

**BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council**  
**on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Brian Haughey and Cllr Ian Turner.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

District Cllr Tony Hunter, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Nick Shaw and three members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES.**

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King and District Cllr Gerald Morris.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 were read and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

4.1 No issues were raised.

**5. PLANNING**

**5.1 22/02392/FP application to reconstruct boundary wall.  
Margaret House, Church End, Barley, Herts, SG8 8JS**

The Council made no objections to this application.

**5.2 Reference 22/02497/FP application to undertake formation of vehicle access and vehicular crossover following the infill of existing vehicle access.**

**Slaters, Bakers Lane, Barley, Herts, SG8 8HJ**

The Council had previously made a site visit along with the applicant prior to the meeting. The Council agreed that the planned access created a considerable impact on the environment in a Conservation Area due to the width of the planned vehicle access. It was agreed that a decision regarding the application should be deferred until additional information about plans to minimise the impact are available, as agreed with the applicant. Concerns were also raised regarding the single vehicle width of the access where sight lines are impeded by the significant changes in gradient which could result in vehicles being required to reverse back out onto road.

**6. FINANCE**

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

Barley Parish Council

Lynn Brett	£330.83	October	RFO
Mel Chamings	£135.36	Reimbursement for MS office renewal	

Proposed Cllr Turner and Seconded Cllr Haughey

Barley Town House

Barley Property Maintenance	£153.85	Downstairs kitchen
Swift Fire	£104.03	Water extinguisher
Prokesova	£600.00	Deep cleaning
PJ Robinson	£236.64	Floodlights
NHDC	£99.45	Trade Refuse Service

Proposed by Cllr Hearn and seconded by Cllr Haughey

## **7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

### **7.1 County Cllr Hill**

- The Highways Action Plan was reviewed. Concerns were raised by the Chair regarding a statement from Highways that the drains in the village are in working order. A partial survey of the competence of the village drains was undertaken in the summer incorporating the High Street. The report from the survey is pending, C Cllr Hill will follow this up for access to the report.
- It was reported that the grill across the drainage channel at Picknage Road has been removed by the Council due to becoming repeatedly blocked by leaves and debris with the recent storms and leaf fall. Villagers have been removing silt, debris and leaves to try to keep the grill clear but, in the current weather conditions, the grill becomes congested again within short periods of time. The importance of keeping the drainage ditch clear has been raised with the landowner. It was suggested that the grill could be modified to trap larger items, but allow the passage of leaves and silt.
- Cllr Hill reported that a meeting had been held between BPC and the OPCC regarding the speed camera. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The County Council Minerals and Waste Consultation document had been circulated for comment and Cycling and Walking Consultation plans are currently being prepared for urban areas.
- Due to the current national cost of living issues, suitable warm hubs and places of safety were currently under consideration.
- In the absence of Gerald Morris the chairman reported that NHDC were currently undertaking a consultation about Section 106 provisions to be included as part of the Local Plan once it has been adopted.

### **7.2 District Cllr Hunter**

- The adoption of the Proposed New Local Plan comes before North Herts Council on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, which should be a final decision if supported by members.

## **8. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES, COMMITTEES & PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

## **8.1 Town House**

### **Nick Shaw reported that**

- A deep clean of the whole building has been undertaken.
- The ivy has been cleared from a tree behind the TH, but a branch requires removal.
- There is currently no formal written arrangement in place with the adjoining property regarding noise management. Nick Shaw will take forward.
- It had been suggested that a plaque could be added to the TH outlining a brief history of the building. This was felt to be an excellent idea and Nick Shaw would progress.

**8.1.2** There were no Health and Safety issues to report.

## **8.2 Plaistow**

- One post on the climbing frame/slide is cracked. Broadmead to be asked to replace.

## **8.3 Other Items**

### **8.3.1 The Tennis Club**

- In the absence of Cllr Lee, this item was deferred to the December meeting.

### **8.3.2 Scout Hut proposals**

- Georgina Northern, on behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> Royston Scouts attended the meeting to discuss proposals to replace the Scout Hut.
- As the recently elected new treasurer of the group she advised that sufficient funds have been raised to commission a formal planning application setting out their proposals which was a necessary step to enable further fundraising efforts to be made towards the project.
- The Scouts would like additional space to meet the demands for both storage and increasing applications for places in the group. This could be achieved with a larger footprint or altering/raising the pitch of the roof for storage. The plans would need to future proof scouting requirements.

- There is perhaps an opportunity for the plans to offer benefits to the village e.g. facilities for village events. However, there are child safeguarding requirements so far as the group are concerned which would need to remain paramount.
- The scouts were aware that the foul drainage system which currently only serves the existing building is defective and requires replacement and depending upon final proposals may require relocation.
- It was agreed that the next step for the scouts was to determine exactly what their requirements are for both space and storage (and consider if storage needs could possibly be met and managed with the use of a separate container) and return to the Council with basic plans.
- A separate meeting to be held to progress the project.

### **8.3.3 The Chequers Public House – application for Stopping Up Order**

- One of the owners of the property attended the meeting to explain the proposal.  
The land directly in front of the Chequers (the current seating area) was discovered to be part of the adopted highway when the pub was purchased in 2014. This was identified on plans from the County Council and the Land Registry.
- The owners are proposing to apply for a Highway Stopping Up Order in respect of that part of the area of hard-standing immediately in front of the entrance to the pub currently used for seating but which has in the past also been used for car parking, and which is technically an area of adopted highway. It was explained that the current leaseholders are leaving the premises and any incoming leaseholders may have concerns that theoretically there could be a loss of the external seating area.
- No historical evidence as to why this area was part of the adopted highway has been found.
- Advice would be sought from the County Council and NHDC as to whether any physical changes to the site would be required as part of any Stopping Up Order but none are anticipated other than perhaps boundary markers.
- As part of the process the Parish Council were asked to consider a number of key questions -
  - Is the highway used by any member of the public?
  - Is the highway required for visibility and ensuring safe use of the adjoining highway?

- Is the highway required to ensure safety and integrity of the adjoining highway?
- Is the highway used for, or required for access and maintenance of highway structures or apparatus?
- Are there any limitations withing the existing highway and, as such, any foreseeable need for highway improvements which may incorporate this area?
- Is the highway beneficial to the amenity or aesthetics of the highway and surrounding area?
- Will the plan impact connectivity between other highways?
- Will any accommodation works be necessary so as to make the remaining highway safe?
- Having considered the matter in detail and having regard to the above questions the Council resolved that they had no objection to the proposal subject only to being consulted about and being satisfied with any proposed new boundary line with the public highway.

#### **8.3.4 Flooding issues following recent heavy rain**

- The owner of a house on the High Street attended the meeting to raise concerns about flooding issues on the High Street.
- There are two issues affecting the village and the issue is not confined to the High Street
  1. Debris blocking the drains/inconsistent street cleaning.
  2. The competency of the drains throughout the village.
- Street cleaning – this has not been effective due to issues with cars impeding the clean, the communication of planned cleaning dates and the frequency and quality of the cleaning. District Cllr Morris to follow up with Urbaser.
- Drains- the survey of the drains undertaken in the summer covered the drains from the Fox and Hounds to the GP Surgery only. County Cllr Hill will follow up with Highways for the report to determine further actions.
- The house owner was advised to approach Hertfordshire Highways to change the existing kerb gully outside his property to a road gully to address the particular issues affecting his property.
- The recently constructed new access road by the GP surgery has also caused additional issues with drainage on the High Street. The works involved removing an existing road gully and replacing it with a new one to the side of the new access. Due to

the levels involved the new gully doesn't take any water and the road floods where the old gully was removed. This has been reported to the developer to address who is in discussion with HCC Highways on the necessary remedial works.

### **8.3.5 Steps to replace the Clerk for the Council**

- Offer of help received from experienced Clerk in interim. Chair to discuss options.
- Council agreed to advertise the post in The Diary and on the village Facebook page.

## **9. CLERKS REPORT**

### **9.1 Items of Correspondence**

#### **9.1.1 HAPTC Subscription renewal**

The Council agreed to continue with the subscription.

#### **9.1.2 Request for donation to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance**

The Council agreed to make a donation of £250.

#### **9.1.3 NHDC Consultation re: proposed developer S106 contributions in the new Local Plan**

All Councillors to ensure they are aware of the key elements regarding proposed Section 106 provisions.

## **10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA**

**10.1** The next meeting will be on 5th December 2022

### **Items for future discussion**

a) Tennis club agreement

The meeting ended at 22.45.