

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held at the Town House on Monday 5th October 2020 via Zoom

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mel Chammings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill and Mr. Nick Shaw

6 members of the public.

Welcome and Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr David King

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7th September 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held 7th September were read and approved subject to removing a potentially confusing statement under County Cllrs update with regards to footpaths. Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Turner

MATTERS ARISING

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

Cleared actions

- 1) A meeting with Claremont Consultancy to discuss initial proposals for the development of land at Picknage Road/Chishill Road was confirmed for 14th October at 5.30 pm in the Town House. Cllrs Carlisle and Lee would represent BPC and report back.
- 2) Savills investigated the Town House roof and chimney and report received. On agenda
- 3) The head teacher sent a note of thanks for the BPC's contribution of £350 towards the cost of the tree works in the school.
- 4) Cllr Haughey responded to the consultation on Hertfordshire's Speed Management Strategy (via County Cllr Hill) on behalf of the BPC. County Cllr Hill confirmed that the BPC submission would be taken into account.
- 5) Countryside Management confirmed that the work on the broken bridge on FP7 was now complete
- 6) County Cllr Hill confirmed that a virtual meeting with David Lloyd (PCC) to discuss the new camera proposal would take place on 8th October. Invitees confirmed attendance.
- 7) Cllr Carlisle received a quote from Stewart Bullard to maintain the main footpaths in the village. These include the footpaths from Smiths End Lane to the Churchyard, the two up to Rumbolds' horse field, Church End to the Plaistow by the scout hut, and the two from the Plaistow to Picknage Rd and High St. The quote for £250 clearance now and £150 per cut, assuming 4 per year was agreed. The clerk would confirm acceptance with Bullards.

Actions outstanding

- 1) Although the Village Plan Review meetings were postponed, Cllr Lee hoped to continue work on the survey questions. The suggestion that outdoor adult fitness equipment for the Plaistow should be added to the new Village Plan was accepted as part of the consultation process. Cllr Lee hoped to get the proposed survey questions to the Village Plan working group before the next BPC meeting.
- 2) Cllr Carlisle was in regular contact with Mr Doggett about the clearance of the ditch by the side of the road down to the Sewage Works. The ditch had now been cleared to 35/40 metres from the end of the pipe under Picknage Road. He had also contacted County Cllr Hill to gain her support in emphasising to Highways the urgency of clearing the pipe now that the ditch was sufficiently cleared. County Cllr Hill confirmed that Derek Jerrard (Highways) had visited the site and had authorised the work to be done. Cllr Carlisle also reported that Mr Doggett would continue to pursue a meeting with Anglia Water to discuss the further clearance of the ditch up to the Sewage Works. Other investigations would be ongoing to establish the ownership of the ditch and any ongoing maintenance.

Cllr Carlisle had written to Derek Jerrard emphasizing the need for a comprehensive drain repair plan for the village and a copy had been sent to County Cllr Hill.

- 3) Cllr Haughey would seek further quotes for repair/renewal of the septic tank and pump system behind the scout hut.
- 4) Cllr Turner would purchase a new net for the goal nearest to the High Street. (see item on Recreation Ground report)

TOWN HOUSE

Nick Shaw, chair of the Town Committee reported that:

- Savills had provided a comprehensive report on the condition of the roof. Basically one section of the roof required a full re tile within the next 6-9 months, with various other smaller repairs within the same timescale. Given that the work would cost between 5-10K, at **least 3** quotes would be required. A fuller discussion and agreement on how to proceed would be on the agenda for November.
- There were two wedding ceremonies and one wedding breakfast booked for October. The first wedding since the new up to 15 rule was imposed, went well. The officials were satisfied that the venue was Covid compliant and that Track and Trace posters were now up, next to each of the sanitiser stations.
- There were no regular users at this point.
- 6 monthly checks on alarms and emergency lighting had been carried out. The alarm system passed all checks. Some additional work was necessary to make the emergency lighting compliant and that had now been carried out.
- Bernard Hickford, Busy Bee contractor, had retired. Nick Shaw would source a local electrical company to replace Bernard. He had also written a letter of thanks to Bernard for his work on the Town House over the years.

Update from County Cllr Hill

Much of HCC time had been taken up with Covid 19 issues

The waste recycling centre was open in Royston, but not yet in Buntingford which was a more difficult site to make Covid compliant.

The libraries are open with Covid restrictions

On 15th and 16th October, the gullies in the High Street and London Road would be cleaned. Cllr Carlisle raised the point that this in itself would not necessarily resolve the underlining problem with the drainage and although he had written to Derek Jerrard to ask for a comprehensive programme of drainage work in Barley, he asked County Cllr Hill to exert as much pressure as possible on this matter.

As stated previously settle had taken full responsibility for the tree work and road at the Picknagge lay-by.

County Cllr Hill urged those attending the Speed Camera meeting on Friday to fully consider the evidence base on which the Barley speed camera proposal was based. She cited the fact that some of the ANPR devices that had been installed covering all the main roads in and out of Royston had to be removed because the ICO stated that it was overzealous and intrusive. She also said that there were a number of parties to be satisfied of the need and appropriateness of speed camera installation. What was clear was that everyone in Hertfordshire with an interest would attend the meeting, and was hopeful that a resolution would be found.

PLANNING

- a) Listed Building Consent: Insertion of oak timber bi-fold doors in rear elevation
The Hayloft, Smiths End Lane, Barley Ref: 20/01617/LBC**

There were no objections to this application

- b) Erection of single storey rear orangery following demolition of existing rear conservatory
Margaret House, Church End, Barley Ref: 20/02098/FP and 20/02099/LBC**

There were no objections in principle to this application, but it was noted that UVPC windows were proposed and BPC questioned whether this was appropriate given that Margaret House was a listed building.

- c) Change of use land from Agricultural use to Equestrian use and erection of stable block consisting of 2 stable boxes, feed store, and tack room and grooming area. Enlargement of existing field opening and relocation of gate to facilitate off-road stopping at entrance to field, creation of access road to stables and erection of additional fencing.**

Lavender House, Smiths End Lane, Barley. Ref: 20/01985/FP

There were no objections to this application on condition that the use was tied to the occupancy of Lavender House and that the rights granted under the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) were withdrawn.

- d) **Erection of one detached 5 bed dwelling, four detached 4bed dwellings, one pair of 3 bed semi detached dwellings and one pair of 2 bed semi detached dwellings with associated access and all ancillary works following demolition of existing buildings (amended plans received 28-09-2020)**

Draytons Garage, High Street, Barley. Ref: 19/03064/FP

The Parish Council objected to the amended proposals. As the consultation deadline was after the date of the next Parish Council meeting, Cllrs would consider the detailed response which would not be available for this minute. The objection would be in the public domain on the Planning Portal at the end of the consultation period.

*County Cllr Hill left at 21.10
District Cllr Morris left at 21.15
District Cllr Hunter left at 21.32*

FINANCE

The following payments were authorised at the meeting

Barley Parish Council

M. Chamings	£ 409-06	Clerking for Sept; reimbursement expenses
T.Martin	£ 219-60	RFO for September
Hardcastle Burton	£ 223-20	Payroll quarter July-September
Savills	£ 600-00	Town House Roof survey

Barley Town House

N.Shaw	£ 240-28	Reimbursement re cleaning & products
Swift Fire & Security	£ 84-00	Six monthly Alarm Service
Swift Fire & Security	£ 60-00	Six monthly Emergency Lighting Service
Swift Fire & Security	£ 358-74	Emergency Lighting works
C.Robinson	£ 40-00	Cleaning September

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Lee.

Additional Finance report

There was nothing to report from the auditors yet.

Cllr Carlisle and the RFO had met with the tenants of the Club Room with regards to Covid related issues. The council had agreed further measures to support the company.

RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Turner had inspected the Plaistow and reported that there was a damaged bench at one of the picnic tables which he would repair when the weather permitted. There were no other issues identified in the play area

Cllr Turner reported that the likely cost of adult outside physical equipment may be in the region of £10000. Any recommendation on this would fall to the Village Plan working group.

The cost of replacing the nets for the goalpost was £193, but the goal post bases were rusted and had been reported as a risk in the RoSPa report. Cllr Turner recommended that both sets of posts and nets should be replaced at a cost of around £900. Cllrs felt that as there was no football club using the ground now, that in the short term only one post and net should be replaced and the second post removed. It was suggested that as part of the Village Plan consultation volunteer(s) should be sought to run a children's football team again. If a positive response was received then the reinstatement of **the** second goal post would be considered.

A number of repairs to ensure that the gates would close were noted. These would be carried out **when the** weather permitted.

HEALTH & SAFETY

There were no additional health and safety issues other than those already discussed under the Town House and Recreation Ground reports.

The clerk would organise a date for the autumn/winter meeting with DBA Safety consultancy.

AOB

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Turner's recommendation for a new laptop for the clerk was accepted and that office 365 should be purchased for the Clerk and RFO use. The RFO would action the order.

Cllr Carlisle informed the meeting that Herts Tree Care would carry out the work associated with the Ash tree in the Plaistow on 26 November and the work on the trees behind the scout hut would commence on 2nd February next year.

Cllr Sterland raised an issue with the **two** kissing gates on the footpath crossing Lovely View horse field. The clerk would bring this to the attention of Countryside Management to resolve.

The meeting ended at 22.00