

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held at the Town House on Monday 6th January 2020

1. PRESENT

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

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mel Chammings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), Nick Shaw
1 member of the public.

3. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from County Cllr Hill, District Cllr Morris, District Cllr Hunter.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2019 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Sterland by and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES of 2nd DECEMBER MEETING

The clerk was asked to report on the action log which had been distributed with the agenda papers.

Cleared actions

- 1) The clerk confirmed that the school emergency exit in the Town House car park was still required as the final exit for staff and pupils.
- 2) County Cllr Hill confirmed that wildlife signage would be installed on the Barley/Royston road and that use could be made of the Locality budget.
- 3) Countryside Management had contacted the landowner about the broken kissing gate and fencing on FP 17 and repairs were in hand.
- 4) In relation to the speeding proposal the clerk had acknowledged the letter from Richard Hann. [see further action at agenda 13]

Action carried forward

- 1) Cllr Lee had agreed to carry out further research on the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Plans and report back to the December meeting. It was agreed that this action would be deferred until February or March so that views could be sought from residents at the village plan review meeting in January. Cllr Lee hoped to have a summary ready for that meeting.
- 2) The request to plant a tree at the bottom of Bakers Lane had been passed to the county Asset Department for permission. *{subsequently the response received was negative}*

- 3) In relation to the ownership of the ditch in Picknage Road and alongside the access road to the sewage works and hence responsibility for keeping them clear, Cllr Carlisle would speak to both the farmer and to HCC to try to get a definitive answer. It was noted however that part of the solution did appear to fall within the HCC remit at least so far as that part of the watercourse that runs under Picknage Road is concerned as the issue was on the Highways Action Plan. Mr Shaw reported that the water was flowing freely through the drain on his land.
- 4) Cllr Lee reported that there was only one Utility Services company locally. She would seek a quote for the examination of the cesspit behind the scouts hut from Drain-worx, Welwyn Garden City.
- 5) The Council was disappointed at the lack of breadth of the recently published Conservation Statement. Cllr Lee would send a full response on behalf of the Council in due course. Meanwhile the Clerk would send a holding letter to the HCC responsible officer.
- 6) The council decided that four deer signs would be required: two on the Royston/Barley Road and two on the Flint Cross road. (One on each direction on each road). The Clerk would contact Cllr Hill who had confirmed that the signage would be obtained from the Highways Locality Budget.

7. PLANNING

Consultation reference: 19/02848/FP Erection of one 5-bed dwelling following demolition of existing.

Wells Cottages, Smiths End Lane, Barley

The council had no objections to this application.

**Consultation reference: 19/02088/FPHBurnel's Barn, Shaftenhoe End, Barley
Erection of garage/store/office building at rear, alteration to fencing and
introduction of gravel drive and erection of boundary gates to the North elevation
and ancillary works**

The Council objected to this application.

It noted that this was an amended application.

The Design and Heritage Statement was now wrong and needed substantial amendment to reflect the changed proposals as set out in the amended plan nos. PLO2D and PLO1C. The Conservation Officer made the same point in his comments dated 16th December 2019.

It was also noted that the Conservation Officer was now satisfied with the amended design of the proposed store and office building but the Council's view was that the proposed new 1.8m high close boarded gates and fence and their relocation were inappropriate. They create an enclosed entrance rather than an openness to the barn and outbuildings as exists at the present time with the nature of the current low level 5 bar field gate. No rationale or justification had been provided for this quite dramatic visual change or the need to relocate the gates from their present position. It is our view that the proposed new gates and their relocation would cause harm to the appearance of the outbuildings and occasion harm to the existing listed

barns. The Conservation Officer specifically referred to this issue in his comments dated 31st October 2019. Although the proposed location of these gates has been amended slightly, the fundamental problem of their height and construction remains the same and it was unanimously agreed that this was unacceptable.

8. TOWN HOUSE

Mr. Shaw reported that:

- The tree next to the hut in the bus parking area was covered in ivy which needed to be removed. Cllr Turner and King agreed to carry out the necessary work.
- The damp in the small room on the first floor had returned. Mr Shaw would commission appropriate work to resolve the issue.
- Cleaning had improved.
- Regular hirers found it difficult to bring the large tables up and down stairs. It was agreed that six sturdy yet lightweight tables should be purchased to replace the wooden ones stored in the committee room.

9. FINANCE

The RFO reported the following payments were due to be made:-

Barley Parish Council

M Chamings	354.00	Clerking for Dec.
Hardcastle and Burton	216.00	Payroll services to 31.12.19
Hardcastle and Burton	843.00	Annual review of TH accounts
S Bullard	1297.80	Grass cutting Plaistow 2019
G Booth	542.00	Grass cutting churchyard from Aug –Nov 21019
HMRC	420.00	PAYE for last quarter
T Martin	171.60	RFO for Dec.

The above payments were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland

Barley Town House

C. Robinson	100.00	Cleaning for December
M Chamings	50.00	Wedding attendance
N Shaw	1502.00	Expenses inc. Marriage Licence
R Ratlakvala	305.75	Letting officer fee Oct-Dec
B Hickford	661.71	Electrical work
B Hickford	282.10	Electrical work

Payment authorised and paid between meetings

A Bye 150.00 Return of deposit

The above payments were agreed and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr King

Budget

The final draft budget which had been circulated in advance of the meeting was discussed. The Council resolved to accept the revised budget and to keep the precept at £22,000. The clerk would notify the appropriate authority.

Other financial matters

The annual return for the Town House Charity needed to be completed and sent to the Charity Commission.

Following discussion it was resolved to open an e-deposit account for the Town House at Saffron Building Society. The signatories would be the Chair, Cllr Turner and the RFO.

It was agreed that a meeting with the tennis club treasurer to clarify arrangements with the Parish Council, including insurance of the new hut would be arranged. As a minimum the Chair and RFO would attend on behalf of the Council.

Mr Martin raised the issue of insurance of the marquees. Mr. Turner reported that he was in the process of investigating the purchase of more suitable lightweight marquees. Following consultation with interested parties he would bring his recommendation to the next meeting.

11. HEALTH& SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed that the Town House monthly check was satisfactory.

12. RECREATION GROUND

Following inspection Cllr Turner reported that there were no issues on the Plaistow. The spring to the new gate would be fitted shortly weather permitting.

Following discussion it was agreed that the work to the trees behind the scout hut should be carried out before the trees came into leaf and before planning permission ran out.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Following significant debate concerning the negative response to the speeding proposal from the Tri County Road Safety Manager it was agreed that the following steps should be taken at this stage:

Further consideration should be given to installing another sign similar to the existing ones.

Cllrs Turner and Haughey would attend the police meeting on 30th January where priorities for policing in Royston and district would be discussed.

The Clerk would write to Richard Hann asking for an update on the Drive Safe scheme.

14. AOB

Cllr Carlisle was in contact with the Managing Director (MD) of Bright Advertising, the company leasing the Club Room. The MD had expressed concerns about the poor heating and the costs to rectify it.

It was resolved that Cllr Carlisle would continue discussion with the MD in relation to the issue and the lease agreement.

Meeting closed at 22.10

The next meeting would be Monday 3rd February 2020.