



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 4th December 2023 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Brian Haughey (Chair), Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Vice Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Dave King, Cllr Ian Turner, County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Morris, Parish Clerk Alice Robertson, RFO Lynn Brett and Nick Shaw.

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 No absences.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Turner advised he is the owner of a barn adjoining the property the subject of planning application
Reference: 23/02707/FP for development in Horseshoe Farm.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr Cayford.

4. Public Participation

4.1 No items raised.

5. Planning

5.1 **Reference: 23/02707/FP:** Conversion of barn to one 4-bed dwelling including single storey front extension and associated hardstanding. Land Adjacent to Horseshoe Farm, London Road, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JE.

The Council considered this application and have the following comments to make.

We note that the application site now lies within the Barley Settlement Boundary and while BPC have no objection in principle to the proposal, we ask that North Herts Council take the following comments into consideration when making their own decision.

1. The Planning Statement forming part of the application is factually incorrect in a number of instances. For example, it refers in paragraph 1.1 to the applicant being a Mr I Quince – that is wrong. The Applicant is Mr G Wilkerson. The statement also refers in paragraph 4.5 to “the strategy for development within Huntingdonshire”. It should of course refer to North Hertfordshire. This raises the query as to whether the various policies referred to in the document are those of North Herts or of Huntingdonshire. This whole document should in our view be double checked and altered as necessary to be factually correct. Please can we be advised of the correct position.

2. The adjoining property known as Horseshoe Farm is we believe, a listed property which together with this site was originally one plot in a single ownership. If the adjoining property is listed, is the site the subject of the current application also listed? In which case a Listed Building application is surely required.
3. We note that the conversion proposes to use Roman tiles whereas the adjoining Horseshoe Farm main residence has a peg tile roof. We are of the opinion that the roof covering of the proposed conversion should be similar and not Roman tiles, although we note that some (but not all) of the outbuildings do have a Roman tile roof.
4. As this is a substantial refurbishment/conversion of the various buildings existing on the site, we would ask that if North Herts Council are minded to approve the application, that future permitted development rights be withdrawn.

5.2 Appeal ref: APP/X1925/W/23/3327637

Appeal by: Bampton Properties Ltd: Land Adjacent To 7, Butterfield, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8FD

Description: Erection of one 2-bedroom dwelling (as amended by plans received 16th June 2023 and 18th July 2023). Appeal Start Date: 15 November 2023.

The meeting confirmed that they wished to repeat the Council's position regarding this proposal and fully supported North Herts District Councils refusal of the application.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council and the Town House.

Barley Parish Council EXPENSES

Alice Robertson - £618 (Clerk gross pay Nov 23)

Lynn Brett – £662.50 (RFO Oct 23 pay)

Stewart Bullard & - £1346.40 (12 Cuts of Plaistow and Play areas)

Minted Box - £230.40 (Annual website hosting)

TOTAL BPC for approval - £2,857.30

Proposed Cllr King, Seconded Cllr Hearn.

For Information

HAPTC - £417.83 (Membership Subscription 2024-2025 pre-approved)

Peninsula - £223.45 (H & S Services Paid via DD)

London Hearts - £750.00 (Defibrillator)

TOTAL BPC for information - £1391.28

INCOMES

VAT refund - £1,412.37

Club Room - £8,823.11 (rent and Ins BBP)

NHDC precept - £29,400.00 (Final Precept)

CTRS Grant - £586.19

CDA Grant

Other incomes - £275.00 (Allotments)

Donation from Barley Show - £3,500.00 (Re Marquee)

Donation from Hertfordshire CC - £400.00 (Salt bins)

TOTAL BPC Incomes - £44,396.67

Bank Balances Held

Barley Parish Council

Main - £40,152.77

TH Sinking Fund - £13,694.55

TOTAL BPC Banks - £53,847.32

Townhouse Council EXPENSES

Barley Property Maintenance £766.62 (IN1310 Adjustments to Kitchen Fire Doors Town House)
TOTAL TH for approval £766.62

Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr Cayford

Townhouse Council for Information

PNET TH paid by DD	£25.99
NHDC	£34.00
Octopus	£188.10 - TH Electricity DD monthly charge
Octopus	TH supply DD est £865 outstanding
Everflow Ltd	£40.55 - TH Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information	£288.64

INCOMES

Town House YTD	£18,046.61
TOTAL TH Incomes	£18,046.61

Bank Balances Held

Barley Town House

Main	£32,394.07
Deposits	£2,780.00
Savings	£5,883.45
Total	£41,057.52

Deposits

Opening balance	£2,700.00
Received	£80.00
Closing Balance	£2,780.00

BUDGET

All Councillors agreed the proposal for next years' Precept in the sum of £32,000, which it was agreed subject to any additional matters arising in the meantime, will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting on January 8th 2024.

Cllr Hill suggested Hertfordshire Community Foundation for funding possibilities of future special projects in the Parish:
<https://www.hertscf.org.uk/>.

7. Reports from County/District Councillors

7.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

Cllr Hill reported that:

- Settle has confirmed they have responsibility for the slip road at Picknagge Road and will do a clean of this in the coming weeks, with a further review of necessary maintenance works.
- The signs are now up on the Joint for Barley Barkway Federated schools.
- Creative Chefs have visited local village schools in my division, partly funded through the Locality Budget, promoting healthy foods education, which has been a great success.
- The local libraries continue with many events and activities. Details can be found on their websites and social media or searching <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/library-events.aspx>
- A further request was made to sign up for the Armed Forces Covenant – Cllr Turner confirmed he will action this.
- A bus service review has taken place by the Combined Authority, including for Bus 31 (Cambridge – Fowlmere – Barley). Current cost per passenger is £41.56. Recommended to be retained with improvement, proposed to be “recast with revised frequency and better integration with the 26 service”. Please write to the Greater Cambridge Partnership if you would like to support. www.greatercambridge.org.uk

- Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Councils have reached an agreement where residents in both counties can use Royston and Thriplow Waste Recycling Centres. Need to get a free permit for the site not in your home county.
- Community Salt Bins through the Hertfordshire County Council Locality Budget had arrived and confirmation that the free bags of salt, for use in the community, from Hertfordshire County Council, had also arrived. It was noted that all had been received, including the bin from Settle. The Clerk confirmed she would send a notification out about their use via the Facebook village page.

7.2 To receive a report from Cllr Gerald Morris

Cllr Morris reported that:

- The proposal to build a winery building by Newsells Park Stud was granted.
- The Wagon Wash in Barkway located near Barkway Church received a Grade II Listing recently.
- The Probationary Service are still looking for projects if we have any.
- Cllr Carlisle advised the meeting that he had been informed that a resident on Picknagge Road had received an enforcement letter from NHDC requiring the removal of a vehicle(s) on land in front of his property. The resident as a matter of practice had parked his vehicles in front of his property for many years and was upset that such a letter came out of the blue without any prior warning. Cllr Morris agreed to make enquiries to NHDC on behalf of the resident.

8. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

8.1 Town House

- 8.1.1 Peninsula's Health and Safety Documentation needs to be distributed to Townhouse key holders, suppliers and contractors for The Townhouse. The Townhouse Management Committee need to ensure that the terms of the Letting Agreement for Hirers of The Townhouse are fully complied with, in particular, the need to ensure that hirers have appropriate Public Liability Insurance in place.
- 8.1.2 The Parish Clerk confirmed that the flood light on the back entrance is the light that needs the battery back up outside.
- 8.1.3 Cllr Haughey will liaise with the Townhouse electrician the installation of the new defibrillator. He will also ask him to confirm that the lighting circuits throughout the building are compliant.
- 8.1.4 Audio improvements throughout the building are ongoing.

8.2 Plaistow

- 8.2.1 The Plaistow Fence is now urgently in need of repair. The Council opted for Slow Grown Wooden posts with Equine mesh as a replacement fence. All Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should instruct Fowler Fencing to proceed as quickly as possible in accordance with the terms of their quotation.
- 8.2.2 Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way are waiting for their budget to be signed off by their management regarding the costs to resurface the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow. On approval, they will notify us when the scheduled works go ahead. They have additionally raised concerns regarding the existing Kissing Gates at the entry and exits to The Plaistow as to whether they meet current best practice. The council will respond advising the rationale behind the original installations which the council would wish to see retained if at all possible.
- 8.2.3 There are 2 dead tree saplings in the Plaistow that need replacing. Cllr King agreed to look into tree type and costs to replace these for the 8th January meeting.

9. Other items

- 9.1.1 A Software update has taken place on the external defibrillator at The Surgery.
- 9.1.2 Cllr Hearn also advised that the new second Defibrillator we were recently awarded needs to be installed and registered on "The Circuit" (The National Defibrillator Network) within the next month. As part of this we have a video link on how to use the defibrillator. The Parish Clerk and Cllr Hearn agreed to meet to arrange communications on this for the benefit of the community.
- 9.1.3 The Parish Clerk advised we had received a request to publish the Defibrillator access codes in The Diary. It was discussed that we cannot publish codes for access due to security issues. However, the Council agreed

that information will be provided for accessing the defibrillators in an emergency in The Diary or other suitable social networks in due course.

10. Clerks Report

- 10.1 The Clerk advised finalisation of the RFO and Clerk employment contracts and the migrating to NALC (National Association Local Councils) Pay Scales from April 2024.
- 10.2 Armed Forces Covenant still needs to be signed up to. Cllr Turner agreed that he aims to do this by the end of Feb 2024.
- 10.3 The Parish Clerk confirmed that Bullards will trim back overgrowing bushes in the Townhouse Car Park over the coming weeks.
- 10.4 The Parish Council are to migrate to the recommended .gov secured website email addresses. This will be implemented by end of Feb 2024.
- 10.5 3 x new Salt Bins have been filled and placed at: Picknag Road (on the Settle slip road), Bankside, and Greenbury Close. These have been provided for the residents of these areas to use on their shared spaces to help improve the safety of the roads that are not otherwise serviced by the Council or Settle in icy weather. The Parish Clerk will send information on Facebook about how to use/get replacement salt including adding information for the bins themselves.
- 10.6 The Parish Clerk requested the purchase of Fireproof Filing Storage – The Council agreed.
- 10.7 There has been no street sweeping since the scheduled deep clean in October. The Parish Clerk and District Cllr Morris to chase up.

11. Additional business

- 11.1 Charities Law – Cllr Turner has requested if he can get a quote for a charity lawyer to look over our documents to ensure they are up to date and relevant. The Council Agreed.
- 11.2 Cllr Turner has requested if he can get an extender for the sprayer for the war memorial protector substance. Council all agreed.

12. Date of next Barley Parish meeting and items for the agenda

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 8th January 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
Barley.parishclerk@gmail.com