



Barley Parish Council meeting: 5th June 2023 at 8pm, Town House

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Cllr Brian Haughey (Chair), Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Vice Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr David King, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Gerald Morris, RFO Lynn Brett & Parish Clerk Alice Robertson

IN ATTENDANCE

Three members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Nick Shaw

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 None

3. Minutes

3.1 A minor correction to the minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2023 was requested to say that we are registering to be notified when we can be put on a waiting list for a new Defibrillator by The British Heart Foundation, not that we are already on the waiting list.

Otherwise Council agreed remaining minutes were a true and accurate recording of proceedings.

4. Probation Service Presentation

The Probation Service attended the meeting to make a presentation on what they can offer Barley Parish Council with regards to help around the village. As part of their Community Payback Scheme, offenders who are on probation come and help local communities with maintenance or other projects within the parish where help may be needed. They have completed work for many villages in areas such as Churchyards, for community assets such as village halls etc and are also able to work in schools. They are supervised at all times and work in a group of 2-8 people. There is potential for ongoing work if suitable projects are available.

They have their own insurance, and only Public Liability Insurance would be required to cover any work done on behalf of The Parish Council/The Church etc.

Barley Parish Council were shown records of past work and the success around it, including the influence it has on re-offending statistics.

The Council agreed that it seems like a great scheme and that we would consider which projects we could suggest to The Probation Service that may be suitable.

5. Public Participation

Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern.

2 local residents registered their concerns over the planning application submitted at No. 7. Butterfield.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications 22/03037/FPH and 22/03038/LBC

Full Permission Householder: Single storey rear extension. Installation of outdoor swimming pool and external seating area (as amended by plans received on 16th May 2023).

Old Manor House, Shaftenhoe End, Bogmoor Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8LE.

The Council considered the amended plans submitted in respect of these applications and resolved:

Barley Parish Council considered the amendments at their meeting on 5th June 2023 and have the following comments to make.

The revisions shown on the amended drawings are noted. However we repeat in their entirety the comments made by us on the 18th January 2023 in relation to the original application and in particular we would further comment:-

- The amended plans continue to appear indicative only and lack the detail that we would expect for a scheme affecting such a significant property. For example the amended plans do not identify the revisions made to the original application and so far as we can determine are not accompanied by any revised Heritage Statement reflecting and explaining the changes.*
- Barley Parish Council continue to have no objection in principle to the application, as amended, subject to any further amendments or requirements of NHDC's*

Conservation Officer in relation to the revised proposals. In this connection we note the Conservation Officer's comments in his report dated 10th May 2023 and his Objection to the original proposals as set out in his Recommendation. We are unable to determine from the amended plans or other documents forming part of the applications whether or not the revisions now satisfy the Conservation Officer's concerns.

- In addition we note and endorse the not unreasonable comments made by an adjoining owner and would ask that should NHDC eventually be minded to approve the applications that suitable conditions are imposed to address the concerns raised by the adjoining owner in relation to permitted construction working hours and days, that the applicant and/or their contractor take all necessary steps to ensure all construction traffic, workers and material deliveries are directed away from Freemans Lane which adjoins the site, but which provides no access to Old Manor House."

The Clerk was asked to notify NHDC accordingly.

6.2 Planning Application 23/01088/FP (Submit response by 16th June)

Full Planning Permission : Erection of one 2-bedroom dwelling.

Land Adjacent To 7, Butterfield, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8FD

The Council considered this application at length and reviewed the history of the whole development at what is now known as Butterfield, including the numerous planning applications that have been submitted by the developer.

The Council noted the strongly held views of the two local residents who attended the meeting and who overlook the site of the proposed development.

In conclusion the Council unanimously resolved to object to the application as follows:

Barley Parish Council object to this application and ask NHDC in arriving at their decision to take the following comments into consideration.

We note that the proposed development site lies within the Barley Village Settlement Boundary and the Barley Conservation Area.

The development of the whole site, now known as Butterfield, as varied by a number of amendments to the original planning permission 17/02316/1 dated 30th May 2018, constituted a scheme of 8 dwellings of various sizes. This included, so far as the part of the site the subject of this application is concerned, an open undeveloped area in the form of a garden for plot 7 and four car parking spaces. Two of those spaces are situated on the site the subject of the application and two adjoining it. These have all been constructed as part of the implemented planning consent. These four spaces are effectively the only visitor spaces provided on the whole development. All other spaces are we understand allocated to the individual properties constructed (2 to each) except for parking provided by the entrance to the development which are supposed to be allocated for the exclusive use of the Doctors Surgery. The loss of such spaces will place even more pressure on parking within the site which together with the added vehicle movements on and off the site onto the High Street,

resulting from these spaces becoming part of and used by the occupier of the proposed new building, is we consider unacceptable.

The proposal would severely reduce the perceived openness of the development of 8 houses only recently completed with consequent detrimental impact on the Barley Conservation Area. In this regard we note the comments from two separate planning inspectors in connection with two planning appeals (both dismissed) by the developer of Butterfield against refusal by NHDC of certain proposed amendments to the original planning permission 17/02316/1, and where, as part of their decisions, both inspectors stressed the importance they gave to the sense of retained openness to the development of the site as a whole particularly to the rear of White Posts and The Gables where this application site is located. This proposal would increase the prominence of development and erode the open character of the development of the whole Butterfield development particularly the central and southern sections increasing the harm to the Barley Conservation Area. Section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires the decision maker to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area which clearly this application fails to do, and to refuse applications where there are no demonstrable considerable public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss. Furthermore, the impact of this development, if approved, in relation to the loss of open space on the adjoining properties known as Sells Close House, The Gables, and the newly erected property No 7 Butterfield will be considerable.

The statements in sections 5(1) and 5(2) of the applicants Planning, Design, Access and Heritage Statement are in our view simply not correct in that with reference to 5(1) the NHDC Conservation Officer did object to the original proposed development due to the impact on the Conservation Area and so far as 5(2) is concerned the area in question is not surrounded on 3 sides by modern development but rather on one side only (No 7) and clearly forms part of the openness of the Conservation Area referred to earlier and not as part of the built environment of the village. White Posts, The Gables, and Sells Close House are also in sufficiently close proximity to be adversely affected by this proposal.

Notwithstanding our comments regarding the loss of open space and the impact on the Conservation Area, Barley Parish Council consider the scale, bulk and visual intrusion of the proposed development upon 7 Butterfield, The Gables and Sells Close House, together with the loss of the two visitor parking spaces previously noted to be replaced by two private spaces as a result of the development of an additional dwelling on the site with consequent increases in traffic generation on and off the site onto Barley High Street, is in our view unacceptable.

We note that the proposal includes the installation of solar panels on the south facing roof slope overlooking Sells Close House. These will be wholly ineffective due to the shade cast by the trees within the Sells Close House property close to the boundary. We also note a proposed roof light overlooks Sells Close House.

The plan accompanying the application designated "Plot 7a Site and House Plans" is inaccurate particularly with reference to the omission of any mention of the proposed removal of a significant and substantial fir tree located on the site close to the boundary with The Gables and Sells Close House, the felling and removal of which we would strongly oppose in any event. So far as we are aware it is a perfectly healthy and substantial specimen tree and not of any danger to any neighbouring property, the loss of which and associated shrubbery as part of this development proposal would also negatively impact the Conservation Area causing even greater harm to this area.

Barley Parish Council would add the comment that this application appears to be yet another attempt to enlarge a consented scheme, the development of which has only recently been completed. The multiplicity of applications that have been made, of which this is the latest example, only serve to substantially change and undermine the consented scheme totally disregarding the sensitivity of the site (Butterfield) as a whole in the context of nearby listed buildings and the Barley Conservation Area. The justification of the original scheme was predicated on the benefits it would bring to the local community in the form of improved car parking for the doctor's surgery and a mix of housing types. With the possible exception of the doctor's car park, which has always seemed questionable, the scheme has provided little community benefit whatsoever.

Barley Parish Council can see no merit in this application and ask NHDC that the application be refused.

The Clerk was asked to notify NHDC accordingly.

District Councillor Gerald Morris and County Councillor Fiona Hill who were in attendance at the meeting, also fully support this decision and will advise NHDC accordingly.

7. Finance RFO report

7.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council and the Town House.

Parish Council Expenses

Alice Robertson	£724.00 – Parish Clerk - May 2023
Lynn Brett	£623.60 – RFO - May 2023
Jerry Carlisle	£64.28 - Expenses - for Village meeting on 17/05/2023
Mrs Drury	£100.80 - Insurance policy for Charities & community Groups
TOTAL BPC for approval	£1,512.68

INCOMES - Year to Date

VAT refund	£631.57
Club Room	£2,083.33 rent to 6/23
NHDC precept	£14,700.00 Part precept
CTRS Grant	£293.10
CDA Grant	
Other incomes	£225.00 Allotments
Donation from Barley Show	£3,500.00
TOTAL BPC Incomes	£21,433.00

Bank Balances Held

Barley Parish Council

Main 2188	£37,206.62 2/6/2023
Savings 5127	£0.00
TH Sinking Fund 5720	£13,632.62
TOTAL BPC Banks	£50,839.24

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit	£895.54
Barley Show	£14,429.82
Barley Tennis Club	£13,019.60

S137 expenditure limit

22/23	£8.82
23/24	£9.93

Precept Requested 23/24 £29,400.00

CTRS	£586.19
Total	£29,986.19

All payments agreed. Proposed - Cllr Turner, Seconded - Cllr Hearn.

Townhouse Council Expenses

Nick Shaw -	£456.81 - Cleaning £331.29 Boiler £122.40 Strip light bulb £3.12
P J Robinson -	£246.00 INV-3120 Replace heating switch
Brian Haughey	£42.00 – Enfield Electrical reimbursement
<u>TOTAL TH for approval</u>	<u>£744.81</u>

For Information

PNET TH paid by DD Refund Due for delayed installation

Castle Water	£39.43 - Water Bill Paid 30/05/2023, approved by email
NHDC	£34.00 TH paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	£0.00 - TH Electricity supply DD
Everflow Ltd	£79.79 TH Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information	£153.22

INCOMES

Town House YTD	£5,145.00
TOTAL TH Incomes	£5,145.00

Bank Balances Held

Barley Town House

Main 3265	£26,141.16
Deposits 8330	£2,912.50
Savings 8104	£5,855.52
Total	£34,909.18

Deposits

Opening balance	£3,012.50
Received	£300.00
Refunded	-£400.00
Trf to main ac	
Closing Balance	£2,912.50 as at 2/6/2023

All payments agreed. Proposed - Cllr Turner, Seconded - Cllr Hearn.

The RFO advised:

- That in future some personal information regarding confidential payroll matters will not be published, although this will be available in certain circumstances if requested.
- Smart Meter for The Townhouse – no data captured, RFO Brett to chase Octopus.
- The RFO also reported that in relation to the proposed change in the Council's banking arrangements she has been informed that Natwest do not consider a Parish Council to be eligible for a free account as it is not a community account. It is not therefore possible to use NatWest's standard online banking and the cost for the new signatories pushes monthly cost upwards of £45. RFO Brett recommended we re-

introduce the mandates for the existing account at Barclays Bank until a suitable replacement bank is found. The Council Agreed that the RFO should proceed accordingly.

8. Reports from County/District Councillors

8.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

Cllr Hill advised there is a New Highways Manager who will be introduced to the Parish Council soon. Cllr Hill will organise a meeting in Barley to introduce all parties.

Cllr Carlisle commented that Barley Parish Council have in the past offered to hire cleaning kit to help between the formal cleans of the village surface water drainage system. However, this could not be progressed until the full drainage survey had been completed by Highways and a report on its condition made available to the Parish Council. Cllr Hill advised the Parish Council to wait before proceeding on starting any self-organised work.

The Parish Council advised Cllr Morris and Cllr Hill that neither London Road, Cambridge Road or Church End were road-swept in the recent scheduled cleans.

Cllr Morris confirmed he would find out what the instructions are on Road sweeping through the village in terms of which roads are and are not included.

Cllr Hill requested a copy of the location of each road gully previously prepared by the PC to be sent to her.

A request to collect surplus Road Signs was made by Cllr Haughey. Parish Clerk was requested to send a list to Cllr Hill to arrange collection.

8.2 To receive a report from District Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris reported that a planning application for a new access to the Newsells Park Stud Vinyard has been received. He also confirmed that the Stud are recruiting for several roles including gardeners and cleaners.

Cllr Morris also commented that there will be Open Gardens at Cokenach on the 10th June.

9. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

9.1 Town House

To receive a report from Town House committee chair – Nick Shaw.

It was agreed that Cllr Ian Turner would progress the proposed new audio system with an all in estimated budget including wiring of £1000. Bookings proceeding well, though one summer wedding this year cancelled but many viewings for 2024. New social media posts to encourage interest from a wider geographical area are planned.

It was agreed that the wedding package price for new bookings for 2024 would go up from £1750 to £1800 and for 2025 to £1900. All other rates remain unchanged.

It was agreed that the hourly cleaning rate for Sam Brinkley would increase from £12 to £13. In addition to which a management bonus of £25 will be payable.

Additional committee members are being sought to help with the running of the Townhouse.

An AGM for the Townhouse Committee needs to happen, Cllr Haughey to liaise with Nick Shaw.

9.2 Plaistow

To note any issues arising in the Plaistow and confirm safety checks have been carried out Ian Turner.

Cllr Turner advised the lost/broke seats have been replaced. Chain issues on the swings have been resolved. 1 x Bolt Cap missing on the slide built into the mound. The potential for trapped fingers on the gates to the playground is still to be resolved.

Cllr Turner suggested trimming the outside of the Plaistow. This work could be a suitable project for the Probation Service, similarly some benches in the Plaistow are in need of repair and should be reviewed as part of the projects to be offered to the Probation Service.

Cllr Turner and Cllr Haughey to source quotes on materials for replacements.

9.3 Other items

9.3.1 Tennis Club

To receive a further update on discussions with Tennis Club officials.

No update available. Parish Clerk to follow up.

9.3.2 Scout Hut Proposals

To receive a further update on discussions with Scout Hut officials

The Parish Council agreed to follow up with The Scouts, the status of their proposed improvements.

The Planning permission that is in place for replacement containers behind the Scout Hut expires in July 2023. The cost of renewing this consent, to be investigated.

Cllr Haughey has advised that it is not economic to remove the existing container but proposals to replace the doors and create new roller shutter openings at each end, are being explored.

10.0 Clerks Report

10.1 Cllr King reported that Bankside has been left unmaintained for too long. North Herts supposed to grass-cut the bank including maintaining the path half-way through from the road up to the top of the bank. The Council were reminded that the trees on Bankside are partly the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways, and partly the responsibility of Settle. Settle to be approached to confirm their arrangements for maintaining areas for which they are responsibility - Cllr Hill will investigate and report.

10.2 Certain Aspects of the maintenance of the Townhouse carpark maintenance remain an issue and needs further discussion.

10.3 Cllr Haughey and Parish Clerk to send a map of the location of the various existing Salt Bins around the Parish and gain confirmation on which are serviced by Hertfordshire County Council. Parish Clerk to apply for additional salt bins if needed and salt supplies through a County grant.

10.4 A request has been made for the installation of a Bus Shelter on London Road outside Richmonds Garage. The Parish Council have agreed to look into this.

10.5 The Clerk advised a Safeguarding policy and a Communications policy was ongoing.

10.6 Plans to refurbish the existing noticeboards and the potential to install an additional noticeboard by the Plaistow are ongoing.

10.7 The Clerk commented that she is in the process of finding alternative Health and Safety Consultants to advise the Parish Council now that Drew & Baltrop no longer offer this service.

11. Items of correspondence

11.1 Cllr Carlisle advised that the tenant of The Club House had requested the car parking spaces they have in the Town House Carpark, to be identified/reserved for their use only. Regrettably The Council decided that this request could not be agreed as the Car Park was well used and operated on a first come first served basis. The tenant would be advised accordingly.

11.2 It was also commented that many of the windows of The Club Room appear in need of maintenance/repainting and the Clerk was asked to contact the tenant to advise accordingly.

11.3 An application to add a Restricted Byway located behind the Mount connecting with the recently confirmed restricted Bridleway from London Road to Royston Road by the Black Barn has been submitted to Herts County Council. Historically this has been a Permissive Footpath but further investigation on the history will take place. This will be an application that we have been advised will take some years and Hertfordshire County Council have confirmed they will contact us closer to the time when they are actively considering the application. The land owner has been asked to liaise with the Parish Council and Cllr Hill on an ongoing basis as matters develop.

12. Items for future discussion

Advisability of new email addresses for all councillors.

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

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 3rd July 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council

Barley.parishclerk@gmail.com

