



BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council on Monday 6th February 2023 at 8pm at the Town House

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Brian Haughey, Cllr David King, Cllr Ali Hearn, RFO Lynn Brett, Temporary Parish Clerk Alice Robertson

IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Tony Hunter and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, District Cllr Gerald Morris and Nick Shaw.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Carlisle advised he had a declaration of interest in respect of the two planning applications on the agenda. Panna Cottage is his daughter's residence, and Studlands is an immediately adjoining property to his home.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Hearn.

4. Public Participation

4.1 The Chairman advised the meeting that he had been informed that there were no plans for a funeral for the Council's clerk Mrs Mel Chamblings who sadly died on 1st February 2023, but that a memorial service may happen at a future date.

Cllr Carlisle advised that he had written to Mel's husband Greg to personally express the village's gratitude for Mel's service to the village and the parish council over the past few years.

5. Planning

5.1

Panna Cottage, Pudding Lane, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JU

Ref: 23/00068/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Erection of rear conservatory following removal of existing rear window. Demolish outside garden wall between lower and upper terrace, remove paving slabs from lower terrace, set aside to re-use. Installation of No.2 EV charging points to existing garage.

Having declared an interest in this application the Chairman took no part in the discussion of this item.

The council resolved that it had no objections to this application.

5.2

Studlands, High Street, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HT

Ref: 23/00116/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Two storey rear extension to include French doors and balcony to first floor following removal of existing rear bay windows at ground and first floor and side elevation outhouse. Re-clad rear exterior, re-render side elevation and installation of No.2 EV charging points to front/side elevation.

Having declared an interest in this application the Chairman took no part in the discussion of this item.

The council resolved that it had no objections to this application.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. The RFO Lynn Brett had previously distributed the list of payments for approval at this meeting.

Parish Council

- Dog bins: £564 is annual charge for 4 bins (monthly emptying)
- Lynn Brett : £173.60
- HMRC £143.41
- Total £881.01

Town House

The following payments had been made by direct debit

- Elec £291 this month to Octopus
- NHDC £32
- PNET £20.75
- Total £343.75

Payments approved. Proposed by Cllr Hearn and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

Lynn Brett advised that financial savings were available by changing the council's internal auditor. HAPTC are now able to offer an internal audit service at a much lower fee compared to Hardcastle Burton who are the Councils current internal auditor. It was agreed that in view of the savings available the Council should move to the service offered by HAPTC. Lynn Brett will action.

Lynn Brett also advised that as previously discussed in view of the difficulties being encountered with Barclays Bank recently she is to research changing banks. Lloyds/HSBC/NatWest online options discussed.

The agreed Precept Application has been submitted to NHDC and no queries to date.

7. Reports from County/District Councillors

7.1 County Cllr Fiona Hill advised that:

- Repairs to the Bridge on B1039 to Royston will be done in next financial year. This requires a road closure – date TBC.
- Street Cleansing meeting with NHDC arranged for Wednesday 8th Feb at 12.30.

Cllr Carlisle also advised that he has a meeting arranged for this Friday 10th Feb at 12.30 with the developer and HCC Highways regarding the flooding on the High St outside the surgery following the construction of the new access road bell-mouth to the Gables development behind the surgery. It is understood that the Highways design team have now agreed that the developer can relocate the High Street surface water road gully on the other side of the new access to ensure satisfactory surface water drainage in this area.

7.2 In District Cllrs Morris's absence District Cllr Tony Hunter advised:

- New payment machines in Royston are causing issues as new machines have been installed.
- Community public general waste bin requirements (and dog waste bins) are currently being reviewed by the council.
- A call every week to encourage a more scheduled pick up of existing public waste bins would support a future request for more general waste bins in the village (locations suggested: Surgery and Drayton's development). It was confirmed that dog waste can be deposited in general waste bins. The meeting agreed that adding a 'What3Words' reference on each bin would make collection easier when phoning through.
- The outline planning application for BK3 in Barkway for some 140 houses has been approved by NHDC.

- The proposed Purple Bin collection only every 3 weeks will be going ahead. Start date TBC.

8. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

8.1 Town House

8.1.1 It was reported that the Townhouse should have a full fibre connection by the end of February 2023.

8.1.2 Health & Safety – Nick Shaw should undertake a monthly H&S check sheet. The Chairman advised that the council need to appoint a new Health and Safety consultant as Drew and Bartrop, the current consultants, have advised that they are no longer able to provide the service. Cllr Hill suggested contacting NHDC for suggestions as to possible alternative providers.

8.2 Plaistow

8.2.1. Broadmead Leisure Ltd have been instructed to replace any broken or damaged round seats for picnic tables. Broadmead have also been asked to check the slide.

8.3 Other items

8.3.1 Tennis Club

Due to Cllr Lee's absence a further update from Cllr Lee on discussions with Tennis Club officials was not available. To be carried forward to the next meeting.

- RFO Lynn Brett advised that she had passed on to Cllr Lee the insurance advice received from the council's insurers that the Tennis club need to arrange their own P/L cover for events they hold and to make their own arrangements for insuring the timber changing room/shelter they had erected at the side of the courts.

8.3.2 Steps to replace the Clerk for the Council

- The Chairman reported that to date there had been no response to the adverts for a Parish Clerk despite advertising in several places for several months.
- Following discussion the temporary Clerk Alice Robertson agreed to re-write the advert with a more in depth job description.
- RFO Lynn to send through hours worked by the previous Clerk for the last 12 months
- The Chairman had prior to the meeting asked the RFO Lynn Brett to investigate the rates of pay for clerks and RFO's for councils of similar size as this had not been undertaken recently by the Council. She reported that the Council were currently paying an hourly rate of £12 but that the going rate for both of these positions appeared to be around £16 per hour. The meeting discussed the need to redress this anomaly and it was agreed that the rate of pay for both the position of clerk and RFO should be increased to £16 per hour with immediate effect. Hopefully this will make the positions more attractive to any potential applicants. The rates of pay to be reviewed on an annual basis. Proposed Cllr Haughey, Seconded Cllr King.

9. Clerks Report

9.1 Items of correspondence.

- 9.1.1 Stopping Up outside the Chequers; Discussions have been held by the applicant with Highways. Waiting to hear how this will proceed.
- 9.1.2 Dog fouling on Church End; Some posters are up, Clerk advised more to go up along with waste bags. Clerk also to produce waterproof “Dog Waste OK” Sticker for the general waste bins along this stretch following confirmation they can be used in lieu of a dog waste bin. The following stickers have been applied to 2 x public waste bins on Church End:

https://www.safetysignsandnotices.co.uk/dog-waste-bin-dwb1h&variantid=8037?gclid=CjwKCAiArY2fBhB9EiwAWqHK6uqRac_isNJGg1zpG_W5ZCMAg7_N9jY89WeSCU5zEZnyqUTFiQIW2fhoCu1AQAvD_BwE



- 9.1.3 Following discussion the meeting did not identify any suitable area for a grant available from the Countryside Management Service – Land management for Biodiversity could be used at the present time (free trees and hedgerows). Agreed no further action required.
- 9.1.4 Herts CC to be contacted about a replacement footpath barrier for the top of Pudding Lane where the existing one has broken. Also to enquire whether repairs can be carried out to a number of the benches along the village footpaths that are rotten and in need of repair.
- 9.1.5 Defibrillators – Further research taking place by Cllr Hearn and Cllr Haughey regarding costs and grants that may be available for another AED unit perhaps to be located outside the Townhouse and also the situation regarding current maintenance arrangements for the existing unit located at The Surgery. Enquiries to be made to also find out if there is one at Margaret House.
- 9.1.6 Salt bins – County Cllr Hill advised there is a Free 30 bag Salt Offer that the Council should apply for in her locality budget. The possibility of applying for more community salt bins after May 2023 was also discussed, perhaps located at Greenbury Close, Bankside and Picknage Road Service Road. County Cllr Hill advised she will remind us when we can do this.
- 9.1.7 Road salting inconsistencies on access in and out of the village were discussed including the complete lack of any salting for Smiths End Lane and in particular Bogmore Road – a cut through for traffic from Barkway to Chishill area which is seeing increased traffic and will do even more so, once BK3 goes ahead. It was noted several accidents occurred here earlier this winter because of lack of salting. County Cllr Hill advised to send a note on this that she can pass on to Highways for consideration.

- Kings Coronation: There is support for the erection of marquees no matter the weather. Jill Profit (Barley Social Hub) will lead this event, but concern was raised about lack of volunteers to help set-up and remove the marquees.

10. Items for future discussion

10.1 Requested a 'Matters Arising' to be added to the agenda. Clerk to discuss with Chairman.

10.2 Tennis Club Agreement

11. Date of next Barley Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 8pm in the Town House.

Contact: Clerk to Barley Parish Council
Barley.pariahclerk@gmail.com