

**BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council**  
**held by Zoom on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**1. PRESENT**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King, Cllr Brian Haughey, Cllr Bill Sterland.

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Mel Chammings (Clerk), District Cllr Morris, County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Tony Hunter  
2 members of the public.

**3. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.**

Apologies were received from Tim Martin(RFO).

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ian Turner declared an interest in the Prior Consent for Change of Use to the Hay Barn at Wells Cottages, due to an ongoing business relationship with the applicant (Rand) although this did not directly affect this application. Cllr Bill Sterland also declared an interest as a neighbour in relation to the amended application for Church Cottage. Both declarations were noted by the Council. No other declarations of interest were made.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 were read and approved.

Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

**6. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS** to be taken later

1. Three issues to be taken during Plaistow report.(Cllr Carlisle)
2. Storage of parish council papers( Cllr Lee)

**7. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 MEETING**

Cllr. Carlisle led the session on the action log which had been distributed with the agenda papers.

Cleared action.

- 1) Cllr Carlisle had commissioned Savills to investigate the Town House roof and chimney.
- 2) Minted Box (website host) had made the accessibility adjustments to the website .
- 3) Rural police had undertaken random speed checks in the village.

*District Cllr Hunter and County Cllr Hill arrived 20.10*

Actions outstanding

- 1) There was no further information from Mr Doggett about responsibility for the maintenance of the land/ditch running alongside the concrete road leading to the sewage works.
- 2) Although the Village Plan Review meetings were postponed, Cllr Lee hoped to continue work on the survey questions.
- 3) The meeting with Sir Oliver Heald about the speeding issue and Barley's APNR proposal was put on hold due to Covid 19. County Cllr Hill reported that the key Highways and Safety officers were on board and suggested

that a meeting was held with them rather than involving the MP. This change of action was accepted.

- 4) Cllr. Carlisle had obtained one quote for the tree works behind the scout hut at £4000 and was awaiting a second quote. He also said that it would be beneficial to obtain a third quote from a new company seeking work in the area and who had recently contacted the council.
- 5) A further iteration of the Highways Action Plan, identifying Barley priorities was sent to Derek Jerrard (HCC Highways) and County Cllr Fiona Hill. The plan was updated to include reinstatement of rumble strips and signs.
- 6) We were still waiting for a proposal from Drainworx for repairs to the cesspit a) fit for current usage and b) for use if and when additional facilities were installed. Cllr Haughey agreed to pursue other companies.
- 7) Countryside Management were informed about the need for footpath repairs to the fence/gate at Lovely View and the bridge onto Barkway Road from Rand's field. The Clerk would follow this up and also request that the vegetation on key footpaths be cut back.  
It was agreed that Cllr Carlisle would ask a local contractor to quote for periodic clearance of footpaths.

## 8 PLANNING

1. **Consultation reference: 20/00059/FPH and 20/00060/LBC Single Storey rear extension (as amended), Church cottage, Church lane, Barley**

The council had no objections to this application

2. The Parish Council application for the works at the rear of the scout hut was currently under consideration.
3. The council had been informed about an appeal against the refusal by NHDC of planning permission to the proposed development behind Brick House. Cllrs were asked to review our previous objections and the applicants recent appeal documents and to let Cllr Carlisle know if they wished to make any further comments.
4. The Prior Consent for Change of Use of the Hay barn, at Wells Cottages was still under consideration. A number of residents along Smiths End Lane had commissioned an independent highways report to support their objections to the application. District Cllr Morris was asked to request that this application should be referred to the Planning Committee for determination rather than be decided by the planning officers under their delegated powers. Cllr Morris asked for a short note from the Parish Council outlining the planning issues that need to be considered.

*District Cllr Morris left at 20.25*

**9. County Cllr Hill gave a general update** on issues affecting the parish to include;  
Royston recycling centre was open for essential waste. A query by Cllr Turner was taken off line.

Royston Library was open on a click and collect basis.

County Cllr Hill would remind Derek Jerrard to respond to the update of the Barley Highways Action Plan.

The trees on London Road were becoming a safety problem again following storm damage. Cllr Carlisle asked County Cllr Hill if Highways would contact the owners on this occasion, as negotiations between the parish council and the householders proved somewhat difficult last year.

County Cllr Hill also informed the Council that she was involved in the issue of ownership of the lane/lay-by off Picknage Road. There was a dispute between Settle (formerly North Herts Homes) and HCC, but all the key players were now talking to each other. County Cllr Hill would keep us informed.

#### **10. TOWN HOUSE**

In Mr Shaw's absence the Clerk reported on the Town House Committee meeting to discuss re opening, including the guidance on re-opening halls supplied by ACRE. Factors taken into account were:

- There were no weddings booked until October/November
- Regular users were in the main reluctant to return yet
- Little use would normally be made of the facility in August
- The guidance to make the building Covid secure was extensive and would mean increased costs for signage, sanitising and cleaning with no income coming in.

On the basis above the committee recommended to the trustees that the Town house remained close. This was agreed.

A further committee meeting would take place in mid August to review the decision.

#### **11. FINANCE**

The RFO had previously distributed the list of payments to be made;  
Barley Parish Council

|               |        |  |
|---------------|--------|--|
| M Chammings   | 353.40 | Clerk for June   |
| M Chammings   | 175.09 | Reimbursement for Annual Zoom and Norton anti-virus software |
| T Martin      | 333.20 | RFO for June   |
| Sapele Design | 105.00 | Amendment to planning re containers                          |
| CDA Herts     | 35.00  | Annual membership  |
| G Booth       | 734.00 | Churchyard grasscutting and Accessories March to June        |

Barley Town House

|        |        |  |
|--------|--------|--|
| N.Shaw | 113.62 | Reimbursement window<br>Cleaning and cleaning<br>materials |
|--------|--------|--|

The Barley Parish and Town House payments were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Turner.

Other financial matters

An increase in tax free home office allowance for the Clerk and RFO from £18 to £26 was approved.

**12. RECREATION GROUND**

The issue of the school trees overhanging the Plaistow and tennis court was discussed. In conjunction with this the school had emailed a plan of the trees that had been surveyed, asking for a contribution to cost.

It was not clear from the plan if the offending trees were included, and whether the tree work in the school survey would be sufficient to rectify the problem. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a response to the school, proposing a meeting between Cllr Sterland and Cllr Turner to establish the extent of the work and the next steps.

Cllr Carlisle had received correspondence relating to the problem of dog mess on the footpath from Picknag Road to the Plaistow. It was noted that the footpath was not on Parish Council land and therefore not in its control. It was also noted that the occurrence of dog excrement on footpaths and roadways generally appeared to have increased since lockdown. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a piece for the Diary and the Village Facebook page. In addition it was agreed to source signs for the Plaistow and key footpaths, similar to those on the cricket pitch. The Clerk would respond to the complainant.

There had been several enquiries about opening the playground. Following discussion it was agreed that we would be guided by NHDC who had decided not to open NHDC playgrounds yet. This decision would be kept under review.

The solitary net attached to the goal post nearest to High Street homes was in very bad repair and should be removed. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would purchase a replacement net.

**13. HEALTH & SAFETY**

There were no further H&S issues other than those that had been reported earlier in the meeting.

The Clerk had not yet received a response from DBA safety, but would continue to pursue this.

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Lee reported that she and the Clerk had examined the facility for storage of Parish Council documents. It was agreed that the documents would be examined to identify what could now be destroyed. The RFO would also be consulted.

The cabinets were not easily accessible and neither were they fireproof and once the review had been carried out consideration should be given to replacing them. Cllr Haughey suggested that once the new storage containers were in situ then documents could be stored safely off site.

It had come to Cllr Lee's attention that a significant development was planned at North Hall Farm, which sat within the South Cambridgeshire District. This development could have an effect on traffic going through Barley and certainly the already difficult junction at Flint Cross. County Cllr Hill said that she and NHDC had made representations before about lack of consultation on planning applications that bordered our area. She was on the A505 Steering group and would raise this particular development.

County Cllr Hill notified members about the HCC Speed Management Strategy. The consultation closed in September. Cllr Haughey, on behalf of the Council, would scrutinise the strategy and highlight areas pertaining to Barley.

Cllr King asked if any further thought had been given to installing an adult outdoor gym on the Plaistow. Cllr Lee said that this suggestion had not been taken up by residents when the last village plan had been developed, but now that the attitude to health and well being had changed, the idea may gain a positive response this time. Meanwhile Cllrs King and Turner would look at the equipment that was provided at Gt. Chishill and suggest what might be appropriate for the Plaistow.

The meeting ended at 21.20

The next planned meeting would be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

