

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE AT 8pm ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**1. Present**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr I Turner, Cllr G Clark, Cllr P McPartland, Dst. Cllr Gerald Morris, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), Mr Tim Martin (RFO)

4 members of the public

**2. Apologies**

County Cllr Tony Hunter, Cllr Yvonne Lee

**3. Councillor's Declaration of Interest**

No declarations

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January '17 were read and approved.  
Proposed by Cllr G Clark and seconded by Cllr I Turner.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Clerk has had no further response from BT as to when the adoption of the red telephone box in Smiths End Lane might be possible. She agreed to continue to pursue them for an answer.

Cllr Carlisle met with Mr Gary Henning of Hertfordshire Highways to discuss various issues around the village. Amongst other things, Mr Henning agreed to look at the bridge along Royston Road that needs some works to the railings, it is hoped that these works may be undertaken using funds from the locality budget. Ongoing issues with the road gullies around the village, but particularly London Road were discussed and the poor road surface along Church End is being followed up as this is an issue with the contractors used to lay it. Mr Henning additionally agreed to investigate further the ownership of Bankside and who would be responsible for maintaining the trees.

Cllr Carlisle also discussed Pudding Lane with Mr Henning and asked if he was aware if it was considered to be a public highway. Mr Henning provided a Land Registry title number and upon further investigation it has been found that a caution has been placed on the title to whoever may claim ownership of Pudding Lane stating that the owners of Churchfields, a property which lies at the end of Pudding Lane, claim a right of way over Pudding Lane. This is not a demonstration of ownership of Pudding Lane but a 'caution' on the title to Pudding Lane by the owners of Churchfields alerting anybody claiming title to Pudding Lane that the owners of Churchfields claim a right of way over it to access their property.

Cllr Carlisle took the opportunity to clarify the regulations regarding hedges which border the highway. He confirmed that from previous discussions with Hertfordshire Highways the highway boundary in this location is set back from the edge of the road perhaps by as much as a metre. Cllr Turner agreed to go and speak with the owners of 4 & 6 Crossways regarding their concerns over the specific requirements concerning their hedge that borders London Road and our concerns that it is currently overhanging the road and causing problems.

## **6. Planning**

### ***Fox & Hounds Public House, High Street, Barley***

The landowner, Mr Adrian Parkes, has confirmed to North Herts District Council (NHDC) his intention to sell the Fox & Hounds Public House and NHDC notified Barley Parish Council by email on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 that this has triggered the interim six week moratorium period, during which community groups may request to be treated as a potential bidder for the asset. The Parish Council organised a village meeting which was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 in the Town House attended by in excess of 100 people when it was unanimously agreed by those present at the meeting that they wanted to have the opportunity to bid for the pub. Further to that meeting the Parish Council, as an appropriate community interest group for these purposes, resolved at its meeting today to inform NHDC of its intention to bid for the asset and this in turn will trigger the full moratorium period which will run from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017 until 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (inclusive) by which time a formal bid will need to have been made. Further discussions took place regarding the need to form a working party to take the bidding process forward.

### ***Decision on Shaftenhoe End to Bell Lane, Restricted Byway application in Barley.***

#### ***Ref: NH285MOD***

Following discussions it was agreed that not only do we not object to this application, the Parish Council positively support it. The Clerk was asked to respond to this effect.

### ***Barley Footpath 14 diversion order***

The diversion order relating to Footpath 14 between Bogmoor Road and Bell Lane, Barley has now been submitted by Hertfordshire County Council to the Planning Inspectorate for determination. Angela Simpkins, Definitive Map Officer of HCC will keep the Parish Council informed as the determination progresses.

*Dst Cllr Morris left the meeting*

## **7. Town House**

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee advised that the floor of the upstairs floor has now been stripped back and re-stained. Busy Bees will shortly be installing a dehumidifier in the upstairs kitchen to help combat the damp during the winter months particularly. The fridge in the downstairs has now been replaced and all of the more 'major' tasks on the Management Committees 'wish list' have been completed. Mrs Fran Bowman has kindly volunteered to maintain the small gardens around the town house. Mr Shaw asked that the bottle cooler fridge be removed and Cllr Turner offered to store it in his barn as it was a useful item to be used for the Village Show.

## 8. Finance Officers report & signing of payments

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

### Parish Council

Laura Childs	Clerk fees & office expenses (January)	£ 325.20
Hardcastle Burton	PAYE shortfall	£ 18.50
Graham Clark	Reimbursed for refuse bags and gate latch	£ 7.56
Brian Haughey	Reimbursed for childrens speed signs and sundries	£ 59.24
Tim Martin	RFO (Jan) & stationary reimbursement	£ 122.10
HAPTC	Payment for Cllr P McPartland Basic Councillor training	£ 40.00
Mr James King	Sum for new fencing to the Plaistow	£ 1,191.96
Norbury's	Materials for fencing to the Plaistow	£ 488.04

It was agreed that these payment should be made

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr McPartland

### Town House

Carol Robinson	January cleaning & refuse bags	£ 93.25
Nick Shaw	Reimbursed for new fridge	£ 278.99
Nick Shaw	Cleaning (includes reimbursement for disposal of old fridge & descaler)	£ 60.25
Darren Partt	Refurbishing floor upstairs, painting walls upstairs	
	Removing mould & touching up kitchen paint work	£ 1,741.04
Ian Turner	Reimbursed for staging materials	£ 82.50

It was agreed that these payments should be made

Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr McPartland

Mr Martin explained that he had received a letter from the pensions regulator regarding the auto enrolment pension scheme outlining the Parish Councils responsibilities to its employees.

Mr Martin advised that the Financial Risk Assessment was due for review next month and he agreed to circulate the Risk Assessment schedule to everyone prior to next months meeting.

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

## 9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Clark advised that the new fencing installation has now been completed by Mr James King and that Mr King had invoiced us for the labour to undertake the work and a separate invoice for the materials.

Cllr Carlisle asked Cllr Clark to request a quotation from Bullards for the grass cutting of the Plaistow for the coming year to include the new playground area and strimming around and beneath the fences of the playground area.

Cllr Turner advised that he has resigned from the Tennis Club committee.

## **10. Website**

Cllr McPartland advised that the meeting that the new website working group, which is made up of Mr Andy Lee, Cllr Lee, Mr Martin and Cllr McPartlands daughter, Claire, had recently had their second meeting and good progress is being made. They are expecting to receive a quotation from a website design company called Minted Box, who do a lot of work for charities and it is hoped that the overall cost should come in under the £2,000 budget. A third meeting is proposed shortly and it is hoped that shortly after that there will be a proposal to put before the Parish Council with more details of how the new website will work. The working group are aiming for a date of 30 June 2017 to launch the new village website.

## **11. Scout Hut**

Cllr Carlisle has been told that Mr Jonathan Walters has been asked to join the Scout Committee to assist with several of their upcoming projects. Cllr Carlisle has hopes that this may speed up the progress with renewing the lease of the Scout Hut.

## **12. Lock Up**

Cllr Lee emailed prior to the meeting to advise that she is still waiting to hear back from our contractor Between Times with a start date for the works

## **13. Health & Safety**

Cllr Carlisle has confirmed that the Council will need to review the Risk Assessments over the coming couple of months. Other than this there were no other outstanding items.

## **14. Correspondence**

Cllr Carlisle has received an email from the school, who are again raising their concerns over the bees that have taken residence in the wall of the club room. They are asking again for our tenant, Bright Advertising to have the bees removed. The previous advice received from a specialist called in by Bright Advertising was that the bees are masonry bees and are not the sort of bees that swarm and sting and that as a protected insect they are not allowed to be destroyed. This advice still stands but the school have requested a meeting with Bright Advertising to discuss further and have asked that a member of the Parish Council be present at that meeting. Cllr Carlisle will attend.

Email correspondence has been received from Mrs Barbara Sedgwick of 4 Crossways following the Parish Councils request to have their hedge trimmed back. Mrs Sedgwick has requested clarification as to the specific extent that their hedge needs to be trimmed back. Cllr Turner agreed that he would visit Mrs Sedgwick and answer her queries.

All other correspondence received is to be circulated amongst Councillors.

## **15. Any Other Business**

It was discussed whether there was merit in organising a team of people to litter pick around the village.

Cllr Carlisle reminded everyone that we still have a vacancy on the Parish Council for another Councillor, the Clerk was asked to place another advert in the next issue of The Diary and everyone agreed to approach anyone they felt might be interested.

Meeting closed at 22:10