

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
on Monday 5th December 2022

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Brian Haughey and Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King, RFO Lynn Brett.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr Tony Hunter, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Gerald Morris and three members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES.

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Nick Shaw.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2022 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Hearn.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 No issues were raised.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Reference 22/02868/FPH application for insertion of roof light to existing first floor to south (front) elevation, insertion of ground floor window to north (rear) elevation, installation of No. 2 EV charging points to existing driveway and relocation of shed to rear garden.

The council had 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

Whilst a number of the councillors did not object to this application, there remained some concerns and therefore the Council agreed that additional information should be sought from the Planning Officer to determine the depth from which the sight lines has been measured. The plans appear to assume a 4.5m depth with 43m sight line along Bakers Lane in each direction. This equates to 86m in total for a private drive onto a minor road. The council understood that, for private drives, a sight line based on 2.4 m is usually acceptable which would possibly result in a much smaller opening in the bank and therefore much reduce the impact on the Conservation Area.

Additional concerns were raised about safety as when approaching the driveway from the north due to the incline of the drive and the high roadside bank, visibility would be severely reduced resulting in drivers potentially needing to reverse back onto the road if meeting a vehicle exiting the property. The council agreed that any works required significant landscaping to minimise the disruption to the conservation area. The chair will return to the planning officer with the above.

6. FINANCE

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

Barley Parish Council

Lynn Brett	£167.50	November	RFO
G Booth	£1034.00	Grass cutting church	
Minted Box	£230.40	Annual website hosting	

It was agreed that Cllr Turner would discuss the need for monthly billing for the church grass cutting with the PCC.

Proposed Cllr Turner and Seconded Cllr Haughey

Barley Town House

Nick Shaw	£501.77	Cleaning/maintenance etc
Elvira Gusejnova	£95.50	October Letting fees
Elvira Gusejnova	£110.00	November Letting fees

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr King

6.2 Budgetary forward planning, including Precept 2023/23

The RFO presented the budget to date and year end forecast of around £2000 surplus. The council agreed that regular small increases in the Precept is preferable to sporadic larger increases.

The budget for 2023/24 was reviewed. It was agreed to combine the special projects budgets with a note to explain the inclusions. The RFO will produce a revised budget for ratification at the next meeting in time for the Precept application for 2023/24

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

7.1 County Cllr Hill

- The Highways Action Plan was reviewed – the kerbing works along London Road are complete. Concerns were discussed that the hedge cutting in this area was insufficient. CCllr Hill will take forward.
- The proposal for white lines in parts of Church End were discussed, but these are not enforceable.
- The report regarding the drainage in the village has not been released due to GDPR – this will be challenged.
- BT have been asked to review the replacement of the manhole cover in the High Street at the bottom of Bakers Lane.
- The developer has been asked to resolve the surface water drainage issue on the High Street, by the GP surgery, following the construction of a new access road to the development behind the surgery.
- The area of subsidence close to the village boundary when heading into the village from Flint Cross has been assessed again and has now been deemed Category 2 and will be addressed in 2023/24.

- The renewal of white lines at Picknage Road/Cambridge Road will be actioned next year.
- Street Cleaning – in order to minimise the issue of cars not being moved to allow cleaning, a schedule of dates will be produced so that residents can be advised in advance to move their cars. It has also been agreed that additional cleans are required in times of heavy leaf fall.
- A consultation is underway in Cambridgeshire re sustainable travel zones.
- The damaged safety rails to the culvert bridge at the bottom of the hill on Royston Road, towards Royston, are with HCC Structures to address and effect the necessary repairs.
- A concern was raised that the rumble strips entering the village from Barkway are insufficient – CCllr Hill will take forward.
- Warm hubs are available in libraries and villages, Grants have been offered. Barkway has a warm hub.
- Information has been sent to school re Strep A and Scarlet Fever infections.
- Herts Link are providing extra buses over the Xmas period.
- A new bus service will replace the 915 which was previously ended.

Two residents of Smiths End Lane attended the meeting to raise concerns about the recent closure of the road to undertake road repairs prior to a full resurface in the future. The concerns included a lack of warning of the closure for residents, areas of the road being dug out with no warning signs or lighting. A closure notice had been issued for 23-25 Nov 2022, but the road was actually closed on 29th November. Closure notices will usually outline that the dates may change due to inclement weather. Letter to residents should have been delivered to notify them of the impending closure, however residents reported not receiving anything. CCllr Hill will investigate the issues and report back.

7.2 District Cllr Morris

- The new Local Plan was adopted.
- The outline plan for the proposed BK3 development of 140 houses in Barkway has been supported by NHDC planning committee members despite having been advised of significant issues the existing sewage system which discharges into the River Quinn, being frequently overwhelmed during periods of

heavy rain. The current sewage works is incapable of taking additional discharge from the proposed development.

8. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES, COMMITTEES & PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

8.1 Town House

- Text for the plaque outlining the history of the Town House has been drafted.
- An agreement with the adjoining property holder regarding events with amplified music is now in place.

8.1.2 The Health and Safety documents and signs have been renewed.

8.2 Plaistow

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

8.3 Other Items

8.3.1 Speeding

- The speed camera is moving to the High Street imminently.
- There have been discussions with the OPCC to provide more detailed data from the camera.

8.3.2 The Tennis Club

- Work continues in this area and Cllr Lee will report back at the next meeting.

8.3.3 Steps to replace the Clerk for the Council

- The advert in The Diary has attracted no interest.
- There has been no progress with the offer of help from the Clerk from a neighbouring village.
- Cllr Turner will advertise the post on the Barley Facebook page.

9. CLERKS REPORT

9.1 Items of Correspondence

9.1.1 Roston and District Community Transport

It was agreed to offer a donation of £250.00.

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

10.1 The next meeting will be on 9th January 2023

Items for future discussion

a) Tennis club agreement

The meeting ended at 22.30