

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2016**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr I Turner, Cllr G Clark, Cllr Y Lee, Dst Cllr G Morris, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), Mr Tim Martin (RFO), Mr Nick Shaw (Town House Management Committee Chairman), Mr Peter McPartland (co-opted onto the Parish Council during the meeting)

2 members of the public

2. Apologies

County Cllr Tony Hunter,

3. Councillor's Declaration of Interest

None

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7th November '16 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr G Clark and seconded by Cllr I Turner.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Clark was asked to speak with Mr Partt to find out when he would be continuing with the renovation works to the red telephone box on the High Street. The Clerk has found out from BT that the red telephone box in Smiths End Lane is still available for adoption however BT have submitted a planning application to NHDC asking for permission to remove. This process can be halted, with NHDC's permission but on contacting the planning office they have no knowledge of any such application and have advised that we go back to BT to request permission to formerly adopt the box. The Clerk is awaiting a response from BT.

Mr Brian Haughey reported that the new speed activated interactive flashing sign has now been moved to Cambridge Road and is monitoring vehicles leaving the village. He will continue to move the sign around the village and continue to monitor. Cllr Clark has additionally been in contact with Sgt Guy Westwood and is in the processing of arranging another meeting. He has been informed that Royston should shortly be getting another full time officer and this in turn might hopefully allow more 'official' speed checks to be undertaken.

The Clerk has now managed to speak with the planning department regarding renovation works to the boundary wall at Nobles Cottage. Melissa Tyler of NHDC planning department confirmed that she was going out to site the following week and would speak to the owners. The Clerk agreed to chase up for an update.

Mr Peter McPartland has now formerly applied for the position of Parish Councillor and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt him onto the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to notify the relevant department at NHDC and to request the necessary Declaration of Interest paperwork for him to complete.

The Clerk has still not heard back from County Councillor Tony Hunter regarding who would be the best contact regarding the blocked gullies along London Road, she was asked to chase again.

6. Planning

Fox & Hounds appeal

Cllr Carlisle reported that the appeal hearing had been very well attended by villagers and asked the Clerk to write to Richmonds to thank them for laying on a coach to transport people to Letchworth. Additionally it was agreed that Clerk would place an item in The Diary thanking those villagers who turned up for their support.

Correspondence has been received regarding the AoCV tribunal hearing and a decision needs to be made regarding whether we want the case to be heard at a hearing or via written representation. Cllr Lee agreed to ask advice on what would be the best course of action.

Cllr Carlisle asked Dst Cllr Morris if he could speak to Mr Richard Tiffin of NHDC Planning Department regarding the parishes concerns over the deterioration of the Fox & Hounds building and ask if NHDC can put any pressure on Mr Parkes to effect repairs and bring the building back up to a decent state.

Hansons Builders Yard, Pudding Lane, Barley

Correspondence has been received from Mr Easton who is acting as a planning agent on behalf of the Hanson family. They are now proposing just two of the larger style dwellings and subject to planning approval being granted for these properties they are offering to make up the road to 'Highway standards' at their own expense and maintain it in perpetuity by conditions attached to the new dwellings. After discussions it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Easton to ask him to clarify if they really do mean making the road up to 'highways standards' as that is an exceptionally high specification and the meeting was sceptical that even installing the level of drainage required for this would be unfeasible.

Case ref: 16/02759/1 Outline application for the erection of up to 100 dwellings and a new shop on land adjacent to Royston Road, Barkway

The Clerk was asked to write on behalf of Barley Parish Council to object to this application on the same grounds used to object to the inclusion of this site (BK3) in the Local Plan.

7. Town House

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, reported that the Hardwire testing is now complete although the certificate has yet to be received. At the recent management committee meeting it was agreed that they would be putting up their letting fees by 10% except to the local village groups who would remain at £12.50 per session. All hirers will be required to sign the new letting agreement, including long term hirers such as the Pilates group and the Railway Club.

It was decided at the management meeting that the walls would be repainted in the upstairs rooms and the floor would be sanded. Mr Darren Partt has quoted £1,200 plus materials and it is expected that the works will be carried out in Jan / Feb 2017. The meeting agreed that these works should go ahead. Mrs Georgina Northen continues to work on a two sided publicity brochure. The management committee are keen to encourage more weddings and it was discussed that the Town House needs to improve its web presence with this regard.

Cllr Turner advised that a 'stage' is now available for use if required.

Cllr Carlisle agreed to get the new Health & Safety information to Mr Shaw.

8. Finance Officers report & signing of payments

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

Parish Council

Tim Martin	RFO fees (November)	£ 124.80
Tim Martin	Reimbursement for Host-it fee	£ 71.94
Bullards	Final cut of the Plaistow	£ 300.00
Laura Childs	Clerk fees & office expenses (November)	£ 296.40

It was agreed that these payment should be made

Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Turner

Town House

There were no payments to be made on behalf of the Town House this month.

Mr Martin agreed to put an application to Barclays bank so that Mr Peter McPartland can sign the Parish Councils cheques.

Mr Martin advised that he has completed the rates form that was recently received and going forward we will now fill in an electronic form. It is anticipated that the rates may go up as the rateable value of the properties has increased.

Mr Martin confirmed that he has updated the asset register.

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

Budget and Precept setting 2017 – 2018

Mr Martin circulated the proposed budget for 2017 – 2018 prior to the meeting and a review was conducted during the meeting. Various items were discussed and Mr Martin will now make the suggested amendments and will finalise the budget for final approval at the next meeting.

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Clark confirmed that he has received a quotation from Mr James King of £1,680 to rebuild the fencing along part of the perimeter of the Plaistow. This quote was in line with previous repairs undertaken and it was agreed that Cllr Clark should instruct him to go ahead with the works. Mr Martin asked that Mr King provides us with separate invoices for the materials he uses so the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT on these items.

Cllr Clark will ensure the repair to the gate latch is carried out shortly. Cllr Carlisle requested that Cllr Clark goes back to completing his 'tick list' that he did on a weekly basis when carrying out his regular inspections of the Plaistow and playground.

Mr Nick White advised that there is a large dip in one of the slides where it dips down and a puddle forms. Cllr Clark agreed to speak to Mrs Northen to ask for contact details of the installers to ask if they can take a look at it.

The Clerk was asked to speak to Mrs Northen to ask if all the paperwork relating to the new playground could be handed over to us, to be stored in the Town House.

Cllr Turner reported that there is some surface damage to the tennis courts and that they may need to be resurfaced in the Spring. The current estimate for these works is £27,000 and the tennis club will use their savings to pay for this. Mr Martin asked Cllr Turner if he could arrange for the tennis club accounts to be dropped off to him for auditing

10. Website

Cllr Lee advised that a meeting has been arranged to take forward improving the website. Cllr McPartland will attend with his daughter who has some experience in this area, along with Mr Martin. It was discussed that the Parish Council may need to pay for someone to build the new website should the expertise not be available within the village. It was agreed to build a sum for this into the budget for next year.

11. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that the lease is progressing. All of the documentation is currently with the Scouts and currently discussions are underway with who the tenancy will be with, locally or via the Scouts Association. The current solicitors fee is £800.

12. Lock Up

Cllr Lee is waiting to hear from the proposed contractor regarding CDM & Health & Safety matters and once she is satisfied with their response will then write and officially instruct them to go ahead with the works.

13. Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle will circulate the new Risk Assessments.

14. Correspondence

A letter received from M W Easton regarding Hanson Family Builders Yard, Pudding Lane, Barley was discussed under Item 6 – Planning.

All other correspondence received is to be circulated amongst Councillors.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Turner advised that Mr Stuart White would like to place a poster in the Village Notice board, the Clerk has a key and it was agreed that Cllr Turner would ask Mr White to get in touch.

The Speed Awareness posters produced by the children at Barley School have now been printed up (at a cost of £114). Cllr Carlisle thanked Mr Haughey for sorting this out. Cllr Clark is hoping that an article about the speeding campaign will be in The Royston Crow this week.

Mr White raised concerns over the road towards Royston, the B1039, where there is a small ‘hump back bridge’ crossing a culvert. He came upon some elderly motorists who had burst a tyre on the raised brick work at the side of the road. The Clerk agreed to report the fault but following discussions it was thought that without major road works, which was probably financially unviable, improvements were unlikely to be made.

Cllr Carlisle additionally asked the Clerk to report a damaged drainage cover along the B1039 towards Great Chishill. This has previously been reported but nothing appears to have been done.

Cllr Clark asked the Clerk to report another pothole along Smiths End Lane that is thought has been created by large vehicles turning into Dovehouse Shott.

Meeting closed at 22:15