Chair)
Mr P Baker (Vice Chair)
Mr G Swann
Ms J Cox
Mr N Stuart

Also present: Mrs C Toms (Clerk/RFO), County Cllr. Ruth Brown and District Cllr. Martin Prescott.

Members of the Public: No members of the public present.

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr. D Marchant and the Police. 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 declared.

4. Minutes

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

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

Stand Orders were suspended.

5. To receive report from District Councillor – To defer item until later in the meeting.

6. To receive report from County Councillor – It was reported that the horse rider warning signs had now been installed along London Road, funded by Cllr. Brown's Highways Locality Budget.

The village gates had been ordered but without the Barkway Parish Council (BPC) logo as there was not a high enough resolution version of the logo available that could be used. These would be located on the London Road and Cambridge Road entrances to the village. The verge on Royston Road was too narrow to accommodate a village gate.

The pavement from south of No. 14 High Street to the Royston Road was due to be resurfaced by the end of September under the Herts County Council (HCC) Integrated Works Programme. A request had been submitted to HCC to ask if the bus stop from outside the Reading Room could be moved to the village pond area, this was now being discussed by Highways and Transport Officers at HCC.

There were various current consultations being carried out:

Speed Management Strategy – ending on 27th July.

Proposed 20 mph speed limit in Barkway – ending on 19th July. This was discussed as it was considered by BPC Cllrs. that there were flaws with this HCC survey being conducted. The survey was too open to people outside the village, it was felt that it should be for local people only, that would be directly affected by any changes. The survey was also set up in a way that it could accept multiple responses from the same source. Cllr. Brown indicated that HCC were aware of the problems with this consultation. She was requested to ask HCC to carefully scrutinise the responses and filter out any rogue results. Cllr. Brown mentioned that the results so far were showing a fairly positive response to the 20 mph proposal. It was agreed that BPC should proceed to carry out its own survey. This would be with a two-sided edition of the Bulletin (Speed limit survey and Parish Councillor recruitment) and via the website. Cllr. Cox to create a QR code to be used. The Clerk to contact Reed Parish Council to obtain details of how they conducted their recent 20 mph survey. **Action: JC/Clerk/NS**

A decision on Local Government Reorganisation was expected to be announced on Thursday by the Secretary of State. The existing 11 County, District and Borough Councils across Hertfordshire could be replaced by Unitary Authorities. It was expected that Hertfordshire would be split into 4 Unitary Authorities, which was a worrying divide of areas. It was understood that this would have no impact on the proposed new Local Plan.

Finally, it was reported that Cambridgeshire Council had announced that the hazardous road junction at Flint Cross would have signals installed there within the next 12 months.

7. To receive report from the Police – No report.

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

Standing Orders were resumed.

9. Council Administration

9.1 To review progress on recruitment of a new Parish Councillor – Cllr. Dennis had posted an item on the Community Facebook page. Cllr. Stuart to publish a piece on the website. (Also - see item 6). **Action: NS**

9.2 To appoint new Councillor to represent the parish Council with the Armed Services Covenant – Cllr. Stuart volunteered to do this. Proposed, seconded and agreed by all. Resolved. The Clerk to inform the Ministry of Defence Officer. **Action: Clerk**

10. To receive updates from Portfolio Holders

10.1 Corporate Governance – nothing to report.

10.2 Planning

10.2.1 To receive monthly report regarding Redrow BK3 development and agree any action needed – Redrow had notified the Parish Council earlier in the day that they were due to start construction of their development on Monday 20th July. The construction would follow the approved Construction Management Plan (Revision C, dated 17.02.2026). The build would focus on the part of the site closest to the Village Hall and then move on to remaining plots to the east of the bridleway. Part of the first stages of build would involve some piling work and dates of this would be confirmed shortly. Any construction activities adjacent to the Stud boundary, dates would be notified in advance for the construction of the basins and deep boreholes.

It was noted that the link to the Construction Management Plan on the North Herts Council (NHC) planning portal did not seem to work. Clerk to check this with Louise at Redrow. **Action: Clerk.**

Concern was also raised that whilst the construction to the entrance for the temporary site compound on Cambridge Road was currently taking place, the contractor vehicles were all parked in the Village Hall car park adjacent to the Pavilion. It was unknown if permission had been granted by the Village Hall Committee. The Construction Management Plan stated that all vehicles should be parked off road on hard standing within the site. In addition, HGV lorries had been seen travelling off towards Barley, when the agreed route to and from site was across The Joint. Redrow would be reminded of these points. **Action: Clerk/GS**

Concern was also raised that there now appeared to be no money set aside in the HCC Highways budget for the upgrade of The Joint to include creation of passing points. In the former administration, money had been allocated in the budget for this programme of works and it was unknown where and why this has disappeared. The poor current condition of The Joint was now likely to get far worse with the addition usage of HGV construction traffic.

10.2.2 To consider and make comment on planning application:

Section 73 Application : Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 26/00819/FPH granted 13/05/2026.

109 High Street, Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8ED. Case Ref No: 26/01493/S73 – After consideration of the application it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that there was no objection. The Clerk to respond to NHC. **Action: Clerk**

Dist. Cllr. Martin Prescott arrived in the meeting at 8.05pm.

5. To receive report from District Councillor – Cllr. Prescott reported that HCC were assessing their current land ownership stock and in places putting these sites up for sale in order to raise some money. He recommended that BPC should be mindful of this and keep watch regarding the HCC Reserved School Site next to BK3.

It was also reported that the Tally Ho pub in Barkway was due to close on 12th September. It was understood that the owners living above the pub were uninterested in re-leasing the public house area of the building to anyone.

As a current registered Asset of Community Value, the matter would be kept under review. The owners would be asked to return the Barkway sign on display above the fireplace in the bar area, which was there on loan from the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk/DM**

10.3 Highways

10.3.1 To note commencement of HCC Consultation on proposed 20 mph speed limit in Barkway – (see item 5).

10.3.2 To consider request from HCC to repair roof of bus shelter in Royston Road – The Clerk reported that this was a somewhat puzzling request. The damaged bus shelter roof had been reported to HCC by the Clerk back in April and HCC had responded stating that they had visited and any necessary works had been carried out to either replace or repair it. As a result, they had closed the case. Then on 2nd July HCC had emailed to say that NHC had advised them that BPC was responsible for the repair of the bus shelter and could this repair now be done to make it safe! The Clerk had responded to HCC querying the matter. A copy to be forwarded to County Cllr. Ruth Brown. **Action: Clerk**

10.4 Sports and Recreation – Cllr. Dennis reported that the circular memorial bench at bottom of the Recreation Ground was in need of renovation. In addition to cleaning and recoating the bench, there was also a broken slat. The Clerk to ask the supplier Cyan to source an appropriate curved slat (as they had done previously). The bench to be cleaned up once the new slat was fitted. Proposed, seconded and agreed. **Action: Clerk to organise.**

10.5 Community Property - nothing to report.

10.6 Environment

10.6.1 To receive progress update on Carriage Wash restoration project – Cllr. Cox reported that some very good news had been received earlier that the Pilgrim Trust had granted the Parish Council an extension until January 2027 to submit a Stage 2 application for a grant.

A draft email had been compiled to send to the adjoining landowners who had were wanting to resolve the problem of flooding in their meadow immediately south of the Carriage Wash wall, which occurred mainly in winter when flows through the Carriage Wash were highest. It was uncertain whether this could be achieved by drainage of the meadow back into the Carriage Wash through the restored wall, or by other means. They had asked if the surveyors could take this into account during assessment of work required to restore the Carriage Wash. They appreciated that any additional cost to the project to prevent flooding of the meadow would be done at their cost. The email would request that they could provide some suitable dates in order that a meeting could be set up with the appointed Structural Engineers and themselves to review their drainage needs and potentially incorporate the specification into the tender before things further progressed. The final job specification would then be reviewed by all parties ahead of being put out for tender. The Clerk to send email. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Baker had earlier circulated a draft of the Just Giving page now and a link to this would be put on the website. This was ready to go live once tenders had been received and it was known how much the project was likely to cost.

Regarding the informative sign to be erected by the Carriage Wash – the Clerk informed the Council that the company who had produced similar signs for Reed village where no longer trading. Cllr. Dennis to make other enquiries. **Action: WD**

An initial expression of interest of applying for grant funding to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery. **Action: JC**

10.6.2 To note condition of the village pond and agree action required to address this – The Clerk had chased The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust for some advice and a plan for longer term maintenance of the pond. A response was still awaited.

10.7 Media and Communications – Cllr. Stuart reported that the website had now been modified to incorporate a new BK3 tab. This would be used to keep parishioners up to date with matters to do with the build out of BK3. A new planning page had been set up and all future planning applications would be listed on here. In addition, the front page of the website could now display two banners of ‘latest news’.

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 14.07.2026: £25,871.56

The Carriage Wash Fund A/C balance: £9,706.06

Petty Cash £9.28

Receipts since the last meeting:

Parish Council A/C:

CR £340.00 – Buntingford Cougars – Hire of Pitches

CR £150.00 – Hodgson – Deposit Hire of Community Room

11.2 To authorise payments to be made

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DC £16.79 – Zoom – Software Subscription

DD £96.49 – Nest – Pension

DD £13.20 – Sage – Payroll Software

DD £62.34 – BT – Broadband Pavilion

DD £29.26 – Castle Water – Water Pavilion

BP £150.00 – Hodgson – Refund Pavilion Hire Deposit

11.2 Approval of payments to be made at meeting:

By bank transfer:

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

BP £134.00 - Annie McPherson – Litter Picking Jun & Holiday Pay 2025/26

BP £68.00 – Sophie & Charlotte Anderton – Litter Picking Jun & Holiday Pay 2025/26

BP £108.00 – R Bonfield – Maintenance Pavilion & Rec. Jun

BP £170.00 – Tim Drake – Grass Cutting Jun

BP £450.00 – Deluxe Perfect Cleaning Ltd – Pavilion Cleaning Jun

BP £274.39 – HMRC – PAYE & NI Jun

Reading Room Accounts:

Bank Balance at 14.07.2026 was £1,351.22

Receipts since last meeting:

£25.00 - BLHG Donation

Approval of payments since last meeting:

DD £17.03 – British Gas – Electricity

12. Correspondence – None.

13. Items to be deferred to the next meeting – Recruitment of a new Parish Councillor, Carriage Wash Restoration Project and quotation for Informative Sign, Survey of Seats and Benches, Social Media Policy for 2026, Village Pond maintenance, Security measures for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Traffic speeding and 20mph zone survey, data collection from SIDS, Repair to multi-play equipment.

14. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 11th August 2026.

County Cllr. Ruth Brown and Cllr. Baker gave their apologies for the August meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.50pm