



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 6th November 2023 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Cllr Brian Haughey (Chair), Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Vice Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ali Hearn, Nick Shaw, Parish Clerk Alice Robertson, and District Cllr Morris.

IN ATTENDANCE

1 member of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave King, Cllr Ian Turner, County Cllr Fiona Hill, RFO Lynn Brett

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Carlisle advised he is a neighbour to Lynchetts, regarding the proposed Garage Planning Permission to be discussed.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 16th October 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Cayford, Seconded by Cllr Hearn

4. Public Participation

A member of the public enquired as to whether there had been a recent update on the village speed camera's. The council advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place with the Police in December. Further information was requested about the footpath status across the fields from Smith End Lane towards Newsells owned by Rands. The Parish Clerk advised that the landowner has confirmed no changes were currently being proposed to this footpath.

5. Planning

5.1 **Reference: 23/02372/FPH** Full Permission Householder : Provision of vehicular access to property via dropped kerb. 18 Picknage Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HP. Deadline 18th November.

There were no objections by the Council although confirmation was to be sought to confirm the identity of the applicant.

5.2 **Reference: 23/02403/FPH** Full Permission Householder: Replace existing garage doors with windows and insertion of side windows to facilitate conversion to habitable accommodation, erection of detached garage and replace existing front boundary wall. Lynchetts, High Street, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HT. Deadline 10th November.

Cllr Carlisle advised that as a next-door neighbour he has no objection in principle.

The Council noted that on the plan the garage appears adjacent to the boundary of another neighbour and moving it in for future maintenance requirements would be recommended. The Parish Clerk to revert comments to NHDC Planning Department.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council and the Town House.

Barley Parish Council EXPENSES

Alice Robertson - £698 (Clerk gross pay Oct 23)
Lynn Brett – (RFO gross Pay Oct 23 to be added to Nov 23)
HAPTC - £17.00 (Cllr Hearn Intro to Planning)
HAPTC - £17.00 (Cllr Haughey GDPR)

TOTAL BPC for approval - £732.00

For Information

Peninsula - £223.45 (H & S Services Paid via DD)
Sapele - £400.00 (Approved October meeting, pd 27/10/23)

TOTAL BPC for information - £ 623.45

INCOMES Year to Date

VAT refund - £1,412.37
Club Room - £7,234.41 (rent and Ins BBP)
NHDC precept - £29,400.00 (Final Precept)
CTRS Grant - £586.19
CDA Grant
Other incomes - £275.00 (Allotments)
Donation from Barley Show - £3,500.00 (Re Marquee)
Donation from Hertfordshire CC - £400.00 (Salt bins)
TOTAL BPC Incomes - £42,807.97

Bank Balances Held

Barley Parish Council

Main - £42,019.52
TH Sinking Fund - £13,694.55
TOTAL BPC Banks - £55,714.07

All payments agreed, Proposer Cllr Carlisle, Seconder, Cllr Hearn

Townhouse Council Expenses

Swift Fire and Safety	£60.00
Evira Gusejnova	£745.00
TOTAL TH for approval	£805.00

Townhouse Council for Information

PNET TH paid by DD	£25.99
NHDC	£34.00
Octopus	£480.96- TH Electricity supply DD
Octopus	£383.78 – TH Est Outstanding
Everflow Ltd	£39.24 - TH Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information	£963.97

All payments agreed, Proposed by Cllr Cayford Seconded Cllr Carlisle.

INCOMES

Town House YTD	£17,156.61
TOTAL TH Incomes	£17,156.61

Bank Balances Held

Barley Town House

Main	£32,597.61
Deposits	£2,700.00
Savings	£5,883.45
Total	£41,181.16

Deposits

Opening balance	£3,000.00
Received	£600.00
Refunded	- £900.00
Closing Balance	£2,700.00

All payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Carlisle, Seconded Cllr Hearn.

7. Reports from County/District Councillors

7.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

LIBRARIES

The Summer Reading Challenge at Royston Library was a tremendous success with over 520 starters and 25 volunteers. All those who completed were awarded. Grateful thanks to everyone involved.

Royston Library continues to host the Police and Barclays Bank for drop-in sessions, together with a number of new and regular activities that exist throughout the year.

SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

In September 2022, the Government passed a new policy that requires LA schools to help keep costs down by taking steps to remove unnecessary branded items and allow more high street options, such as supermarket own label uniforms. Schools have been reminded of this guidance. Additional funding has been put into SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) to support our services for children, young people and their families and there is considerable work going into recruiting and training new staff.

I attended the Step2Skills Adult Learners' Awards Evening which highlighted the invaluable work conducted. To hear the stories of how the organisation has helped with confidence and self-esteem is humbling and shows that everyone has a chance in education, and it is never too late. I will be attending the Young People's Awards in Stevenage on Tuesday, 7th November 2023.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

We continue to encourage Parish and Town councils to sign up to the Covenant.

HIGHWAYS/TRANSPORT

The Barley Action Plan has been updated by the Highways officers and myself. This includes actions from the last meeting. I have raised the issues in Picknag Road with Settle and these are being investigated. The A505 safer crossing (bridge) proposal, which we have been working on for many years, was discussed at the GCP meeting at the end of September. The project remains live and hopeful of a positive outcome, with the next steps being the public consultation and planning processes.

The very unpopular proposal for a Cambridge Congestion Charge, which I have been objecting strongly to and lobbying against, was scrapped by the GCP and I hope will not appear back on the agenda. The impact on so many individuals and businesses would be huge.

There are changes proposed to the 26 bus route. Full details available.

A meeting will take place at the OPCC on 29th November 2023 with regard to data taken from the speed cameras. I will be attending along with the Chairman and Clerk.

GENERAL

I have responded to several surveys/consultations including NHS Let's Talk, Family Centres, Services for Young People, increases in car parking charges in Royston and proposed closure of ticket offices at railway stations.

The Annual Meeting of Parish, Town and Community Councils did not go ahead due to low response. A survey has been sent, by HCC, to all Parish, Town and Community Councils for views on what would work best.

7.2 To receive a report from Cllr Gerald Morris

Cllr Morris reported that:

The Newsells Park Winery has submitted a planning application for a new building to serve the Winery to NHDC Planning Department for approval.

North Herts Council is currently very short staffed and this does affect response and action times.

The Community Payback team are still looking for projects.

A planning application has been submitted for a site near Therfield School, for 10 houses. This is outside of the Village envelope.

8. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

8.1 Town House

Changes to the Kitchen Doors to ensure we are fire compliant have been made.

A Battery back-up light is required on the external flood light. The Parish Clerk will clarify with Peninsula which outside light they are referring to.

The Bookings Manager for The Townhouse has been asked to ensure she has confirmation of the public liability insurance that hirers are required to have when hiring The Townhouse.

The Parish Clerk will also confirm with our insurers on cover regarding village events such as The Christmas Market.

Re-wiring for the Townhouse audio system continues.

The Council advised that The Parish Clerk will write a letter to Greg Chamming's on behalf of the Parish Council, thanking him for the Mel Chamming's Memorial Bench.

8.2 Plaistow

- It was noted that one of the playground fence slats was missing on the wicker fence. This will be added to the list to replace.
- The Plaistow Fence is now urgently in need of repair. The Council opted for Slow Grown Wooden posts with Equine mesh as a replacement fence. The Parish Clerk will get a final quote and confirm lead time on how soon this can be erected.

9 Other items

9.1 The Parish Clerk continues to chase Anglian Water to come and do a one-off clearance of foliage and silt, ahead of the scheduled maintenance work. The Parish Clerk met the Anglian Water team on-site who advised they are aiming to clear the ditch in the next few weeks. The Parish Clerk will also send an email to Matt Doggett to see when he will clear the ditch between the High St and Picknagge Rd.

9.2 The Parish Council has applied for a second defibrillator from the Department of Health Scheme, that will be located at the rear of The Townhouse. We will be notified of their decision at the end of November. If awarded it could be either part or fully funded.

9.3 Cllr Hearn advised that our current Defib has issues with the battery. Cllr Hearn has booked it in for a software update to fix a software issue. Booked for the 4th Dec. Parish Clerk will help with social communications for the Village.

10.0 Clerks Report

- 10.1 Probation Service List of possible projects still needs to be communicated and agreed.
- 10.2 County Council Rights of Way have agreed to resurface the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow, and will also review replacing the kissing gates for better access. Cllr Cayford to chase up.
- 10.3 Parish Clerk will arrange for Bullards to trim back all overgrowing bushes in the Townhouse Car Park.
- 10.4 Migrating to .gov email addresses is still being looked into.

11.0 Additional business

- 11.1 An enquiry to use a Marquee in the Plaistow for a private wedding was received. The Parish Clerk will respond asking for more information on what they would like to do.

12. Date of next Barley Parish meeting and items for the agenda

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 4th December 2023 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
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