

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
on Monday 9th January 2023

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Brian Haughey, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King, RFO Lynn Brett.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr Tony Hunter, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Nick Shaw and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES.

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Gerald Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2022 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Haughey.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 No issues were raised.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Reference 22/03174/FPH 14 Bankside, HighStreet, Barley, SG8 8HU

Full Permission Householder: First floor extension over existing rear and side flat roof and two storey side extension (as resubmission of planning application 22/01808/FPH, withdrawn).

The council had no objections to this application.

5.2 Reference 22/03218/FPH Fox Acre Barn, also know as Owls Barn, The Mount, Barley, SG8 8JH

Full Permission Householder: Two storey side extension.

The council had no objections to this application.

5.3 Reference 22/03037/FPH Old Manor House, Shaftenhoe End, Bogmoor Road, Barley, SG8 8LE

Full Permission Householder: Single storey rear extension. Installation of outdoor swimming pool and external seating area.

The council had no objection in principle to the design set out in the Heritage Statement, subject to the Conservation Officer being satisfied with the details of the proposal. However, the council noted that the drawings lack the degree of detail that is included in the Heritage Statement.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The RFO had previously distributed the list of payments for approval at this meeting.

Barley Parish Council

Lynn Brett	£404.75	December RFO
Stewart Bullard	£1,224.00	Grass cutting Plaistow
Stewart Bullard	£763.20	Grass cutting footpaths
Broadmere Leisure	£108.00	Quarterly Inspection Playground
Elvira Gusejnova	£400.00	F&H Xmas Party

Proposed Cllr Haughey and Seconded Cllr Lee

Cllr Turner has met with the Chairman of the PCC to discuss the churchyard grass cutting and maintenance. The PCC Chairman will feedback to BPC once he has met with the PCC.

The children's' Xmas party at the Fox and Hounds was well received, but it was reported that the level of donations from those attending the event was disappointing.

Barley Town House

Nick Shaw	£357.58	Hand dryers
NHDC	£99.45	Trade refuse service
Elvira Gusejnova	£39.30	December Letting fees
Elvira Gusejnova	£67.98	Expenses – cleaning
Barley Property Maintenance	£66.00	Repair of tiles
Barley Property Maintenance	£120.00	Remove waste kitchen
Barley Property Maintenance	£462.61	Fit new hand dryers

Proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Haughey

6.2 Budgetary forward planning, including Precept 2023/24

The RFO presented the amendments to the proposed budget as discussed at the previous meeting. The proposed budget includes a 5% increase in the amount of the Precept to £29,400. This was agreed by the council.

The council has received quotes from Bullards for grass cutting of the Plaistow and the maintenance of the footpaths for next year which are some 10% higher than last year, reflecting additional costs incurred by the contractor.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

7.1 County Cllr Hill

- The Highways Action Plan was reviewed. A meeting is planned by HCC Highways to review the repairs required to the bridge on B1039 to Royston.
- There will be a new appointee at HCC who will be responsible for dealing with drainage issues. It is anticipated there will be a meeting in February to take forward the findings of the drainage survey undertaken by HCC on part of the system and which have not been revealed to the parish council. Two kerb gulleys on the High Street outside White Posts, opposite draytons, are on the priority list to be upgraded to in-road gulleys. There are ongoing discussions with the developer and HCC regarding the management of the drainage issues outside the surgery in the

High Street. The chairman will forward correspondence regarding this matter to CCllr Hill to help to take forward.

- The management of the road closure of Smiths End Lane is still under investigation. A date for the full resurfacing is not yet available, but will not be in 2022/23.
- The county libraries are continuing to act as warm hubs and holding events such as slipper exchanges and author visits.
- The 2023/24 budget is in preparation for HCC.
- The consultations for North Herts boundary proposals and the Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Zones have closed.
- The white lines requested in front of the war memorial are unlikely to go ahead as they will not be enforced by NHDC and the police will only enforce if vehicles are causing an obstruction.

7.2 District Cllr Hunter

- The new Local Plan is available on line.
- The Boundary Commission is reviewing North Herts and considering increasing District Councillors to 51 from 49. The consultation closed on 09/01/23. There are no changes planned to Ermine Ward.
- A new waste contract is being considered, where the purple household waste bin would be emptied every third week and the cost of the brown bin would increase.
- NHDC is applying for a 3% increase on Council Tax for 2023/24 and is looking at cost savings across a wide range of areas.

8. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES, COMMITTEES & PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

8.1 Town House

- The floors have been re polished.
- The hand dryers have been replaced in the toilets

8.1.2 Funding for rewiring project

- The closing date for applying to the Jubilee Village Hall Fund for funds to contribute to rewiring the town house is 20/01/23 for stage 1 applications. The rewiring is estimated to cost £30-£37k. The Jubilee fund will only cover 20% of the costs, leaving the

remaining 80% to be found from existing moneys, fundraising and possibly a loan. Around 2000 village halls are eligible to make a claim. The Town House will require a number of substantial maintenance projects over the next 10 years. The council agreed that further information is required before funds can be committed and a detailed electrical report should be obtained, to allow a planned, risk rated, maintenance schedule to be produced to ascertain the urgency of any maintenance projects prior to committing to works.

- The building is not DDA compliant, due to lack of access for wheelchair users to the upper floor. The building is considered exempt due to its listed status. The council considered the insertion of a chair lift, but it was felt space constraints and the resulting restriction in the width of the staircase would make this unfeasible.

8.2 Plaistow

- A missing fence post will be replaced.
- Cllr King will remove the dead tree at the bottom of the Plaistow.
- One post on the climbing frame/slide is cracked. Broadmead to be asked to replace on next inspection.
- Broadmead to be asked to replace the broken seats.
- Broadmead report that the new gates require adjustment to prevent finger entrapment, but of a very minor amount. Broadmead will be asked to meet on site to review.
- Bullards to be asked for a quote to address the overgrown shrubbery,

8.3 Other Items

8.3.1 The Tennis Club

- Cllr Lee circulated a revised draft of the agreement with Barley tennis club. FRO Brett will clarify the insurance responsibilities of each party. Cllr Lee will make the final amendments and meet with the Tennis Club representatives.

8.3.2 Steps to replace the Clerk for the Council

- There has been no interest in the substantive post to date.
- The Chair has been offered some temporary help with some aspects of the role, which the council was happy to accept.

9. CLERKS REPORT

9.1 Items of Correspondence

- County Broadband would like meet with the council to discuss their proposals for full fibre broadband.
- The council has been approached by London Heart to offer financial assistance for another AED in the village. The council agreed this was of benefit for the village. Cllrs Haughey and Hearn will take this forward and undertake further investigation of available support and costs.
- The council agreed with the approach from the village social hub that a low key celebration of the King's Coronation would be nice for the village and some funding could be available from the Parish and possibly also from CCllr Hill's Locality Budget.
- CCllr Hill advised that additional salt bins can be applied for from her Locality Budget. It will be necessary to establish where in the village they would offer the most benefit as they cannot be placed on Highways land.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA

10.1 The next meeting will be on 6th February 2023

Items for future discussion

The meeting ended at 22.20