

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 3RD JULY 2017**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Mel Chamblings,
Cllr Bill Sterland, Mrs Laura Childs, Mr Tim Martin (RFO)

Mr Graham Clark, Mr Nick Shaw and 1 member of the public

2. Apologies

District Cllr Gerald Morris, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter, Mr Brian Haughey

3. Councillor's declaration of interest

Cllr McPartland wished it to be noted that his daughter had involvement with the recommendations made for the new village website.

There were no other declarations of interest made.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2017 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr McPartland and seconded by Cllr Chamblings.

5. Matters arising

Mr Graham Clark, who has agreed to continue with police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council, reported on his most recent meeting with Sgt Guy Westwood. The police have committed to continuing with speed checks in the village when time and resources allow. Cllr Turner said that there was evidence that speeds were reducing slightly in the 40 - 50 bracket but sadly not in the 60+ bracket.

Cllr Carlisle reported that further to our enquiry regarding the works to Pudding Lane, an email has been received from Mr Richard Tiffin to advise that Pudding Lane is not an adopted road and its repair is therefore not a matter for the District Council nor Herts Highways Authority (Herts CC). Neither did it amount to development which would require planning permission despite it being in the Conservation Area. Furthermore it was understood by Mr Tiffin that as the upgrading of the surface was being undertaken under a management agreement amongst neighbours of Pudding Lane then this was a civil matter. Discussions took place regarding Mr Tiffins comments with the Parish Council not necessarily agreeing with all of the content of the email.

Cllr Carlisle advised that he had been copied into correspondence from Mr & Mrs Profit, the owners of Kestrel, to Messrs Hanson, outlining their concerns regarding the surface water run off from Pudding Lane. Cllr Carlisle has additionally spoken to the Hansons, who confirmed receipt of the correspondence and who had advised that they had given an outline schedule of works for the proposed road works as part of their planning application. It was felt however that this wasn't enough detail and Cllr Carlisle agreed to ask the Hansons to provide additional information about the work they were carrying out.

The Clerk was asked to enquire when the next visit by the street cleaner was scheduled for so that we can advise residents and ensure cars are moved.

Further to advice from Cllr Hunter the Clerk has emailed Mr Derek Jerrard of Ringways, Herts Highway contractors, regarding the village hiring a gully cleaner to clear the villages drains on a more regular basis than the allocated council scheduled visits. His response was positive and the dates of scheduled visits were discussed to ensure that any Parish Council funded visits achieve their full affect.

The cutting back of the trees on Bankside were discussed again, and Cllr Carlisle explained about the 'dispute' over their ownership between North Herts District Council Hertfordshire Homes and Herts County Council, he agreed to continue to pursue the matter.

Cllr Carlisle confirmed that he managed to speak with Mr Geoff Booth, who undertakes the village grounds maintenance, and requested that he maintains the villages footpaths and not just the church yard area. It has however been noted that whilst the grass appears to have been strimmed along some of the footpaths the hedges also need cutting back. Cllr Sterland agreed to speak with Mr Booth to clarify what was required of him.

6. Planning

There were no planning issues to be discussed.

7. Town House

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, reported that the PAT testing has now been done and everything had passed except one of the hot water burcos, which has since been thrown away.

A dehumidifier has now been installed into the upstairs kitchen and it is hoped that this will help with the condensation issues.

Unfortunately the upstairs fridge/freezer appears to have stopped working and Mr Shaw agreed to investigate replacing the fridge.

Cllr Carlisle has spoken with Mrs Gooding regarding the issues we have been having with the repair of the clock that she donated. Her preference would be to keep the existing clock and have it altered to an electronic one but this is proving to be a very costly option. Cllr Carlisle will investigate further and report at our next meeting.

Mr Shaw is proposing to create an inventory of all the electrical equipment held in the Town House.

8. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

Mr Martin reported that the following payments were due to be made.

Parish Council

HMRC	PAYE	£ 355.20
Mrs Laura Childs	Clerk fees (June) and office expenses	£ 306.00
Mr Tim Martin	RFO (June)	£ 204.10
Hardcastle Burton	PAYE services	£ 147.00
Mr Geoff Booth	Grass cutting services (June)	£ 195.00

1220

Town House

Mrs Carol Robinson	Cleaning June	£	74.50
Mrs Alison Stacey	Letting Officers fee June	£	76.50
Mr B Hickford	Fitting of dehumidifier to upstairs kitchen		£
	250.00		

It was agreed that all of these payments should be made.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland.

Mr Martin confirmed that the Parish Council still have most of the monies raised in connection with the proposed community purchase of the Fox & Hounds.

The end of year accounts are ready to be sent off to BDO, Hardcastle Burton are happy for them to be sent and Mr Martin agreed to sign off and send them to BDO.

Both Mr Martin and Mrs Childs do not automatically qualify for a council pension scheme but have both written to the Parish Council to say that they do not wish to make contributions towards any such scheme.

The bank statements and balances of accounts were distributed and reviewed.

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Turner advised that he had inspected the Plaistow and found a couple of loose fence posts bordering the childrens playground and one of the football goals has been damaged. Cllr Turner expressed concerns over the rubber matting that has grass growing through it and wondered if the matting is no longer effective. Cllr Turner agreed to speak with Mrs Georgina Northen, who oversaw the installation of the new playground, to seek her advice. He additionally agreed to ask Mrs Northen about the timings for the RoSPA inspection. There are some nettles that require cutting back and Cllr Turner will speak with our grass cutting contractors Bullards to ask them to trim them back.

Cllr Turner noted that the tennis courts and the surrounding grass was very well kept and suggested that we write to the Tennis Club to thank them for looking after the Courts and maintaining them so well. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Jo Zygmund the Tennis Club Chairman.

10. Website

Cllr McPartland advised the meeting that the website is now approx 90% built. More photographs of highlights around the village are required before going live. The data from the existing website has been transferred to the new website as a starting point. Another meeting of the working group is planned to finalise details and it is hoped that the website will go live within the next few weeks.

A new logo is being designed for the website and will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting for approval.

11. Fox & Hounds

Cllr McPartland confirmed that he has spoken to the pub agent who has advised that best and final bids are required on the Fox & Hounds by 6th July and who was confident that there would be several serious bids on the property. It is estimated that it would take about 3 months to go through the legal process including time for a survey etc. although this was considered optimistic. The working group have discussed retaining, with investors consent, the moneys raised until the end of August by which time we should know whether the sale was likely to proceed.

Cllr McPartland was to contact all investors for their agreement to this course of action. Cllr Carlisle asked Cllr McPartland to thank the working group, on the Parishes behalf, for all the sterling work that they have undertaken on the village's behalf.

Cllr Carlisle suggested keeping the newly created management company that has been formed 'live' until the pub has been finally sold and then dissolve it .

12.Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that the local scout group have now instructed the Scout Trust Corporation (formal lawyers) who are progressing the lease.

13.Lock Up

Cllr Lee reported that we are just waiting to hear that we have ancient monument consent then the contractors will be able to start works.

It was noted that a number of paving slabs by the War Memorial have been damaged. Mr Martin said he would ask Mr Darren Partt to repair them.

14.Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle had nothing to report although he agreed to chase Drew & Baltrop for a meeting date.

15.Correspondence

County Councillor Fiona Hill had emailed the Clerk and asked her to make the Councillors aware of a consultation taking place regarding the proposal from the PCC to bring the Police and the Fire Services under the same governance'

All other correspondence received is to be distributed amongst the councillors.

16.Any Other Business

Cllr Carlisle advised that the Club Room rent is due for review, Cllr Lee had some information on current rental values and it was agreed that our tenant would be served notice in accordance with the terms of the lease to start the rent review process.

Cllr Lee has made attempts to contact Dr Wadey regarding the various applications for changes to the status of two of the footpaths around the village. She is currently awaiting a call back from him.

The Clerk has received confirmation that the salt bin at the end of Smiths End Lane that joins on to Bogmoor Road will be refilled in preparation for the winter during October / November.

Meeting finished 22:10pm

