

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held on Monday 1 March 2021 via Zoom

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Brian Hughey, Cllr David King, Cllr Yvonne Lee

IN ATTENDANC

Mel Chammings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Tony Hunter, District Cllr Gerald Morris, and Mr. Nick Shaw
1 member of the public.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Sterland.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1 February 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February were read and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Turner.

MATTERS ARISING

The clerk was asked to report on the action log, which had been distributed with the agenda papers.

Cleared actions not on the agenda.

- 1) Cllr Lee had now set up meeting to take forward the Village Plan. Potentially villagers' views and priorities may have changed because of the pandemic, so previously agreed survey questions would be reviewed. Cllr Lee would report progress to the Parish Council monthly.

Actions outstanding

- 2) A firm from Braintree was due to investigate the repairs required to the septic tank/pump this week. That would give two quotes for the council to review in due course.
- 3) Repairs to the kissing gates on FP 17 crossing Lovely View and repairs to the pipe on FP 10 were still outstanding. The clerk would follow up with Countryside Management.

UPDATE FROM COUNTY CLLR HILL

- The vaccination programme was working well. Cllr Hill thanked all volunteers, NHS staff and GP surgeries for their sterling work.
- COVID-19 restricted library services were still in place but there were plans to re-open the browsing service once restrictions were lifted.
- The spell of good weather had put waste sites under pressure and created long queues. It would be helpful to check on-line before setting off to avoid waiting at peak times. Cllr Turner said that the live information on the Royston waste site was inaccurate and Cllr Hill said she would investigate the issue.

- Although erecting safety barriers and potentially installing a grille to prevent rubbish from entering the ditch at Picknagge road was plausible, on investigation land ownership needed to be established before HCC Highways could carry out any further work. It was agreed that further discussion between the Parish Council and Highways about this matter and provision for the long- term maintenance of the ditch was necessary; this would become the focus once the drainage work on London Road had been resolved.
- Work had started to identify the issue with the drains in London Road.
 - Unfortunately, there had been a communication failure with residents. This was particularly upsetting for those homeowners who had already been closely involved because of the necessity of potentially removing the hedge which formed a boundary and privacy screen to their garden.
 - At a meeting earlier today on site the Parish Council and the residents concerned had been advised by Ringway, who are Herts CC highways contractor, that upon further investigation it had been determined and accepted by HCC and Ringway that the hedge was within the highway boundary and thus the property of HCC and therefore their responsibility to maintain.
 - Cllr Hill also explained that she had liaised with the HCC Asset Manager and was able to confirm that if there was excessive damage to the hedge as a result of the works then steps to mitigate the damage would be undertaken. She also confirmed that she had been advised that unfortunately it would not be possible to recover any costs incurred by the homeowners in respect of costs incurred by them for maintaining the hedge in the past.
 - The work to investigate the drainage issue would entail several steps. Firstly, the hedge would be cut back to allow access to the bank and the drainage system. The embankment would be cut back to reveal the edge of the carriageway and to allow access. If, following investigation, it was possible to clear any blockage then that would be completed. If, however it was established that the drains were damaged or collapsed this would entail further funding and would not be carried out until the funding became available.

PLANNING

- a) **Single storey rear extension, following demolition of existing. Erect brick-and-flint garden wall following demolition of rendered block wall as revision previously approved LBC 19/01722/LBC dated 20.4.20.**
 - b) **Repairs to roof and structure of fire damaged dwelling including internal repairs, and including details at a) above.**
- Icknield Way Cottage, High Street, Barley Ref: 21/00307/FPH 21/00308/LBC**

There were no objections to this application.

FINANCE

The following list of payments was authorised at this meeting.
Barley Parish Council.

M Chamings	£295.59	Clerking+ expenses February
T Martin	£149.20	RFO February
Herts Tree Care	£3888.00	Tree work behind scout hut

Payments were proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

Barley Town House

BCP plumbing & heating	£371.20	Repairs to immersion heater
Dolly's Vintage Tea party	£ 100	Promotion fee

Payments proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Lee.

Finance update

- The Finance Risk Assessment Schedule was discussed, and it was agreed that the chair should sign it off on behalf of the Council.
- To avoid problems with signatories being unavailable it was agreed that the RFO should update the bank mandate to include all councillors.
- Lynn Brett was appointed as the new RFO and would be taking up post after the start of the new financial year. Tim Martin, the current RFO, will prepare the year end accounts and start the necessary work for the Audit process.
- The RFO had just received a short follow up report from the VAT advisers which contained a slight change to the previous advice. This could potentially be beneficial to Council finances. The RFO would circulate the new advice once he had fully considered it himself.
- The annual subscription for zoom would end next month and it was agreed to continue with monthly payments until remote meetings were no longer necessary.

TOWN HOUSE

- Repairs to the electrics in the downstairs toilets would be carried out this week.
- Promotional Proposal
There had been 165 visits to the website, 1 new booking without viewing and, 6 enquiries. An open day would be held on 24th April.
- All being well the Town House would re-open for use on 12th April. The Town House committee would meet to discuss arrangements. There would need to be a tidy up outside of the building and volunteers would be required to assist.
- Town House roof
Savills had been appointed to act on the council's behalf in connection with CDM matters in connection with the roof repairs and had recently held a site meeting with the proposed contractor to review the necessary CDM requirements.

RECREATION GROUND

- Cllr Turner reported that a few repairs required attention now that the weather had improved. It was noted that the annual RoSPA H&S visit to the playground was due in May.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- The Town House monthly checks were found to be satisfactory. The six-monthly check of alarms smoke detectors and emergency lights had been carried out and were satisfactory.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

AOB

- Cllr Haughey requested support from District Cllr Morris to ensure a satisfactory outcome to the street cleaning programme in Barley.
- Cllr Haughey had made further enquiries about the electrical supply requirement in the village necessary to accommodate electrical charging points. Cllr Lee said that she would contact a business colleague with expertise in this field. She hoped to have a written report to distribute before the next meeting.
- Cllr Haughey raised the issue of plans for the future of the storage containers behind the scout hut. It was felt that before proceeding any further the Council should re engage with the Scouts to discuss their plans for the scout hut.
- The results of the Road Safety Fund application should be known late March/early April.
- The Power Point presentation on the NHDC speed management strategy had been circulated in advance. Cllr Haughey had attended the meeting and reported that part of the strategy was to investigate where 20mph zones could be sited. There would be clear criteria to follow and could include significant road works in some instances
- Cllr Turner suggested that it would be good to organise a post lockdown celebratory event in the summer. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea and Cllr Turner should take this forward and consult with other organisations e.g., the church/scouts/school to avoid clashes

The meeting ended at 22.00.

The **next meeting** would not be held on the usual first Monday of the month because of bank holiday so was planned to be held by zoom on **Tuesday April 6th, 2021**.