

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2016**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr I Turner, Cllr G Clark, Cllr Y Lee, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), Mr Tim Martin (RFO), Mr Nick Shaw (Town House Management Committee Chairman), Mr Bill Bampton of Pelham Structures, 4 members of the public

2. Apologies

District Cllr Gerald Morris, County Cllr Tony Hunter,

3. Councillor's Declaration of Interest

None

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd October '16 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr G Clark and seconded by Cllr I Turner.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Clark reported that Mr Partt is progressing the renovation works to the red telephone box on the High Street, it is understood that he is awaiting replacement glass to arrive. Cllr Clark agreed to monitor progress. Additionally an interest has been expressed by several residents of Smiths End Lane to look into carrying out a similar project with their red telephone box, as their own collective expense, and the Clerk was asked to find out if it was still possible to adopt this box.

Mr Brian Haughey advised that the new speed activated interactive flashing sign has been up for several weeks in various locations around the village, with the flashing part of the sign switched off, in order to gather data as a base line. The flashing sign has now been switched on and has been in place along London Road, by the Chequers pub. Early indications are promising as there has been some improvement seen in the speeds monitored since the activation of the flashing element of the sign. Mr Haughey will continue to move the sign around the village and continue to monitor. Cllr Clark asked Mr Haughey for any data that he could take to his next meeting with Sgt Guy Westwood.

Cllr Clark reported that he had spoken with Mrs Northen of Ginmeister Ltd on the progress of their impending premises move. It is understood that the paperwork is with lawyers for the temporary property and that the office element of the business will be moved by December however the weights and measures / bonded element wouldn't be moved until January 2017.

The Clerk has still be unable to get a response from the planning department regarding any application for renovation works to the boundary wall at Nobles Cottage, which is gradually falling down. Cllr Carlisle asked the Clerk to continue trying to get a response and perhaps try another planning officer as an alternative point of contact.

Cllr Clark has been advised that it would be possible for the Parish Council to pay for the services of a PCSO for the day but not a Police Constable. However while this is a move in the right direction concerns remain that the powers of a PCSO are limited in that they are unable to issue speeding tickets. It was felt that if it was possible to pay for the services of a PCSO then why not a police officer who can issue tickets. Cllr Clark was asked to revisit the issue with the police accordingly.

The Clerk reported that she has contacted County Councillor Tony Hunter regarding who would be the best contact regarding the blocked gullies along London Road. The Clerk had received a response to say that he had passed our enquiry on to an officer who will evaluate and inspect whether they need to be dug out. Currently we are awaiting further feedback and the Clerk agreed to chase again.

Cllr Turner has spoken to Mr Darren Partt about repairing the access road to the car park at the rear of the Town House where a large dip/pot hole has formed. Mr Partt expects the cost to be approx. £250 to complete the job, to include materials required. He has suggested that the car park should be closed whilst he is repairing it as any new concrete/tarmac will need time to set and suggests that 3 days should be sufficient. Due to the Scouts use of the car park and impending Christmas events it was suggested that some length of notice needs to be given to allow users to make alternative arrangement.

Complaints have been received about the light in the Car Park at the back of the Town House which is flickering on and off all night during windy weather and shines into adjacent properties bedroom windows. Discussions took place about a possible shield being installed.

6. Planning

Presentation by Mr Bill Bampton of Pelham Structures of development on land behind the Doctors surgery, High Street, Barley

Mr Bampton explained that further to his previous presentation to the Parish Council they have taken on board comments made and have worked these into the proposals, which have now formed a formal application that has just been presented to NHDC.

They are now proposing 9 houses, which range from a pair of semi detached properties to a large 5 bedroom detached home. The scheme would also be a benefit to the doctors surgery by increasing the amount of car parking spaces and moving an electricity substation to allow potential further growth of treatment rooms at the surgery.

The Clerk confirmed that she has not as yet received any official notification of this planning application.

Application ref: 16/02218/1HH Spindrift, Picknage Road, Barley Full planning permission: Two storey side extension

The Parish Council deferred their decision on this application at our last meeting as we hadn't viewed the appeal decision on the last application. That application was for development on both sides of the existing property with dormer windows set into the roof line. The Appeal was refused on grounds of poor design and being detrimental to the Conservation area. The Appeal was dismissed.

Following discussions it was agreed to respond that this latest application addresses all of the previous objections raised at the appeal. The Parish Council have no objections to the application in principle but would ask that the elevations are rendered to match the existing finish rather than the boarding shown in the drawings.

The Fox & Hounds planning appeal and AoCV tribunal appeal

Cllr Carlisle advised that the planning appeal was due to be held tomorrow and that Cllr Lee and himself hoped to be able to present on behalf of the Parish Council, although that decision would be up to the Inspector. It was also understood that a coach had been laid on by Richmonds Coaches for any villagers who wished to attend. It was further understood that there may be some 50 or so people likely to attend which would certainly demonstrate the level of feeling within the village. The recent raid by the police on the pub and the subsequent discovery of a Cannabis factory will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the value of the property and substantial damage has apparently been caused, particularly to the upstairs rooms.

North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031 – Proposed Submission

As anticipated the plans for Barley remain unchanged, with no specified land allocated for development and a few minor changes to the village boundary. The Clerk agreed to circulate the complete Local Plan and associated maps with the rest of this months correspondence. Cllr Carlisle attended a recent meeting at NHDC on how to make comments or representations correctly and suggested that it would be good to meet briefly before the 30th November deadline to agree on a response.

Rights of Way request: NH285MOD – Shaftenhoe End to Bell Lane, Barley investigation report

This document has been sent through from the Rights of Way office following a request to re-establish an ancient right of way from Shaftenhoe End to Bell Lane, Barley. It is a lengthy document and the Clerk agreed to circulate it with the rest of this months correspondence with a view to discussing further at next months meeting.

7. Town House

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, advised that a management meeting was scheduled for the following week, everyone was invited. He confirmed that the hard wire testing was almost finished but had taken quite a long time to complete. It was found that the new kitchen had not been earthed and that one of the fire escape light fittings was broken and needed replacing. The biggest issue however was that the new fridge in the downstairs kitchen stood in front of the main oven switch which contravened recommended safety regulations. The option was to purchase a new smaller (under counter) fridge or move the main oven switch. A quote of £280 had been received to move the switch and a small amount for Mr Darren Partt to make good the plaster and paint work etc. It was agreed to instruct Busy Bee to get on with the necessary works to move the switch. Mr Shaw additionally advised that the Wedding Licence inspection had taken place and everything was in order.

8. Financial Officers report & signing of payments

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

Parish Council

Geoff Booth	Mowing around the village	£ 54.00
Tim Martin	RFO fees (October)	£ 179.79
Broadmead Leisure	Final payment for Play equipment	£ 900.00
The Play Inspection Company	Final / sign off inspection	£ 300.00
Barley First School	Prize for winning speed poster team	£ 100.00
Laura Childs	Clerk fees & office expenses (October)	£ 300.40

It was agreed that these payment should be made
Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Turner

Town House

Carol Robinson	Cleaning (October)	£	93.25
Alison Stacey	Letting Officer fees (October)	£	94.25
Ian Turner	New microphone system	£	133.75

It was agreed that these payments should be made

Proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Clark

Wedding deposits returned

Alice Law	£150
Wesley Tarlton	£150

Mr Martin confirmed that he has now received the VAT back for the Parish Council totalling £9,714 and £1,944 for the Town House.

The budget for next year will be prepared next month and the Clerk gave Mr Martin the subscription costs sent through from HAPTC.

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

9. Recreation Ground

Mrs Georgina Northen has forward an email to the Clerk from the Big Lottery Grant to confirm that we have now met all their criteria. We have been requested to retain all relevant documents for the next 7 years to fully comply with their criteria. They have additionally requested that the grant monies are noted on the annual accounts as coming from the Big Lottery Grant and Mr Martin agreed to do this via our internal figures.

The final inspection of the new playground has now taken place and all items are fully compliant. The Clerk has noted the Playground Inspection Company contact details for their follow up inspection due in the Spring.

Cllr Carlisle requested that Cllr Clark goes back to completing his 'tick list' that he did on a weekly basis when carrying out his regular inspections of the Plaistow and Play Ground.

Cllr Clark noted that one of the gate latches needs replacing and agreed to get this repaired. Cllr Carlisle has spotted some perimeter fencing that needs repairing as it has rotted and is falling over.

10. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that he has had a meeting with Curwens at the Scout Hut to go through the different proposed plans. The draft lease is now with the Scouts legal representatives.

11. Lock Up

Cllr Lee has now received the revised quotation from the building company which includes preparing all the necessary documentation for the works to the Lock Up being an Ancient Monument. They have given a further provisional sum of £1,700 for any drawings and meetings required and the meeting agreed that this was acceptable. Cllr Lee has requested their Health & Safety procedures particularly with regards to the works adjoining the highway and the CDM regulations generally and is awaiting their response. All being well she will go ahead and instruct them to proceed with the works on receipt of this information. Cllr Carlisle asked that Cllr Lee lets English Heritage know of our progression with the project in light of them putting a "building at risk" listing on it.

12. Website

The updating of the website has been an ongoing subject for some time now and Cllr Lee asked that it be added to the Agenda to ensure that it is taken forward as a project for updating and improving. Feedback from the Village Plan asked for improvements in communications throughout the village and one of the ways of doing this is to improve the website.

Mr Marc O'Brien, who has recently resigned as a Councillor, is currently the person responsible for updating the website and the only person who has access to it. This will obviously need to be resolved as soon as possible and then taken forward as to what format any new website would take on.

Discussions took place regarding a 'brief' for any new website, what sort of information is required, how would it be managed and updated going forward. Cllr Lee agreed to liaise with Mr Martin who has previously been working on ideas with the former Councillor Georgina Northen.

It was agreed that the Website would remain as an Agenda item.

13. Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle advised that he has met with Mrs Janine Drew of Drew & Baltrop, the Parish Councils' Health & Safety advisors. Most of the Risk Assessments reviewed revolve around the Town House and a few in the Plaistow. Some minor items were raised which included needing to display a Health & Safety sign in the Town House. Additionally a couple of new items are required which include Emergency Planning.

14. Correspondence

An email was received between meetings from Cllr M O'Brien resigning his position as Councillor, the Clerk was asked to write to Mr O'Brien thanking him for his contribution to the Parish Council and particularly his input with the AoCV submission for the Fox & Hounds.

Correspondence has been received via the school with regards to bees being found in the walls of the Clubroom. This was passed on to Mrs Wendy Cash as the tenant to resolve with Cllr Carlisle sending an email to Mr James Wild, the schools Health & Safety Governor advising of the previous history of this issue.

All other correspondence received is to be circulated amongst Councillors.

15. Any Other Business

The meeting looked at all the Speed Awareness signs that have been designed and painted by the village school children and chose 4 winners. Cllr Clark will present the prize at the school and hoped to get the Royston Crow involved for additional publicity and to raise further awareness.

Mr Peter McPartland attended the meeting and expressed his interest in joining the Parish Council as a Councillor. Cllr Carlisle asked him to put his interest in writing to the Clerk, which he agreed to do over the coming weeks. It is hoped that a decision can be made at the next meeting.

Cllr Turner asked if it was known where the water pump had gone that had stood on Bankside, nobody was aware that it had been officially removed and concerns were raised that it might have been stolen. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways and check that they hadn't removed it.

Meeting closed at 22:30