



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 3rd July 2023 at 7.30pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Two members of the public plus Giles Meredith of CDA Herts and Richard Deville of English Rural Housing Association. <https://englishrural.org.uk/>

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ali Hearn.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Alice suggested that she should perhaps make a declaration of interest in connection with the Council's discussions with Peninsula Health & Safety, as she knows someone who works for them.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 5th June 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Carlisle, Seconder Cllr Turner.

4. CDA Herts Affordable Rural Housing

CDA Herts Affordable Rural Housing attended the meeting to make a presentation on what they can offer Barley Parish Council in connection with an Affordable Rural Housing Survey.

Giles Meredith CDA Herts works in partnership with Richard Deville of English Rural Housing Association, to provide and deliver Affordable Housing solutions for rural villages.

They have some 1500 properties in total, with general sizes of development up to 12 houses which are offered to those with a local connection on a rented/shared ownership in perpetuity basis.

The Council thanked Giles Meredith and Richard Deville for their presentation and agreed that as it had been some time since they had last undertaken such a survey, that we should obtain up to date information to establish the need and demand for Affordable Housing in the village.

5. Public Participation

No members of the public and councillors raised matters of concern.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Application 23/01281/FPH and 23/01282/LBC

Full Permission Householder : Replace existing garage door with a window and installation of flue to roof.

Natterer, Manor Farm, Church End, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JW

Please quote the following reference: 23/01281/FPH on all correspondence.

Unfortunately, The Council were not able to give the applications proper consideration because the plans forming the applications including the amended plans, are so inaccurate that they do not correctly, or properly, reflect either the existing property or the property as proposed. Accordingly The Council agreed to suggest to NHDC that the applicant either withdraw the application or if they wish the application to proceed, then in order for the Parish Council or indeed NHC to properly consider the proposal, a full set of suitably amended plans accurately depicting the property in its present and proposed form need to be substituted to enable proper consideration. Such plans are also to include sufficient neighbouring properties so that the effect of the proposal on those properties may be assessed.

It was also noted that the property lies within the Barley Conservation Area and yet no Planning Design Access and Heritage Statement has been provided which we would expect to see.

Should the applications not be withdrawn, or the additional information requested not be forthcoming, then the Council would have no alternative but to object to the applications as they stand.

6.2 Planning Application Reference: 23/01215/S73

Section 73 Application : Variation of Condition Number 2 (insertion of dormer to guest annexe) of planning permission 20/02419/FP granted on 22/12/2020 for the Erection of one detached 4-bed dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.

Churchfield, Pudding Lane, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8JX.

Please quote the following reference: 23/01215/S73 on all correspondence.

The Council agreed that there were no objections to this proposal.

6.3 Planning Application Reference: 23/01421/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Erection of detached double garage.

Clarendon Cottage, 8 Butterfield, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8FD.

Please quote the following reference: 23/01421/FPH on all correspondence.

The Council discussed the application in detail and resolved to object to the application on the following basis:

The Council noted that the proposed development lies within the Barley Village Settlement Boundary and the Barley Conservation Area and that there is no Planning, Design, Access, and Heritage Statement as part of this application which we would have expected to see and be required by NHC as part of the registration process given the location of the proposed development within the 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 including the subject property. This included an open, totally undeveloped area which now forms part of the garden to 8 Butterfield. The permission as varied has been implemented and the whole development has only recently been completed.

In our view the proposed development would severely reduce the perceived openness of the development of 8 houses and will have a significant and detrimental impact on the Barley Conservation Area and the recently completed Butterfield development as a whole. In this regard, we note and refer NHC to the comments from 2 separate planning Inspectors in connection with 2 planning appeals by the original developer of Butterfield against refusal by NHDC of certain proposed amendments to the approved scheme which included proposals to amend the proposed development of Plot 8 (now 8 Butterfield). Both appeals were dismissed by the planning inspectors 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 which is a Grade II Listed Property, and The Gables, which is where this application site is located.

This proposal would increase the prominence of development and erode the open character of the whole Butterfield development particularly the central and southern sections increasing the harm to the Barley Conservation Area. Inter alia, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires special attention to be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, which this application clearly fails to do, and to refuse applications where there are no demonstrable considerable public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss. The impact of this development, if approved, in relation to the loss of open space on not only the Grade II Listed White Posts and The Gables but also on the adjoining and overlooking properties forming part of the new Butterfield Development will be considerable.

We would also point out that the applicant is, as confirmed in the application, the owner of the existing double garage and store which immediately adjoins the application site to the East. That double garage and store have only recently been built as part of the Butterfield development and formed part of the original consent. No justification or explanation has been given as to why the applicant now considers a new detached double garage is required in the location shown when similar accommodation already exists within the applicant's ownership immediately adjoining the application site.

We see no merit in this application for the reasons outlined above and ask NHC that the application be refused.

7. Finance RFO report

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

Barley Parish Council EXPENSES

Alice Robertson - £778.00 (Clerk gross pay June 23)

Lynn Brett - £387.76 LEB0623 (RFO gross pay June 23)

Broadmead Leisure - £108.00 (Quarterly Inspection village playground)

ROSPA - £1111.00 (Annual Inspection Plaistow Play Area)

Sapele Design - £560.00 (Work Relating to New defibrillator at the Town House)

TOTAL BPC for approval £1,944.76

For Information

Gallagher Insurance - £358.28

PortalPlan Quest - £526.00 (New defibrillator planning cost at the Town House)

TOTAL BPC for information - £884.28 (PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)

INCOMES Year to Date

VAT refund - £631.57

Club Room - £4,691.61 (Rent & Ins)

NHDC precept - £14,700.00 (Part precept)

CTRS Grant - £293.10

Other incomes - £225.00 (Allotments)

Transfer from Barley Show Account - £3,500.00

TOTAL BPC Incomes - £24,041.28

Bank Balances Held

Barley Parish Council Main- £37,417.94

TH Sinking Fund - £13,657.95

TOTAL BPC Banks - £51,075.89

All payments agreed. Proposed Cllr King, Seconded by Cllr Cayford

Townhouse Council Expenses

PNET TH paid by DD	£14.83
NHDC	£34.00
Octopus	£0.00 - TH Electricity supply DD
Everflow Ltd	£40.55 - TH Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information	£89.38

INCOMES

Town House YTD	£5,380.00
TOTAL TH Incomes	£5,380.00

Bank Balances Held

Barley Town House

Main	£25,541.97
Deposits	£4,462.50
Savings	£5,867.73
Total	£35,872.20

Deposits

Opening balance	£2912.50
Received	£1550.00
Closing Balance	£4462.50 as at 3/7/2023

RFO advised that a Waste Bins Direct Debit to be set up at a cost of £109.53 per month.

All payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Cayford and Seconded by Cllr King.

The RFO produced a Quarterly report to update Actuals against Budget and confirmed that we are currently within budget for both Parish Council and Townhouse.

The Council noted the report.

8. Reports from County/District Councillors

8.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

A meeting with Barley Parish Council and Highways is to be arranged for August. Cllr Hill will liaise with the Parish Clerk to confirm.

Settle and North Herts Council are still looking into ownership of Bankside and who is responsible for its maintenance.

Settle confirmed that they would be very happy if the Parish Council were to supply additional salt bins for Greenbury Close and London Road junction and Bankside.

Cllr Hill asked the Parish Council about signing up to the Armed forces Covenant. The Parish Clerk advised this is in hand and should be completed by the autumn.

A member of the public raised issues with the overgrowth of the hedge on London Road, and said that the work that has been done on that stretch has achieved very little as it's still not being cleansed by the street cleaners and the drains are still an issue. Cllr Hill to investigate.

8.2 To receive a report from District Cllr Morris

Regarding the Street Cleaning on Church End/High Street/London Road & Cambridge Road. The sweeper did attend barley on 5th June but it has been noted that London Road was not cleansed, and North Herts Council also confirmed this. They advised this will be done again on 31st July.

Cllr Morris to escalate the lack of cleaning in this area as priority within North Herts Council.

Cllr Morris enquired about the success of Barley's Speed Camera's in reducing excessive speed. The Parish Clerk advised she would raise a Speed Camera Activity review to discuss future plans to support ongoing speed management in the village.

9. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

9.1 Town House

Nick Shaw, Chairman of The Townhouse Committee advised that the next Committee meeting would also be an Annual General Meeting.

There are two new members of the Townhouse Committee, now making a total of 7. Alan Cayford has agreed to join and will be taking over responsibility for Health & Safety matters. Alison Gray is the other new member.

A new audio set up throughout the Townhouse will be installed by Ian Turner over the summer.

Nick Shaw also asked if it was possibly to arrange a trim of the footpath behind the cottages and The Townhouse and onto the carpark. The Parish Clerk was asked to follow up.

9.2 Plaistow

The Council agreed that the Clerk should request Broadmead Leisure to carry out the repairs in their recent report.

9.3 Other items

9.3.1 Tennis Club

Yvonne Lee to follow up with the Tennis Club regarding the draft agreement.

9.3.2 Scout Hut Proposals

Cllr Haughey has advised The Scouts that with regard to any new building, it would need to be designed within their existing demise.

It was agreed that The Council should renew the existing planning permission for the containers behind The Scout Hut.

10.0 Clerks Report

10.1 The Clerk Presented 2 x Health and Safety Company quotations for acting as The Council's Health and Safety Consultants. The Council agreed that they should pursue the appointment of Peninsula on a 5 year contract at a monthly cost of £186.83 ex VAT, subject to confirmation of arrangements for the number of visits per annum, and whether or not the costs were subject to variation on an annual basis due to inflation. Such costs to include the necessary annual Fire Risk Assessment for The Townhouse.

10.2 Alan outlined possible specification options for resurfacing the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow. Enquiries to be made to Bullards and also to the Probation Service to see if this is something they can undertake.

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

10.4 Plans to refurbish the existing noticeboards and the potential to install an additional noticeboard by the Plaistow are being investigated.

10.5 We are still waiting to hear from Thomas Marsh from NHDC concerning the sharing of Parish and District Election Costs.

10.6 The Clerk advised it would be good practice for Councillors to have separate email addresses for Parish Council work. The Councillors agreed in principle and The Clerk was asked to investigate further.

11. Items of correspondence

11.1 No items.

12. Items for future discussion

12.2 Meeting with Highways scheduled in August.

12.3 Tennis Club

12.4 Future Internal Auditor.

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

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 4th September 2023 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council

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