

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**1. Present**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Mel Chammings, Cllr Bill Sterland, Mr Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter, Mrs Maryna de Klerk (Clerk).

6 members of the public.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Peter McPartland, District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mr Graham Clark who acts as police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council, Mr Nick Shaw (Chairman of the Town House Management Committee).

**3. Councillor's declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**4. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2018 were read and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Mel Chammings and seconded by Cllr Bill Sterland.

**5. Matters arising**

County Cllr Hill during the last meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2018 reported that Mr Derek Jerrard of Ringways (HCC highways contractor) confirmed that the road gully at the end of Pudding Lane would be cleared during July. In County Cllr Hill's absence, Cllr Carlisle reported that he believes this has now been dealt with. County Cllr Hill later during the meeting confirmed most of the work had now been completed. County Cllr Hill had no update on any further works planned in regard to the junction at Flint Cross. Cllr Carlisle reported that Cambridgeshire County Council was dealing with this however it is taking a long time to finish. Work includes road markings and there is a suggestion that they may extend the 50 miles/hour speed limit. This to his knowledge is the extent of the work they are planning to do.

Cllr Carlisle requested that The Clerk confirm whether the situation regarding dangerously large overhanging tree branches has been reported to the Herts Highways fault line to request that these tree branches are cut back as soon as possible, failing which to contact Herts Highways fault line as soon as possible.

Mr Graham Clark, who acts as police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council, had emailed the Clerk on 28 June 2018 to confirm that both he and Sgt Westwood hoped to attend the Barley Parish Council meeting in October. They invited the Council to submit prior to the meeting details of any issues, apart from speeding, there are in order to allow Sgt Westwood an opportunity to prepare for the meeting.

Cllr Carlisle reported that he has spoken to Mr Emerson who confirmed that the grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioner is now likely to be delayed further until the end of the year. Mr Haughey reported that he and Mr Emerson are working on a one page condensed addendum to add to the grant application that will contain recent data of top speeds captured by the cameras in Barley. Cllr Turner proposed that we ask Sgt Westwood during our next meeting whether it is

illegal to display number plates when a camera flashes to warn drivers that they are exceeding the speed limit.

Regarding grass cutting and footpaths, Cllr Turner reported that Mark Davies has a technical problem in that he cannot do the hedges without a means to dispose of the clippings. Cllr Turner suggested the Council consider supplying Mr Davies with a shredder. Cllr Turner further reported that he has permission from a local farmer living close to Black Barn for hedge clippings to be disposed of on his farm. However Mr Davies has no means by which to transport the hedge clippings as he does not drive. Cllr Carlisle raised a concern that we are in some instances requesting Mr Davies to cut hedges which in effect form part of local residents' properties which they should be cutting themselves. Cllr Sterland suggested that The Council perhaps contact owners with hedges bordering on footpaths, and ask they allow Mr Davies to dispose of hedge clippings in their brown garden recycle bins. Cllr Carlisle feels that such owners need to take responsibility in trimming hedges on their properties.

Members of the public attending the meeting requested the Council's assistance to address with Richmond's garage the issue of bus horns that are sounded at all hours of the day and night but more specifically after 11pm and before 7am. It was mentioned that they were unsure as to why this has started happening with such frequency lately but, regardless of their attempts in the past to address this with Richmond's directly, nothing is being done to better the situation. In addition, with the hot weather during the summer months, the amount of time that bus engines have been allowed to idle because assumingly the air-conditioning needs to activate, has also increased. The extra pollution this creates is excessive and, given the recent publicity on engine idling, it is hoped that this too could be addressed with Richmond's. It is reported that always when they speak to Richmond's, Richmond's stress that they try to be good neighbours and, on the whole, although it is appreciated that given the size of the operation they try hard to minimise the impact they have, the members of public reporting on the problem feels these issues have become excessive and inappropriate given their proximity to residential properties. The Council agreed to contact Richmond's requesting they take steps to deal with these issues.

In regards to issues on the A505, County Cllr Hill reported that a review is currently being conducted by Cambridgeshire on a number of roads leading up to Duxford including the A505.

Cllr Hunter reported that he had today spoken to a senior manager at North Herts who is confident that he can get North Herts Homes to accept liability for ownership of Bankside. He awaits confirmation thereof.

## 6. Planning

***Case ref: 18/02087/FPH: Full Permission Householder : Reconstruction of garage and single storey extensions to facilitate additional accommodation. Pye Corner Pudding Lane Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JU***

Barley Parish Council have no objection to this application subject to the same planning conditions being imposed as set out in the previous consent dated 23rd April 2018.

***Case ref: 18/02096/FPH: Full Permission Householder : Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension. Replacement front porch following removal of existing porch. Internal and external alterations. Construction of split level terrace to rear. The Old Granary Church End Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JW and***

***Case ref: 18/02097/LBC: Listed Building Consent : Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension. Replacement front porch following removal of existing porch.***

***Internal and external alterations. Construction of split level terrace to rear. The Old Granary Church End Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JW***

Barley Parish Council have no objection to either of these applications subject only to any comments/requirements of the Conservation Officer.

***Case ref: 18/02226/FPH: Full Permission Householder : Single storey infill extension, extension and associated works to existing garage to facilitate conversion into habitable space, addition of roof light and dormer windows. 4 Crossways Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8AQ***

Barley Parish Council considered this application at their meeting on 3rd September 2018 and resolved that they have no objection to the proposal.

***Case ref: 18/02023/FP: Full Planning Permission : Change of use of a dwelling house (C3 use) to an office (B1 use) with associated ancillary development. The Priors High Street Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JA***

Barley Parish Council objects to this proposal. We are very concerned at the proposed loss of a dwelling at a time when the pressure for residential development in the area and the villages, including Barley, is increasing at an unrelenting pace. While we acknowledge that the applicant is a very successful local business, which of course is to be welcomed, we do not believe that they have made a sufficiently strong business case to justify the proposal other than a general reference in the Design and Access Statement of a desire to reorganise the existing operation. Indeed they state that there is no intention to expand the office staff employed on site. The property is currently occupied as a residential unit which if the change of use is granted will necessitate the occupants being rehoused elsewhere adding in its way to the pressure for more residential development. If despite our concerns NHDC are nevertheless minded to approve the application we would ask that any consent be temporary in nature and limited to a period of no more than 5 years to allow for the situation and business needs of the company to be reviewed after a reasonable period of operation.

*Cllrs Fiona Hill & Tony Hunter joined the meeting at 20:38.*

***Case ref: 18/01900/FP: Full Planning Permission : Erection of 2no. two bedroom dwellings and 2no. car ports with associated ancillary works and creation of a new access to highway. Creeve, The Mount, Barley, Royston, Herts, SG8 8JH and***

***Case ref: 18/01841/FP Full Planning Permission: Revised position of dwelling and garage – variation of plans approved under 18/00317/FP. Creeve, The Mount, Barley, Royston, Herts, SG8 8JH.***

Having regard to the previous consents granted for this property Barley Parish Council would find it difficult to sustain an objection to planning application reference 18/01841/FP and therefore we have no objection to that application but we do object to planning application reference 18/01900/FP.

In respect of application 18/01900/FP we consider that the scale and bulk of 2 very large properties in addition to the existing property to be excessive and an over development of the site. The site lies wholly within the Barley Conservation Area and the proposed 2 new dwellings are outside the Selected Village Policy Area of the current Local Plan (albeit that the site is likely to be within the Selected Village Policy Area under the proposed new Local Plan if and when adopted). While we acknowledge that consent has previously been granted (November 2016) for 1 new house in part of the garden to "Creeve" this was for a 2 bedroom property and as part of that consent the permitted development rights were withdrawn "..... to safeguard the impacts of over development of the property". Subsequent permissions were granted to vary that proposed new dwelling both in terms of its location on the site and the elevational treatment. However, we consider the current

proposal to provide an additional very large dwelling on the site, which lies on high ground on the edge of the village built area and which is an important and attractive visual “gateway” into the village, to be excessive and an over development of the site, the scale and bulk of the 2 new buildings being such as to cause material harm to the character of the Barley Conservation Area.

The proposals are therefore in our view contrary to the policy aims of the Selected Village Policy Area and the Barley Conservation Area of both the current and proposed new Local Plans and notwithstanding the existing planning consents should be refused.

*All attendees bar Barley Parish Council members, the Clerk and one member of the public, left the meeting at 21:41*

## 7. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

Mr Martins (RFO), reported that the following payments were authorised and paid between meetings:-

### Barley Parish

G. Booth	Churchyard grass cutting	£ 130.00
Hardcastle Burton	Annual Audit work	£ 870.00
Cllr Jerry Carlisle	Reimbursement for leaving gifts	£ 300.00
Marks Gardening Services	Footpath work	£ 67.50
Stuart Bullard	Plaistow grass cutting	£ 741.60

### Barley Town House

Carol Robinson	Cleaning	£ 90.00
CPC	Wasp nest	£ 60.00
Prompt Fire Protection	Fire extinguishers	£ 192.83
Robin Saklatvala	Letting Officer Fee + Caretaking	£ 175.18
George Mickleburgh	Return of wedding deposit	£ 150.00
Oliver Bassill	Return of wedding deposit	£ 150.00

Mr Martins (RFO), reported that the following payments are now due:-

### Barley Parish

Tim Martin	RFO & Stationary	£ 264.96
Maryna de Klerk	Clerk (July & August)	£ 651.60
DBA Safety	Health & Safety	£ 800.00

It was agreed that all of these payments should be made.

Proposed by Cllr Turner, and seconded by Cllr Champlings.

### Barley Town House

Tim Martin	Reimbursement - wedding venues	£ 180.00
Carol Robinson	Cleaning	£ 36.00
Robin Saklatvala	Letting Officer Fee + Caretaking	£ 463.00
Nick Shaw	Reimbursement – Cooker repair	£ 108.00
Laura Rollinson	Return of wedding deposit	£ 150.00

It was agreed that all of these payments should be made.

Proposed by Cllr Turner, and seconded by Cllr Champlings.

Mr Martins (RFO), reported that Came & Company have advised that our Local Council insurance renewal was now due in the amount of £1977.09. In response to the renewal invitation Mr Martins (RFO) submitted a number of queries for clarification. These included clarification on terrorism cover and whether this is included or excluded from the renewal. He has also sought confirmation that this year's charge includes the £18.46 cost for increasing loss of revenue taken out under the current policy and a query regarding the cover for mowers and machinery.

It was agreed to make the payment. Proposed by Cllr Turner, and seconded by Cllr Chamings.

Mr Martins (RFO) reported that he had heard nothing back from the Auditors.

Mr Martins (RFO) enquired with Cllr Sterland on the status of the review he is undertaking of the Council's standing orders. Cllr Sterland had no update.

Cllr Carlisle reviewed and signed the Council's Bank Statements which were also passed to the other councillors for their information.

#### **8. Town House**

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee could not attend today's meeting. However, it was noted that the Town House Management Committee met on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August and copies of the minutes had been circulated. A new cooker for the upstairs kitchen has been ordered.

#### **9. Recreation Ground**

The Parish Council received the annual RoSPA inspection report of the playground on 21/06/2018. Only a few low risk issues around the fencing and goal posts were reported. Subsequently on 08/08/2018, the Council then received another inspection report, this time from Fields in Trust. The latter report listed different issues to those listed on the RoSPA inspection report. It should also be noted that all issues listed on the Fields in Trust report were either rated at 'Low Risk' or 'Very Low Risk'. Cllr Turner and Mr Brian Haughey have subsequently thoroughly inspected the site in light of the latest Fields in Trust report and have submitted to the Council a detailed response on their findings. Although it is agreed that there are a few matters that could be addressed, the Council during this meeting requested Cllr Turner to contact both RoSPA and Fields in Trust to determine why we've had two inspections from different companies, what their individual authority is and who we continue with going forward.

#### **10. Health & Safety**

Cllr Chamings reported that a standard checklist is now in place which Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee will use during monthly checks.

Cllr Chamings reminded that we need to order salt for the winter. The Clerk will forward a HAPTC email "Free grit for Town and Parish Councils" to Cllr Carlisle from which to place an order.

#### **11. Scout Hut**

A member of the public reported rubbish and litter including Scout magazines behind the scout hut which The Council agreed to have a look into and if necessary address with the Scouts.

Cllr Carlisle reported that he is unfortunately still waiting on the Solicitor who is dealing with the proposed new lease to the Scouts. Although the lease has been agreed and has been engrossed ready for signing, there were some typographical errors that Cllr Carlisle has asked him to correct.

It was noted that the planning permission for the proposed changing rooms to the rear of the scout hut has now expired and the Council will need to re-apply for consent for the works including the trees. Cllr Carlisle reported that he is meeting with Tim Ashcroft next week to discuss submitting a new planning application.

## **12. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received other than that already circulated via email.

## **13. Any Other Business**

Mr Tim Martin (RFO), confirmed that he updated the Privacy Statement on the Council's website.

Cllr Carlisle mentioned that the Anstey Quarry is now closed.

Cllr Carlisle reported that he had now spoken with somebody to see if they could possibly refurbish the Bogmoor/Shafthoe road sign and awaits their response.

Cllr Carlisle reported that Cllr Chammings notified the Council of her intention to resign. She is willing to carry on as long as possible, perhaps until the end of the year, however we need to advertise that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council and seeking applications from anybody who may be interested in joining the Council. The Clerk was asked to put that process in hand to include the Diary, village notice boards and facebook.

Cllr Sterland made an enquiry regarding the possibility of paying Malcolm for trimming of hedges at the allotments at least 4 to 5 times during the summer months. Cllr Carlisle confirmed that the Council had offered on several occasions, for Malcolm to submit an invoice for payment which he never does.

Meeting finished at 22:41

Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October '18