

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 8th MAY 2017**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Mel Chammings, Cllr Bill Sterland, Mrs Laura Childs, Mr Tim Martin (RFO)

5 members of the public

2. Apologies

District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mr Graham Clark, Mr Nick Shaw

3. Election of officers

Following a recent appeal for parishioners to come forward to join the Parish Council several people came forward to register their interest. Only two however, Mrs Mel Chammings and Mrs Bill Sterland, progressed their interest further and so the meeting unanimously agreed to co-opt them onto the Parish Council. Cllr Carlisle welcomed them on to the council.

The meeting is required to elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Carlisle stood down as Chairman, Cllr Turner took the chair.

Cllr Carlisle was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Lee.

There being no other nominations Cllr Carlisle was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year.

Cllr Turner stood down as Vice Chairman.

Cllr Turner was proposed as Vice Chairman by Cllr McPartland and seconded by Cllr Carlisle.

There being no other nominations Cllr Turner was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year.

4. Councillor's declaration of interest

Cllr McPartland wished it to be noted that his daughter had involvement with the recommendations made for the new village website.

There were no other declarations of interest made.

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2017 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr McPartland.

6. Matters arising

Following his moving away from the village Mr Graham Clark has resigned from the Parish Council. He has confirmed that he would be happy to remain as the Parish Councils Police Liaison person and will still attend meetings. Cllr Carlisle asked the Clerk to write to Mr Clark to thank him for all his hard work whilst serving on the council.

The Clerk reported that she has received a reply from Dr Philip Wadey regarding his application to have Footpath 17 upgraded to a restricted byway. He is happy to enter into a dialogue with us and Cllr Lee agreed to contact him to take things forward.

Cllr Lee asked if it was possible to get hold of a copy of the current definitive rights of way map to check ourselves that all the villages footpaths were recorded correctly. The Clerk agreed to contact Julia Clarke of Herts County Council Rights of Way Service.

It was noted that a firm of solicitors had posted a Public Notice in The Royston Crow asking for anyone who had a claim on Pudding Lane to come forward, it was thought that this had been generated by the Hansons in connection with their planning application.

Cllr Turner advised that Brian Haughey has sent the interactive flashing speed sign away for repair, problems will be rectified under the warranty.

Discussions took place about ways of controlling speeds through the village and Cllr Lee noted that in the feedback from the Village Plan there was no positive support from the village for introducing chicanes.

The red telephone box on the High Street is now up and functioning as a book exchange, although it was noted that there was no notice to explain what is expected, the Clerk was asked to email to ask that a note be put up.

The red telephone box in Smiths End Lane has now been officially adopted and it was agreed that its usage would be discussed at the Annual Village Meeting to be held on Wednesday 11th May '17.

Email correspondence has been received from Mr Gary Henning of Hertfordshire Highways following his meeting with Cllr Carlisle and walk around the village. Basically he is unable to commit to any works being carried out at the moment until discussions have taken place with the new County Councillor Fiona Hill. Once she has set her priorities then items may be taken forward. It is hoped that County Councillor Hill will be attending our Annual Village Meeting and Cllr Carlisle agreed to take up our 'gully' priorities with her then. Mr Henning has said that he would be able to take forward the repair of the small bridge along Royston Road where the barriers have fallen down. Additionally the bridge along Chrishall Road with the Armco barrier still has flooding issues and Mr Henning has arranged for the Herts County Council bridge team to look into the problem using CCTV to establish why it is not flowing properly.

7. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

Mr Martin reported that the following payments were due to be made.

Parish Council

Mr Darren Partt	Refurbishment of telephone box on High Street	£ 688.94
Mr Darren Partt	Sundries for materials to refurbish Notice Boards	£ 16.48
Mr Geoff Booth	Grass cutting, petrol and cutter bar	£ 229.60
Mrs Laura Childs	Clerk fees (April) and office expenses	£ 296.40
Mr Tim Martin	RFO (April)	£ 240.00
Manor Farms	Re-issuing of cheque for supply of water to allotments	£ 90.38

It was agreed that these payments should be made.

Proposed by Cllr McPartland and seconded by Cllr Turner.

Town House

Mr Nick Shaw	Reimbursed for cleaning costs and plants	£ 173.98
Mr Darren Partt	Various repairs to the Town House	£ 50.00
Mrs Carol Robinson	Cleaning April	£ 72.00
Mrs Alison Stacey	Letting Officers fee	£ 73.45

It was agreed that these payments should be made.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr McPartland.

Returned cheque – Wedding deposit

£150 Sadie Collins

Mr Tim Martin has previously circulated the Parish Councils accounts for review at this meeting. The council reviewed the Audit Commissions Annual Return for Barley Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2017. Mr Martin RFO had prepared and signed the Accounting statement. The council unanimously approved the Annual governance statement and then the statement both of which were duly signed.

The Town House accounts were reviewed by the meeting and accepted.

Bank balances precept £11,000

Mr Martin has circulated a copy of the Asset Register to everyone via email prior to the meeting and we are additionally required to send this for audit.

Mr Martin reported that any monies received for the Fox & Hounds fund is being deposited into the instant savings account previously used for the Play Ground equipment.

The bank statements and balances of accounts were distributed and reviewed.

8. Planning

None

9. Fox & Hounds

Cllr McPartland reported that they have received back 70 of the questionnaires circulated through the village. Additionally a meeting was held last week with 50 interested people attending. It is proposed that a Community Benefit Society (CBS) is formed to take forward the bid for the pub, this is a recognised mechanism where investors buy shares and has a one member one vote system. The Plunkett Foundation recognises this form of bid and may be able to provide grants/loans and other support to assist our bid. An email has been circulated to all potential investors requesting that funds are deposited into the Parish Council's bank account by the end of May. In just three days Cllr McPartland was delighted to report that commitments of £47,000 had already been received. The target of £300,000 needs to be reached by the end of May in order to place a bid for the pub in June. If insufficient funds have been raised by the end of May then no bid will be made and any investors refunded in full. A final decision has to be made on what bid we will be making but we have been advised that offers for the property have already been made of around £270,000 and £290,000.

Cllr McPartland asked Cllr Lee if she could recommend anyone who would be able to provide a professional valuation and she agreed to speak to a colleague. A buildings survey will be taking place next week. Additionally we have applied to the Plunkett Foundation for a bursary of up to £2,500 to cover expenses and costs etc. and this should cover the costs of the building survey and valuation advice.

Mr Ian Northen (a member of the steering committee) is setting up the CBS and he hopes to have the paperwork in place this week. It has been agreed that the current steering group will be the initial directors and once the bid is in progress then the board will stand down and then new directors will be elected by the members. Membership of Plunkett Foundation would 'buy' us into the necessary paperwork to set up the CBS.

There are initial expenses that the Parish Council may need to cover up front but which will be refunded if the Plunkett Foundation bursary is awarded.

10. Website

Cllr McPartland advised that the working committee have instructed a company to create a website for the village, they have agreed on the proposals made and are now seeking approval from the Parish Council. Cllr McPartland and his daughter Clare went through the website structure and how it works to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council were happy for the working group to proceed to the next stage.

Clare McPartland was thanked by Cllr Carlisle for her work to date.

11. Recreation Ground

Cllr Carlisle confirmed that he has emptied all the bins on the Plaistow and that otherwise everything was OK, although there is a gate latch missing on the gate that exits onto the High Street. The grass has been cut.

Cllr Turner agreed to take over the Plaistow again and will ensure that the bins are emptied.

12. Town House

In Mr Shaw's absence Mr Martin advised that the PAT testing is to be done in the next couple of weeks. An extractor fan is currently being installed into the kitchen upstairs in an attempt to combat any condensation.

Cllr Carlisle reported that the clock has been taken for repair again, but we have been advised that it really isn't suitable for a public building. Cllr Carlisle agreed to call Mrs Gooding who donated the clock to advise her.

13. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that he continues to chase the Scouts to sign the new lease for the Scout Hut. It is however understood that their funds are so tight that they don't have the money to pay lawyers fees. It is the Scouts AGM this week and Cllr Carlisle has been reassured that this item will be on their agenda for discussion. It is hoped that the matter can be resolved shortly.

14. Lock Up

Cllr Lee reported that Between Times are due to attend tomorrow morning to take photos of the lockup to support the scheduled monuments application. Once this is in place we can then proceed with a start date.

15. Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle advised that there was nothing to report. He is due to meet with Drew & Baltrop shortly but haven't got a firm date yet. Cllr Chamings agreed to take over responsibility for Health & Safety.

16. Correspondence

All correspondence received is to be distributed amongst the councillors.

17. Any Other Business

Mr Alex Austin, a local resident, spoke to the meeting about his plans to start up a boot camp fitness sessions on the Plaistow. He asked if the Parish Council would be happy for him to start this coming bank holiday weekend with a proposed free taster session. It was unanimously agreed that the council were happy for him to go ahead.

Cllr McPartland recommended to the newly appointed councillors the New Councillors course run by HAPTC. The Clerk agreed to send them dates for upcoming courses.

Cllr Turner reported that the overhanging hedge along London Road now appears to have been cut back sufficiently to now be clear of the highway.

Cllr Carlisle spoke about the Club Room rent which is subject to review as of 25th May this month. Cllr Lee agreed to investigate the likely current rental value for the property.

It was agreed to increase Mr Geoff Booth's hourly rate from £9 to £10. Cllr Carlisle will speak to Mr Booth to ensure that he also cuts back the footpaths around the village as he tends to focus on the churchyard area most of the time.

The Clerk was asked to write to Richmonds Coaches and ask that they cut back the hedge that borders Church End as it is overhanging the footpath.

The date for the next meeting was set for 12 Jun 2017.

Meeting finished 22:45pm