



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 8th January 2024 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Brian Haughey (Chair), Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Vice Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Dave King, Cllr Ian Turner, County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Morris, Parish Clerk Alice Robertson, RFO Lynn Brett and Nick Shaw.

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 No absences.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Carlisle, Seconded Cllr Cayford.

4. Public Participation

4.1 No items raised.

5. Planning

5.1 No planning items raised.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council.

Barley Parish Council EXPENSES

Alice Robertson -	£506.00 (Clerk gross pay Dec 23)
Alice Robertson -	£130.80 (creation of .gov email addresses and hosting)
Lynn Brett –	£748.35 (RFO Nov & Dec 23 pay)
Stewart Bullard & -	£329.88 (Cut of Scout Hut and June Footpaths)
Stewart Bullard & -	£539.76 (Aug/Oct cut Footpaths & Weeding Townhouse Drive)
Broadmead Leisure -	£108.00 (Quarterly Inspection 13/12/23)
HAPTC -	£45.00 (Understanding Charitable Trusts course – Ian Turner)
TOTAL BPC for approval -	<u>£2,407.79</u>

Proposed Cllr Carlisle, Seconded Cllr Turner.

For Information

HAPTC -	£417.83 (Membership Subs. 24-25 pre-approved awaiting invoice April 24)
Peninsula -	£223.45 (H & S Services Paid via DD)
London Hearts -	£750.00 (Defibrillator)
TOTAL BPC for information -	<u>£1,391.28</u>

INCOMES YTD

VAT refund -	£2,048.73
Club Room -	£11,073.11 (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 -	<u>£47,283.03</u>

Bank Balances Held**Barley Parish Council**

Main -	£40,158.38
TH Sinking Fund -	£13,742.24
TOTAL BPC Banks -	<u>£53,900.62</u>

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit –	£1,254.06 (Final)
Barley Show -	<u>£12,820.98</u>
Barley Tennis Club -	<u>£13,019.60</u>

Precept Requested 23/24	£29,400.00
CTRS	£586.19
Total	<u>£29,986.19</u>

Proposer Cllr King, Seconder Cllr Carlisle

6.2. To consider and approve payments for Barley Town House Charity (as Sole Trustee of the Charity)

Barley Town House Charity EXPENSES

Nick Shaw	£513.64 (Exp for Nov & Dec 23)
NHDC Refuse	£109.53 (Trade Refuse Service)
PJ Robinson	£403.20 (Install Defib & Lighting)
Elvira Gudejnova	£327.00 (Lettings Fees)
Barley Property Maintenance	£72.00
TOTAL TH for approval	<u>£1,425.37</u>

Barley Town House Charity for Information

PNET TH paid by DD	£25.99
NHDC	£34.00
Octopus	£231.47 - TH Electricity DD monthly charge
Octopus	TH supply DD est £865 outstanding
Everflow Ltd	£40.55 - TH Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information	<u>£332.01</u>

INCOMES

Town House YTD	£20,366.61
TOTAL TH Incomes	<u>£20,366.61</u>

Bank Balances Held**Barley Town House Charity**

Main	£33,581.40 (5/1/2024)
Deposits	£3,180.00
Savings	£5,903.94
Total	<u>£42,665.34</u>

Deposits

Opening balance	£2,780.00
Received	£600.00
Refunded	-£200.00
Closing Balance	£3,180.00

Proposer Cllr King, Seconder Cllr Carlisle**6.3 BUDGET/Precept**

The proposed budget was ratified having been amended for the precept increase per the December meeting. The RFO raised the point that we were budgeting a deficit which does not conform to legislation, however Councillors decided not to amend the budget, and confirmed the budget as presented.

All Councillors then agreed the proposal for next years' (2024/2025) Precept in the sum of £32,000 plus the CTRS and The Clerk was instructed to make application.

Proposer - Cllr Carlisle, Seconder - Cllr Turner.**7. Reports from County/District Councillors****7.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill**

Cllr Hill reported that:

The Barley Highway Action Plan has been updated by the appropriate Highways officers, County and District councillors.

Fly Tipping issues on Picknage Road/Church End Junction, and at The Black Barn on the Royston Road have been reported and action is taking place between Council officers and landowners.

The County Council libraries continue with many events and activities, including 6 slipper swap events across the county, where 536 pairs of slippers were given away to help prevent falls. At each event, an OT was present to give advice. The Winter Reads Challenge will until 24th February 2024. Details can be found on their websites and social media or searching <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/library-events.aspx>

The County Council is now going through the next budget process. Additional funding has already been put into SEND to help with recruitment and training. HCC is also aiming to provide around 1,000 additional specialist provision places by 2027.

The consultation on HCC's proposed admission arrangements for 2025/26 closed on 11th December 2023. Parents are being encouraged to apply for Primary, Junior and Middle school places before the deadline of 15th January 2024.

Drainage works (repairs) will be taking place on Cambridge Road and in the High street during the year.

The numbered HCC salt bins have been filled (with a couple of exceptions – to be resolved) and the community salt bins, from HCC Locality Budget funding, have been filled with the salt provided free by HCC. The bin from Settle is also in place.

Street Cleaning has taken place on part of the B1368. Councillors are in contact with District/County Council officers as there is confusion as to why the whole road has not been cleaned. This could cause issues with flooding if not cleared.

Cllr Haughey and Cllr Turner have advised that the east side of London Road still isn't being swept by North Herts District Council.

"North Herts Council's Cabinet Members have agreed to be more flexible in their waste contract negotiations." This could result in less public litter bins, the scrapping of dedicated seasonal leaf clearance and an impact on fly-tip removal, plus other changes to the service which would have an adverse impact on residents. Councillor Hill does not support these proposals.

7.2 To receive a report from Cllr Gerald Morris

Cllr Morris reported that:

- He will follow up and find out more regarding the proposed dropping of leaf cleansing in the new waste contract.
- He will also follow up with the Street Cleaning team regarding the lack of visits and cleansing of the East side of London Road.
- The issue at a residence on Picknag Road regarding an enforcement letter they received from NHDC requiring the removal of a vehicle(s) on land in front of their property has been resolved.
- Cllr Carlisle requested the raising of the curb at the old Fox and Hounds entrance from Church End to avoid flooding on the pavement. This matter had been raised with HCC a number of years ago but no action has been taken. Cllr Hill has reported it online and in separate correspondence to a Highways Officer.
- The Parish Clerk raised the issue of the blocked drain outside Whiteposts. Cllr Carlisle advised there is a new drain gully planned to be put in as confirmed on the Barley Highway Action Plan. The Clerk will notify the resident that this is to take place.

8. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

8.1 Barley Town House Charity (as Sole Trustee)

- 8.1.1 There is a Town House Charity Committee meeting scheduled for the 16th January at 6pm.
- 8.1.2 The roof valley has now been cleared of debris.
- 8.1.3 Darren Partt has offered to wash and wax the Town House floors free of charge as a contribution to the village.
- 8.1.4 2 weddings have been cancelled this year with another postponed due to worries over cost of living which will affect projected profits.
- 8.1.5 Hertfordshire County Council have questioned the cost of the Town House daily hire fee of £1,000 for the upcoming May 2024 elections. The Parish Council suggested offering them the discounted fee of £600 which was the charge for last years elections.
- 8.1.6 The latest Town House Insurance documentation needs to be displayed on the noticeboard.
- 8.1.7 Health and Safety documentation - The Parish clerk will write instructions for the key holders and Contractors that everyone is happy with as the existing summary of the key points are not considered sufficient for contractors use.
- 8.1.8 The Defibrillator is now installed and ready to use.

8.2 Plaistow

- 8.2.1 The Plaistow Fence is due to be repaired imminently, depending on weather.
- 8.2.2 Issue with a swollen gate at the high street side of the Plaistow. This will be addressed when work to the footpaths will commence – dates for this still to be confirmed.
- 8.2.3 Cllr Haughey will take over the responsibility of the monthly Plaistow safety checks.
- 8.2.4 2 dead saplings still need to be replaced in The Plaistow. The Clerk will follow up with the Gardening Club on their plans.

9. Other items

- 9.1.1 The defibrillator on the Town House is now installed, Safety light is in, and it is registered on The Circuit. Cllr Hearn has advised that she's unsure if the heated box is working and can we double check it. Cllr Haughey has confirmed he will look into this. Cllr Hearn will look into training opportunities for the public for the village defibs and will liaise with The Clerk on appropriate communications on social media about them.
- 9.1.2 Cllr Hearn suggested procuring spare pads for the new defib on the Town House at a cost of £86.40 + VAT. The council approved.
- 9.1.3 Cllr Hearn also suggested purchasing 2 Apple Airtags to allow us to track the defibs at any time, at a one-off cost of around £80. The Council approved.
- 9.1.4 Cllr Hearn will put together a document for all information we hold about the defibrillators and will share it with the Clerk for filing.

10. Clerks Report

- 10.1 The Ditch Clearing required along the length of the Sewage Works road by Anglian Water was completed in December 2023. Clearing the ditch that crosses the field in the Plaistow is yet to be done by the landowner. The Parish Clerk raised the issue regarding the new Draytons development and what steps the developer is proposing to ensure that the surface water discharge for which they are responsible into the ditch running alongside part of the site is to be maintained including their contribution towards keeping the ditch clear. It was agreed that The Clerk should write to the developer for confirmation.
- 10.2 Cllr Carlisle advised there have been lots of comments about the roof tiles on the Victorian houses at Draytons. Cllr Carlisle requests that we write to NH Planning asking them if they received an application for using these tiles. The Council agreed.
- 10.3 Cllr Carlisle also advised a new pothole is emerging on the road to the Butterfield Estate/opposite the entrance to Barley Surgery which needs reporting to Highways as this is on the section of road that they are due to adopt.
- 10.4 Cllr Hearn has requested review of speeding in Picknage Road. Cllr Hill advised that a Speed and Volume survey may be available in the Locality Budget. The Clerk will look to organise this with Cllr Hill.
- 10.6 A ViaCam meeting was held in December with Karl Stonebank and team to review the performance of the cameras with regards to speeding in the village. A survey is also currently being conducted on the Barley Village Facebook page regarding the perceived effectiveness of the speed cameras on speeding through the village.

11. Additional business

- 11.1 The Air Ambulance have enquired about the possibility of another donation to their charity. The Clerk will look into if this is allowed under our governance.
- 11.2 Cllr Cayford has agreed to check all the wooden benches in the village.

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

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 5th February 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
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