

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2018**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Mel Chammings, Mr Tim Martin (RFO), District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mr Nick Shaw (Chairman of the Town House Management Committee), Mrs Maryna de Klerk (Clerk) and two members of the public.

2. Apologies

Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Bill Sterland, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter, Mr Graham Clark who acts as police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council.

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 5th of November 2018 were read and approved.

5. Matters arising

Mr Graham Clark who acts as police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council reported prior to today's meeting that he had met with Sgt Vine during the last week of November and that the meeting was extremely positive and continued in the same vein as the meetings with Sgt Westwood.

Mr Clark reported that they discussed a number of issues one of which was the continued speeding of vehicles through Barley village and that he advised Sgt Vine that we were very pleased with the efforts made by Sgt Westwood and his team on undertaking speeding checks when resources permitted. Sgt Vine said that he would be arranging for his officers and specials to continue with the checks as and when time allowed them to do so, barring other priorities.

Sgt Vine also advised that once he was fully settled in he wanted to undertake a communication initiative with local Parish Chairs. This would entail a group of Chairs being invited into the police station to have an interactive session in the form of an open discussion forum in which Sgt Vine would provide information on initiatives and various levels of statistics. Mr Clark agreed this would be a very good idea and also provide the opportunity for various Parish Chairs to discuss local issues. Sgt Vine was also happy to continue with the monthly meetings and for Mr Clark to channel Barley issues.

Sgt Vine and Mr Clark discussed the time lag of getting information about events in Barley through OWL. Mr Clark advised that there was sometimes a serious delay in hearing about incidents and that the Village would appreciate a speedier approach to being informed of incidents. To enable the Villagers to be more prepared if there were crimes being committed. Sgt Vine advised that he would look into this and see how things can be sped up.

With reference to the Council's speed camera grant application submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner the Clerk advised the meeting that she had received an email dated 26 November 2018 from Debbie Barker (Senior Partnerships Manager) at Herts PCC Road Safety Fund thanking applicants for submitting their bids to the Commissioner's Road Safety Fund and informed that their immediate deadlines for assessment and decision making are as follows:

- w/b 3 Dec 2018 - road safety partnership to check and sift against the eligibility criteria
- w/b 10 Dec – bidders will be notified of initial outcome and timeline for further stages

Cllr Carlisle informed that he could not find the details of who had initially contacted the Council about procuring a defibrillator and will speak to the Surgery to obtain these for Mr Christopher Jackson, a Thriplow Parish Councillor who has been asked to arrange installation of an AED defibrillator at their Village hall.

Work to cut back the overhanging branches on all the trees on Bankside have now started. Cllr Turner informed the meeting that he had received a phone call in which the caller informed that workers are cutting off side branches only and not at the top as well. Cllr Carlisle confirmed that the instruction they received was indeed to only cut back the sides. Cllr Turner will report back to the caller.

6. Planning

Case ref: 18/02949/LBC: Listed Building Consent : Dismantle multiform ridge stack down to roof line and reconstruct to an increased height and in conjunction with installation of a wood burner.

The Old Post Office, High Street, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JA

BPC have no objection in principle but we would have expected the stacks being rebuilt in reclaimed brick as opposed to new brick to maintain appearance.

Case ref: 18/02299/FP: Full Planning Permission : Erection of 10no. residential dwellings and provision of car parking area with all associated landscaping and ancillary works (as a revision to application 17/02316/1 approved on 30/05/18).

The Gables, High Street, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HY

District Cllr Gerald Morris will attend the Council's Planning Control Committee meeting on 13 December 2018 during which the planning application relating to this proposal is to be reported, for consideration and decision. Cllr Carlisle will endeavour to attend on behalf of the Parish Council and Cllr Lee agreed will write up some detail to support BPC's view prior to this meeting.

In response to Cllr Lee's previous requests to invite North Herts District Council Planning and Conservation Officers to attend one of our meetings for us to understand what is driving their decision making and the direction of travel of that process, Cllr Carlisle reported that he spoke to Mr Richard Tiffin, Area Planning Officer at North Herts District Council and arranged for him to attend the BPC meeting in February. Mr Tiffin also provided Cllr Carlisle contact details of the Conservation Officer.

7. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

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

Barley Parish

Marks Gardening Services	Footpaths and Play Area	£72.50
Minted Box	Web hosting services	£168.00
Came & Co	Additional premium for Terrorist Cover	£63.97
T. Martin	RFO for November	£239.85
Maryna de Klerk	Clerking for November	£311.20
Marks Gardening Services	Plaistow and Play Area	£30.00

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

Proposed by Cllr Turner, and seconded by Cllr Champlings.

Barley Town House

B. Hickford	Electrical works relating to ladies toilets	£589.69
C. Robinson	Cleaning November	£80.00

It was agreed that all of these payments should be made.
Proposed by Cllr Turner, and seconded by Cllr Champlings.

Mr Martin (RFO), updated council members on Bank Balances which Cllrs Carlisle and Champlings then reviewed and Cllr Carlisle subsequently signed.

During the BPC meeting of 5 November, Mr Martin (RFO), mentioned that although we set the budget for 2019-20 at the 2018 December and January 2019 meetings he had done an analysis of this years' Budget – Expenditure to date versus Budget as part of 'regular' Budget Monitoring and that the income is easy to forecast but the expenditure less so. What it highlights is that to date real expenditure is at £16,500.00 versus a budget for the year of £40,250.00. Main areas of underspend are:

- Changing rooms
- Footpaths
- Speeding equipment
- Other/contingency

Mr Martin again talked about the budget however Cllr Carlisle felt that we should keep the budget as is. Cllr Lee mentioned that we may need to determine how much it will cost us to get to the design & costing phase for the proposed changing rooms to the rear of the scout hut and perhaps allocate some of the available budget money toward this. Cllr Carlisle also mentioned the substructure and drainage at the back of the scout hut where there are drainage manholes with pumps, all of which may need some upfront expenditure.

Cllr Lee asked whether we could/should set up a sinking fund from which we then perhaps pay for Town House roof repairs which are likely to be needed in the not too distant future and which will undoubtedly prove to be expensive. It was agreed that this was something that should be pursued.

Following on from last month's meeting and discussions around bank accounts and opportunities for investment of surplus funds Mr Martin (RFO) provided some further options for the Council to consider. The meeting discussed the merits of such accounts versus the budgetary needs of the Council and it was agreed to explore further what appropriate higher interest paying investments may be available.

8. Town House

Mr Nick Shaw (Chairman of the Town House Management Committee) gave an update on the Town House bookings and asked whether there were any issues or concerns from Councillors on the Town House Committee meeting minutes distributed by the Clerk prior to the BPC meeting. There were none and the minutes were accepted by all.

Cllr Turner asked whether the leak in the ladies loo stopped and whether we received a bill for the work carried out.

Cllr Carlisle asked whether we are still doing our Health and Safety checks to which Mr Shaw confirmed that we do.

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee left the meeting at 21:03

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Turner reported that he had been in touch with the companies involved in the ongoing debate on who should carry out annual inspections on the safety and quality of the playground equipment and whose report and recommendations should be followed. The debate continues with the Council's view being that as we have not made any changes since implementation and initial sign-off, issues reported are thus considered design errors. This view is being rejected by the Company that installed the playground equipment and the Company that signed the equipment off during the inspection on safety and quality. Cllr Turner is now in contact with relevant Management staff and awaits a call back from the Company Director.

The meeting agreed that BPC needed to determine which company would be required to carry out the annual inspections and whose report and recommendations should be followed.

10. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that the new lease of the Scout Hut is now complete, dated 23rd November 2018. The Council thanked Cllr Carlisle for all his efforts in getting the new lease in place.

11. Health & Safety

Nothing to report other than Cllr Chamings mentioned that she is meeting with DBA Safety on the 5th of December 2018 at 10:00.

12. Correspondence

- The Clerk reported that Mr Mike Young who is a committee member of The Hundred Parishes Society as well as chairman of Wimbish Parish council, again enquired via email about a date suitable for the Council at which he can attend one of our Council meetings to give a very short introduction (10 minutes at most) to the work of the Society. The Clerk will invite Mr Young to the BPC meeting of 4 March.
- County Cllr Fiona Hill prior to the meeting informed via email that during the last week of November she attended the Highways Liaison Meeting, where there was an update on the Highways Together project. This is where Parish and Town Councils can work with Highways for the benefit of their areas. She asked whether it would be possible for the BPC Clerk, Cllr Carlisle and a highways representative from Barley Parish Council to meet with their local District Service Agent, Mr Derek Jerrard, Cllr Gerald Morris and herself, to see if there is a wish for Highways Together in Barley. Cllr Carlisle confirmed that he and Mr Brian Haughey would like to attend such a meeting and proposed that County Cllr Hill propose a couple of dates to consider.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Carlisle thanked Cllr Chamings, who is resigning from the Council at the end of the year, for all her efforts on behalf of the Council and it was confirmed that Mr Brian Haughey was to be co-opted as the newly appointed Cllr to replace Cllr Chamings effective 1st of January 2019. Mr Haughey was the only applicant for the role. The appointment was proposed by Cllr Carlisle and seconded by Cllr Turner.

Cllr Turner reported a question posted on the Barley Village Facebook page on whether Barley had a neighbourhood watch. Cllr Turner and a member of the public attending the meeting mentioned that Sue Neilson was the coordinator of such a neighbourhood watch in the past and it was proposed that Sue's number posted on Facebook in answer to the question for interested parties to get in touch with her directly.

Cllr Turner reported that a question was asked on why the BPC does not lay down a wreath at the annual Remembrance Day service. It was proposed that the Chair of the Parish Council, currently Cllr Carlisle, do so on behalf of the Council going forward.

Mr Martin (RFO) asked whether we can get someone to clear out the leaves in front of the Townhouse.

The issue of parking in Church End road was discussed. It is believed that many of the cars belong to staff of Margaret House. The Clerk was asked to contact Margaret House to request that their staff please park in designated on site staff parking.

Cllr Turner mentioned that a list of emails was taken at the last Barley show and proposed that going forward an email is sent to all with the monthly BPC Agenda.

The meeting finished at 21:50

Next meeting 7th January 2018