



BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council

on Monday 6th March 2023 at 8pm at the Town House

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Brian Haughey, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Ali Hearn, RFO Lynn Brett, Temporary Parish Clerk Alice Robertson

IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Gerald Morris, and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Tony Hunter, and Nick Shaw.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Lee declared a conflict of interest regarding the Council's instructions to Messrs Savills to undertake Insurance Reinstatement Valuations for the Town House and the Club Room as she is a Savills employee.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 6th February 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Hearn.

4. Public Participation

4.1 No items from the public were brought to the meeting.

5. Planning

5.1

Hops Cottage, 3 Shaftenhoe End, Bogmoor Rod, Barley, SG8 8LD

Ref: 23/00299/FPH

Erection of detached outbuildings to provide a garage and workroom following demolition of existing outbuildings.

The council resolved that it had no objections to this application.

5.2

Cllr Carlisle advised the meeting that he had received an email from Giles Meredith of CDA Herts, who are a member of a rural affordable housing partnership, asking if the Parish Council would be interested in exploring whether an affordable housing needs survey would be appropriate for Barley.

Councillors agreed a meeting with Mr Meredith would be helpful to find out more and the Clerk was asked to invite him to the Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th June at 8pm.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. The RFO Lynn Brett had previously distributed the list of payments for approval at this meeting.

Barley Parish Council

Alice Robertson Invoice for temporary clerk duties February 2023 - £260.26

Lynn Brett Invoice for RFO duties February 2023 - £358.80

Total £619.06

Barley Town House

Swift Fire & Safety Invoice for Fire Alarm and Emergency lighting 6mth service - £219.47

Total £219.47

Payments approved - Proposed Cllr Ian Turner, Seconded Cllr Yvonne Lee

Additionally the Chairman advised the meeting that he had received a letter from Barley Village Community Group asking if the Parish Council would again be prepared to pay their Public Liability Insurance (£100.80) as they were continuing to struggle with funds particularly in the current economic climate. This was discussed by the meeting and it was agreed that the PC would on this occasion meet the cost. The Group were to be advised however that this payment should not be seen as setting a precedent for future payments of this kind and should a further request be made next year that there was no certainty that the council would agree. The RFO would discuss with the Community Group the appropriate means for this payment to be made.

The following payments had been made by direct debit **in respect of the Town House**

- Octopus Elec £219.49
- NHDC £32
- PNET £20.75
- Total £272.24

Lynn Brett also advised the meeting that the Town House Insurance was due for renewal in April and that following discussion with the Chairman, Cllr Carlisle, it had been agreed that as a result of the recent significant increases in building costs and materials that the Council should procure up to date Insurance Reinstatement Valuations for the Town House and also for the Club Room prior to renewal. As Messrs Savills had previously undertaken such valuations on behalf of the Council Cllr Carlisle had approached them for a fee quotation and they had proposed a fee of £900 + Vat. This was agreed by the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey, Seconded by Cllr Turner.

Cllr Carlisle was asked to instruct Savills accordingly.

Proposed change of Council banking arrangements.

RFO Lynn Brett reported that following previous discussions about the poor service the Council had experienced with Barclays she had researched banks used by other Parish Councils and proposed a move from Barclays Bank to Natwest due to the better service seen across the board. It will not cost to move banks and includes software beneficial to us for future use at no extra cost.

Following discussion the meeting agreed unanimously to proceed to change bank from Barclays to Natwest. Proposed by Cllr Hearn, seconded by Cllr Lee.

Kings Coronation Celebrations.

The Council agreed to make available a budget of up to £500 towards the cost of the celebrations being organised by the Barley Social Hub.

Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Lee.

7. Reports from County/District Councillors

7.1 County Cllr Gerald Morris

- Photo ID is now required for voting. Posters to be displayed in the village once available.
- Raw sewage issues – Barkway, Therfield and Kelshall have concerns with raw sewage being discharged into local streams and rivers with the development of new houses being built and overloading existing sewage treatment installations and asked if the new housing developments we have behind the Surgery and Draytons Garage tips us over the limit with our sewage plant? Cllr Carlisle advised that as far as we are aware the treatment plant serving the village is currently adequate and we are not aware of any surcharging having occurred.

- NHDC Council Tax is increasing by just under 3% from April 2023
- Purple bin collections will be moving to an 'Every 3 week collection' from 2025 in a drive to cut landfill.
- A new supervised service offering to carry out maintenance work and other help needed in villages has been made available by the Probation Service. Projects like footpaths, ditches or other community assets in need of repair or maintenance could be potential projects for them. Cllr Morris will invite them to a future council meeting, perhaps 5th June at 8pm, to share more about what they can offer the community.

7.2 County Cllr Fiona Hill

- Updated us with confirmation of the Warm Hubs rollout available in various locations including Royston Library.
- Highways - have been out to check rumble strips into the village. Improvements to be scheduled. Works required on the High Street, including drainage, are currently being reviewed and will be allocated in the next financial year. All necessary diversions, signs and necessary notification to residents will be in place and undertaken to enable the proposed Smith's End Lane resurfacing work to be carried out in order to avoid the recent problems experienced by residents during the recent preparatory work to allow the resurfacing to take place.
- Cllr Carlisle advised County Cllr Hill that some of the work Highways undertook in Smiths End Lane is breaking up already. County Cllr Hill to investigate.
- Cllr Carlisle and RFO Brett requested information as to why Cambridge Road have just had a new pavement put in, as this was not requested by the Parish Council. Cllr Hill to enquire.
- Advised the Parish Council could apply for Private salt bins in May 2023. These would need to be filled by the council with the salt that is available to us free of charge annually. The council to advise how many are required by May 2023.

8. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

8.1 Town House

8.1.1 Fire check complete. It was recommended that the Fire Exit Signs above doors are upgraded to include a new clear cover as this is the new standard. Nick Shaw to progress.

8.1.2 Greg Chamblings' request to install a memorial bench for his late wife and previous Parish Clerk Mel Chamblings at the front of The Townhouse, was approved subject to its dimensions.

Proposed Cllr Turner & Seconded Cllr Haughey.

8.2 Plaistow

8.2.1. Padlock has gone missing for the gate at the bottom. Cllr Turner agreed to purchase and replace.

8.2.2 .The request to be able to use the Plaistow for a private party has been withdrawn.

8.2.3 Inspection of Plaistow completed by Cllr Turner. Cllr Turner to send his report to the Parish Clerk for records.

8.2.5 Broadmead Leisure do a quarterly inspection of the children's playground. They are to be asked to check, on their next inspection, the adequacy of the the crash mats under the climbing frame and to review a previous comment about the need to repair/replace one of the climbing posts which was showing signs of distress. The Clerk was asked to write to Broadmead Leisure accordingly and to confirm previous instructions to replace some of the circular wooden seats to the picnic tables.

8.3 Other items

8.3.1 Tennis Club

Cllr Lee circulated revisions made to the Management Agreement for the Tennis Club for Councillors to review.

Cllr Lee will send as a draft to The Tennis Club.

8.3.2 Steps to replace the Clerk for the Council

Following her application Alice Robertson has been formally offered, and she has accepted, the role of Barley Parish Clerk. Full time duties to start immediately.

8.3.3. Parish Council Elections:

Cllr Carlisle briefed the Parish Council on requirements for the upcoming May Parish and Local Elections. The Clerk is to notify the village community on social media, on the village website and via posters in the village noticeboards.

9. Clerks Report

9.1 Items of correspondence.

- Dog Fouling – NHDC have installed their own signs along Church End. Urbaser are scheduled to clean pavements alongside Manor House. Date TBC.
- The Defibrillator outside the Surgery is now back up and running and has been registered for use. Cllr Hearn has suitable replacement parts in the event of its use. Cllr Haughey, Cllr Hearn and Parish Clerk Robertson have agreed to be the guardians for the unit going forward.
- Potential installation of a second defibrillator on or near the Town House. Research to be kick started by Cllr Hearn and Cllr Haughey and a preferred location to be advised.
- Commemorative Mugs – Potential to join forces with Barkway to provide children with Coronation Mugs. Communications with Barkway Parish Clerk ongoing.
- As noted earlier the Council has agreed a £500 budget for the Kings Coronation celebrations, and furthermore that two of the existing marquees would be available for use on the day of the celebrations. The Clerk is to update the Barley Social Hub.
- HCC have advised that they are unable to replace any of the rotten benches distributed along a number of the footpaths around the village. It was discussed that this could be a good project for the new supervised service being offered by the Probation Service.

- Scouts – The council have been asked to meet with representatives of the scouts for an informal discussion about their proposals for a possible replacement scout hut. Cllrs Carlisle, Turner, Hearn, Haughey and Lee have indicated they would like to attend. Date TBC

10. Items for future discussion

- Civility and Respect project – To be put onto Agenda following the elections.
- Armed Forces Covenant – To be put onto Agenda following the elections. Cllr Hill to report on commitment required. (Armed forces week in June)
- Annual Village Meeting – to be scheduled for May.
- Parish Council AGM – to be scheduled for May.

11. Date of next Barley Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 8pm in the Town House.

Contact: Clerk to Barley Parish Council
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