



**Barley Parish Council Meeting: 1st December 2025 at 7.30pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Cllr and Chair Yvonne Lee, Vice Chair Ali Hearn, Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, District Cllr Martin Prescott, Town House Chair Alan Wiltshire, RFO Lynn Brett, NHD Waste Service Manager Jeanette Lowden.

IN ATTENDANCE

1 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 County Councillor Ruth Brown, Cllr Cockrell and Cllr Cayford sent their apologies.

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 3rd November 2025 were approved, Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr Carlisle.

4. Public Participation

4.1 None

5. Jeanette Lowden – NHDC - A review of Barley Street Cleaning and Bins

Jeanette introduced herself as NHD Waste Service Manager and updated the meeting on the new bins and waste management roll out which has been considered a success. She advised that this has meant a delay in responding to other items in the area such as issues around street cleaning frequency and the public bin removals that affected the whole of NHDC.

She advised that the new contractor Veolia who now collect public refuse bins across North and East Herts, base their service costs not on area or village, but on cost to empty each public litter bin which was the reason for the 30% need to reduce the public litter bins across NHDC.

In 2027 a “deposit return scheme” will be introduced by the government, giving our refuse a monetary value such as where plastic bottles or metal cans are returned, a cash value will be given against them - which is expected to help to reduce general household waste, fly tipping, and decrease littering in general.

Street Cleansing in our area: NHDC Street Cleaning department have 3 vehicles and can use a shared machine from East Herts when necessary. It is output based / on requirement which gives the contractor the flexibility to go where the need is most.

She also confirmed that the relocation of the bin by the phone box library on Barley High Street will be moved down to the old bin location next to Hanaper Yard in the next few weeks.

Jeanette understands the frustrations the village has felt around the bin removals and lack of street cleaning since the new contractor has started (May 2025), and she confirmed that more focus will be on the street cleaning now that the bin roll out has happened. She also highlighted that local farmers needed to do more to cover their loads when transporting hay and straw and that we could report it to the police to issue fixed penalty notices. The Clerk advised that our local farmers use contractors; because we sit on the Cambs and Essex border and our roads are used by farmers in both these counties as well as Hertfordshire, this is very difficult to manage. Also stressed that the issue of "fall" is added to by leaves and low hanging tree branches of trees within the village.

Cllr Prescott asked the question what the likelihood was for the police to issue an FPN to local farmers who don't cover their loads adequately to avoid detritus spilling and the answer is that it is not completely known.

Cllr Carlisle asked the question if there was an opportunity for the village to self-help and organise our own clean up teams - if any grants could be made available to us. Jeanette advised that it was unlikely or that to the best of her knowledge grants were not available for such projects.

The Clerk agreed to liaise with Jeanette on next steps to help improve communications around the future street cleaning schedule.

6. Planning

6.1

New Application to divert a Public Right of Way Application No: NH/366/MOD

To divert the footpath as indicated on the plan below.



Barley Parish Council has not been formally notified of the application by HCC; rather it has been advised by Cllr Brown. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

It was also noted that the proposal involves two separate land ownerships; both owners will need to be involved in the application to divert.

The Clerk is to request clarity from Cllr Brown on the next steps forward.

6.2

Ref 25/02775: The Barn, Shaftenhoe End Road, Barley, SG88LE

Full Permission Householder: Single storey extension to existing rear dining room with canopy over and single storey extension to existing rear kitchen. Single Storey rear glazed link extension.

Barley Parish Council considered this application and no objections were raised.

6.3

Ref: 24/00765/FP Full Planning Permission (Further Amendments Dated 14th Nov):

Erection of two 3 bed dwellings and one 2-bed chalet bungalow with associated parking, amenity space and access to the site through the existing access off The Mount Foxlea, The Mount, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JH

Barley Parish Council considered the latest amendments as detailed above and resolved that the minor modifications submitted by the applicant do not address the Parish Council's concerns as to the damaging over development of the site. All previous concerns and objections remain and Barley Parish Council continues to object to this application.

6.4 Reference: 25/00867/FP: Scout Hut, Church End, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW: Full Planning Permission Erection of scout hut following demolition of existing scout hut.

The meeting discussed this application and considered several details on the application to be inaccurate. It was agreed that Cllrs Hearn and Carlisle, as the Cllrs nominated to lead on this matter, would meet with the Scouts to discuss the concerns. The meeting also asked the Clerk to request an extension of time from NH Planning, to allow these discussions to take place.

6.5 Any other building/planning concerns.

The Wellside Cottage Barn is a concern as it appears works have been carried out which were not included in the planning consent. The clerk to respond.

7. Village Speed Management

Update on the expected report for traffic calming measures in Barley.

KMC requested additional costs for getting OS data for the village at £54.14 inc VAT; and Highway Boundary Information for at a cost of £227 which are needed before they can produce the report. The meeting approved the costs.

Cllr Turner raised the issue of the recent government announcement that Police and Crime Commissioners in England will be phased out in the coming years and asked The Clerk to follow up with the OPPC to see how this will affect the Truvelo camera scheme the village has in place with them. The Clerk to action.

8. Parish Clerk Recruitment

Update on the recruitment of a new Clerk for the Council.

The meeting agreed the appointment of the new Clerk who will be announced in January 2026.

9. Reports from County/District Councillors

9.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown was not present.

9.2 To receive a report from District Cllr Prescott

Cllr Prescott updated the meeting on the current status of the Local government organisation in North Hertfordshire; the aim of the reorganisation is to reduce costs by changing from the existing 11 district councils in Hertfordshire, to either a 2, 3 or 4 unitary authorities.

There is concern amongst NHDC members that the final Cabinet vote did not reflect the wider views of the Council, who favour 2 unitary authorities as opposed to 4 supported by the Cabinet. Cllr Prescott advised there will be a vote of no confidence in the Leader.

10. Finance RFO report for the Parish Council

10.1 To consider and approve payments for the Council.

<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Payee	Date	Amount	For	
Alice Robertson	28/11/2025	£511.60	Clerk gross pay balance Nov & expenses	
Lynn Brett	28/11/2025	£231.16	RFO gross pay & expenses Nov	
Stewart Bullard	14/11/2025	£120.00	Trim Ivy Bankside to Plaistow	
Hardcastle Burton Llp	31/10/2025	£2,610.00	Professional Services to 31.10.25	
Broadmead Leisure Limited	13/11/2025	£420.00	Playground repairs from ROSPA report	
Stewart Bullard	21/11/2025	£2,725.80	Ground maintenance	
Alice Robertson	28/11/2025	£7.23	Padlock for allotments	
TOTAL BPC for approval		£6,625.79		
For Information				
Peninsula	26/11/2025	£223.45	Paid via DD	
Alice Robertson	28/11/2025	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC	
HAPTC	13/11/2025	£476.62	Membership Subscription 2026-2027 pre-approved awaiting invoice April 2026	
TOTAL BPC for information		£1,100.07	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED	
<u>INCOMES</u>				
		Year to Date		
VAT refund		£4,730.85		
Club Room		£10,911.93	Rent & Ins BBP	
NHDC precept		£33,564.00	Full Precept	
CTRS Grant		£556.66		
CDA Grant				
Other incomes		£275.00	Allotments	
Interest		£103.04		
Donations rec'd from TH		£12,471.51		
NHDC Donation		£1,512.00	Donation for benches	
TOTAL BPC Incomes		£64,124.99		
<u>Bank Balances Held</u>				
Barley Parish Council	account	Balance		
Main	2188	£51,132.27		
Savings	5127	£0.00		
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£12,407.02		
TOTAL BPC Banks		£63,539.29		
<u>Other Sections</u>				
Barley Show Profit		£2,317.39	Final	
Barley Show		£11,240.89		
Barley Tennis Club		£19,694.70	Bank balances	
<u>S137 expenditure limit</u>				
24/25	10.81	per elector		
25/26	11.1			
Precept Requested 25/26				
CTRS		£556.66		
Total		£34,120.66		

Proposed Cllr Carlisle, Seconded Cllr Turner.

11. Finance RFO report for the Town House Charity (As sole Trustee)

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

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Payee	Date	Amount
Brian Haughey	08/11/2025	£969.00
Kevin Starling	27/11/2025	£55.00
Barley Parish Council	01/12/2025	£2,000.00
TOTAL TH for approval		<u>£3,024.00</u>
<u>For Information</u>		
PNET	24/11/2025	£26.99
NHDC	3/11/2025	£47.00
Octopus	14/11/2025	£189.92
Everflow Ltd	24/11/2025	£49.79
TOTAL TH for Information		<u>£313.70</u>
<u>INCOMES</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Town House YTD		£14,720.00
BPC Donation		
Bank Interest		40.01
TH Events		£573.96
TOTAL TH Incomes		<u>£15,333.97</u>
<u>Bank Balances Held</u>		Balance
Barley Town House		
Main	3265	£34,968.43
Deposits	8330	£5,600.00
Savings	8104	£6,053.96
		<u>£46,622.39</u>
<u>Deposits</u>		
Opening balance		£5,500.00
Received		£400.00
Refunded		-£300.00
Trf to main ac		
Closing Balance		<u>£5,600.00</u>

Proposed Cllr Carlisle and Seconded Cllr Hearn.

12. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

12.1 Town House Charity (as Sole Trustee)

To receive a report from the Chairman of the Town House Charity Committee together with confirmation that all necessary safety checks have been carried out.

12.1.1 A new fridge has been installed upstairs

12.1.2 Outside groundwork has been done recently, tidying the immediate area.

12.1.3 Another electrician may be needed for the Town House and is being looked in to.

12.1.4 The H & S Meeting in Jan with Peninsula is being organised by the Clerk of Barley Parish Council.

12.2 Plaistow, Children's Playground, Green areas

12.2.1 To receive a report and note any issues arising in the Plaistow together with confirmation that all necessary weekly safety checks have been carried out.

The Clerk is currently liaising with Robert Lloyd of HCC's Footpaths & Rights of Way to determine whose responsibility it is for repairing the rotting kissing gates and fence posts of the footpath at the bottom of the Plaistow. Robert Lloyd advised that kissing gates, unless needed for livestock are outdated and should be replaced by latch gates. The meeting asked the Clerk to get a quote to replace the gates in disrepair with latch gates.

12.2.2 To discuss non urgent repair works from Broadmead Leisure to Plaistow equipment.

The Playground needs some repair works on some play equipment. A board for £300 and some bolt caps at £5 & £10 each. The Council agreed to all costs.

12.2.3 The Clerk advised the meeting that The Tennis Club emailed that a branch had dropped from one of the Horse Chestnut Trees that is within the school grounds, falling near the seating area of the Tennis Courts. The Tennis Club advised they had emailed the school to ask them to get a tree surgeon to check and prune the trees where necessary. The Clerk requested that she is kept informed by both the School and The Tennis Club on when the work will be done.

13. Parish Clerk Report

13.1.1 The Clerk confirmed she is chasing when the repairs will be carried out on the new footpath surface from Church End to the Plaistow following rain damage. (Footpath 006).

13.1.2 The trim to overgrown green areas within the village have been done.

13.1.3 The purchase of a new combination lock to replace the padlock and key at the Allotments was requested. The meeting approved.

13.1.4 The Run off Water Ditch that runs from The High Street, alongside Draytons Close, through the field to Picknage Road has been dug out in the landowner of the field.

13.1.5 The Clerk has emailed Sworders about a valuation of paintings gifted to the Parish Council and is awaiting a response.

14. Items for future discussion

RESUS Council UK have published guidance on Defibrillators which Cllr Hearn has requested to be added for consideration to the next Agenda.

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

The RFO and Cllr Turner requested a delay of the next PC meeting to the 12th Jan from the 5th. The meeting agreed. The next Parish Council Meeting will be 12th January 2026 at the usual time of 8pm.

Contact: Alison Gibson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
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