



Barley Parish Council meeting: 3rd March 2025 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Alison Hearn (Vice Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Yvonne Lee, District Cllr Martin Prescott, County Cllr Fiona Hill.

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Cllr Carlisle and Cllr Turner sent their apologies. In the absence of Cllr Carlisle the Chair of the Council, Cllr Hearn took the Chair.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Cockrell notified the meeting he is friends with the applicants for Planning Application item **5.3a and 5.3b**

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposer Cllr Cayford, Seconder Cllr Lee.

4. Public Participation

4.1 None.

5. Planning

5.1 Ref: 25/00064/FPH - Full Permission Householder : Widening of existing vehicular access, replacement wooden gate and hardscaping works. Sells Close House, High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HY.

The council confirmed they had no objections.

5.2 Ref: 25/00333/FPH Full Permission Householder : Single storey side extension to existing rear element Rose Cottage, High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HT

The council confirmed they had no objections.

5.3a Ref: 25/00383/FPH Full Permission Householder : Insertion of rear bifold doors and window following removal of existing window. Daubentons, Manor Farm, Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW

5.3b Ref: 25/00384/LBC Listed Building Consent : Insertion of rear bifold doors and window following removal of existing window. Daubentons, Manor Farm, Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW.

The council confirmed they had no objections to either 5.3a or 5.3b.

6. Reports from County/District Councillors

6.1 County Cllr Hill reported that:

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

The Integrated Plan (Budget) has been through the process and it was agreed at Council last week - approximately £2.7 billion with £1.5 billion directly for schools. Adult Care and Health (approximately £527.3 million) and Children's Services (approximately £289.2 million) remaining the highest spend areas. Additional funding has been allocated for SEND and into Highways for flooding and verge erosion. The precept has been agreed at 4.99%, with 2% ringfenced for Adult Care and Health.

Highways Updates

All issues arising from the development on Picknag Road have been reported and Enforcement officers have been asked to monitor.

Speed and Volume surveys in Picknag Road are being analysed. These will be discussed with Highways officers and then Barley Parish Council, together with members of the previous Speedwatch scheme.

Highways Action Plan

This has been completed by Highways officers, herself and circulated to Barley Parish Councillors.

Events/Consultations

The Ermine Ward Surgery was held on Saturday, 1st March in the Woodman, Nuthampstead with the Councillors' Surgery in Royston Market on Saturday, 8th March.

Armed Forces Covenant

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5th March.

6.2 Cllr Martin Prescott reported that:

- 6.2.1 There is a second consultation regarding the proposed changes to our parish electoral arrangements as part of the ongoing Community Governance Review (CGR).

Key proposed changes are:

- To align parish council elections with district council elections, so they are all held in the same year.
- For some parishes, there are suggestions to alter boundaries and/or adjust the number of parish councillors.
- For parishes where there are fewer than 500 electors – that the number of parish councillors is 5.
- Proposals to change some parish ward boundaries
- The establishment of new Town Councils in Baldock, Hitchin, and Letchworth.

The responses from the consultation will help develop the final proposals for changes to parish arrangements if and where necessary and everyone is encouraged to feedback here: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-governance-review>

- 6.2.2 Following on from complaints by Barley Surgery of the use of their General Waste Bin by dog walkers to deposit their full dog poo bags on environmental grounds, Cllr Prescott has been investigating viable alternative waste bin solutions supplied by NHDC for the dog walking community to use instead. Currently, attempts for the installation for a dedicated dog waste bin or even an additional public general waste bin supplied and managed by NHDC is unlikely to proceed given the removal of 30% of our general waste bins in the community by NHDC themselves. It may be that Barley Parish Council will have to fund the supply of a suitable bin, and the collection of dog waste from it at this location, unless the public take and dispose of it at home at the end of their walks.

7. Finance RFO report for the Parish Council

7.1 To consider and approve payments for the Parish Council.

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
Alice Robertson	26/02/2025	£118.26	Clerk gross pay balance Feb & expenses
Lynn Brett	28/02/2025	£502.00	RFO gross pay & expenses Feb
Stewart Bullard	02/01/2025	£330.02	Grounds maintenance February 2025
J Guerrero	3/3/2025	£35.00	Supply & fit gate latch High Street
TOTAL BPC for approval		<u>£985.28</u>	

For Information

Peninsula	26/2/2025	£223.45	Paid via DD
Alice Robertson	28/2/2025	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC
HAPTC	7/11/2024	£444.12	Membership Subscription 2025-2026 pre-approved awaiting invoice April 2025

TOTAL BPC for information

£1,067.57

PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

VAT refund	£3,059.66	
Club Room	£9,000.00	Rent & Ins BBP
NHDC precept	£32,000.00	Full precept
CTRS Grant	£543.01	
CDA Grant		
Other incomes	£165.00	Allotment s
Interest	£155.34	
Barclays Bank	£150.00	Compensation
Alice Robertson	£2,295.00	Goal Donation
TOTAL BPC Incomes	<u>£47,368.01</u>	

Bank Balances Held

account Balance

Barley Parish Council

Main	2188	£38,129.01
Savings	5127	£0.00
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£13,948.97
TOTAL BPC Banks		<u>£52,077.98</u>

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit	£2,317.39	Final
Barley Show	<u>£11,240.89</u>	
Barley Tennis Club	<u>£19,694.70</u>	Bank balances

S137 expenditure limit

22/23	8.82
23/24	9.93

Precept Requested 25/26

	£33,564.00
CTRS	£556.66
Total	<u>£34,120.66</u>

The Payments were agreed: Proposer Cllr Cayford, Seconder Cllr Cockrell.

8. Finance RFO report for the Townhouse

8.1 To consider and approve payments for The Town House Charity (as Sole Trustee)

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
North Herts Council	01/01/2025	£114.99	Trade Refuse 01.01 - 31.03.25
Alan Wiltshire	13/02/2025	£120.99	Quarter expenses for Town House
Caley Clark	28/02/2025	£120.00	TH cleaning
Hallmaster Ltd	03/03/2025	£265.00	Single Venue Booking Licence
TOTAL TH for approval		<u>£620.98</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT

For Information

PNET	24/02/2025	£28.04	paid by DD
NHDC	1/2/2025	£0.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	11/02/2025	£324.76	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Everflow Ltd	24/02/2025	£46.91	Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information		<u>£399.71</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

Town House YTD	£20,605.00	
BPC Donation	£5,777.18	Donation re Insurance
Bank Interest	66.73	
TOTAL TH Incomes	<u>£26,448.91</u>	

Bank Balances Held

account Balance

Barley Town House

Main	3265	£38,258.95
Deposits	8330	£4,210.00
Savings	8104	£5,992.75
		<u>£48,461.70</u>

Deposits

Opening balance	£3,510.00
Received	£2,500.00
Refunded	
Trf to main ac	-£1,800.00
Closing Balance	<u>£4,210.00</u>

The Payments were agreed.

Proposed Cllr Lee, Seconder Cllr Cayford

9. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

9.1 Town House Charity

- 9.1.1 Richard Emerson has gone through in detail the works required for The new windows with the builders. The expected completion date is estimated 3rd of June. It was confirmed by Savills to Alan Wiltshire that CDM was not required. The expected cost for this stage, including the cost for bespoke ironmongery required by Historic England is £25,000 inc VAT.
- 9.1.2 The flickering light in the Town House carpark is currently being investigated. The Clerk also reported that two external lights on the building weren't working either, which will also be investigated.
- 9.1.3 Alan Cayford confirmed all weekly Fire, Health and Safety checks had been carried out.

9.2 Plaistow & Childrens Playground

9.2.1 Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow.

9.2.2 Cllr Cayford advised that we still haven't heard from HCC Countryside Management as to when the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow can be resurfaced.

10. Truvelo Speed Cameras Scheme

10.1 The Clerk confirmed that she has sent the final changes (a date was incorrectly listed and a request for confirmation on the inclusion of VAT) to the OPCC and is awaiting their response.

11. Clerks Report

11.1 The Clerk advised the Council that she was researching the best cost for replacement picnic tables and requesting sample for the Council to choose at the next meeting.

12. Items of correspondence

12.1 The treasurer of our local Scout Group (7th Royston) requested the opinion of the Parish Council to submit a joint planning application for the Proposed new Scout Hut to the NH Planning Department. The Council discussed and decided that The Scouts should apply in isolation as there are no particular benefits for either party to submit jointly.

13. Any Other Business

31.1 Following the resignation of the Barley Show Chairman as well as the main event coordinator, it was noted there is concern that without volunteers coming forward to join the committee and help out at the event that Barley Show may not be able to go ahead next year.

17. Date of next Barley Parish meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on the 7th April 2025, commencing at 8pm.

Contact: clerk@barleyparishcouncil.gov.uk