

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 12th JUNE 2017**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Mel Chammings, Cllr Bill Sterland, Mrs Laura Childs, Mr Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter

3 members of the public

2. Apologies

District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mr Nick Shaw

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 9th May 2017 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Chammings.

5. Matters arising

Mr Graham Clark, despite resigning from his position on the Parish Council, has kindly agreed to continue with police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council and he reported that he has attended two meetings with Sgt Guy Westwood this month. There have been two further adhoc speed checks this month and going forward it has been agreed that if officers have time between other functions or jobs that they will then be looking to carry out further speed checks in the village.

Cllr Turner asked if there have been any speeding tickets issued and Mr Clark confirmed that the Police had advised that none had been issued recently. It was generally felt however that the police presence in the village could only serve as a positive and a deterrent to speeding motorists. Heated discussions took place with Cllr Turner arguing that without any firm tickets being issued then motorists would not consider it a 'serious threat' and that other villages had got more police action by adopting a firmer approach. However the other Councillors were happy to continue with the current efforts and Cllr Lee expressed the view that with police resources stretched as they are at the present time the current open and friendly relationship Mr Clark has forged with the police was preferable to a more aggressive approach favoured by Cllr Turner. Cllr Turner also spoke about progressing the "rent-a-cop" scheme which has previously been explored but where we had been advised that only a PCSO would be available to 'hire' but who would not be able to issue speeding tickets.

Cllr Turner asked Cllr Hunter his opinion and Cllr Hunter said that he understood that the police resources are very much ploughed into other areas and not necessarily speeding. He spoke about the initiatives being run with youngsters regarding speed awareness, which the County have funded. He understood however that basically Police resources are stretched and that is the bottom line. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police Commissioner, regarding the rolling out of his ANPR camera initiative and to ask what is the position on rural areas and would Barley qualify under his road safety fund. It was unanimously agreed by the meeting that Mr Clark should continue to liaise with the police on the current basis.

The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of The Laurels, High Street and Sunnyside, London Road to ask them to cut back their hedges which border the footpath and are causing an obstruction. Additionally the hedge that borders the coach park in Church End is starting to encroach onto the footpath and the Clerk agreed to write to Richmonds requesting it be cut back.

Cllr Hunter reported that he has spoken with Mr Derek Jerrard of Ringways, Herts Highway contractors, regarding the village hiring a gully guzzler to clear the villages drains on a more regular basis than the allocated council scheduled visits. He suggested that the Clerk email Mr Jerrard to progress our enquiry.

6. Planning

Case ref: 17/01298/1 Broadmere Pond, Royston Road, Barley – Full planning permission - Siting of 31 no. Domestic storage containers and the relocation of 2 existing containers.

The application was discussed and it was decided that Barley Parish Council have no objection to this application however we wished to express our concerns over the creeping nature of this site. Additionally the claims that the external elements to the site are surplus to agricultural requirements are questionable given that they have just completed a new agricultural building / grain store. It is also noted that an industrial use exists on part of the site, manufacturing building materials, which isn't shown on any of the application drawings, this constitutes a B2 use, which would require planning permission to include a change use.

Pudding Lane

Mr William Wells of Brick House, Pudding Lane attended the meeting to speak about the planning application that has been submitted by Messrs Hansons for two 4 bedrooomed detached houses to be built on the site of their current builders yard at the top of Pudding Lane. Ahead of the planning application being decided the applicants have started works to improve the surface of the lane itself and diggers have been working at widening the road in places particularly where it passes Roly Poly Cottage. This has involved cutting back a bank which belongs to Mr Wells and in the process the roots of a very large horse chestnut tree have been cut and the bank has been taken back potentially too close to the footings of his garage. Mr Wells was not informed prior to any of these works being undertaken and has spoken to his insurance company because of his concerns over the tree and the garage foundations. Cllr Carlisle advised that he understood that a meeting was held between the applicants and the other residents of Pudding Lane to discuss their proposed works to the lane but Mr Wells advised that he had not been invited to attend but was hoping to arrange to meet with the applicants to discuss his concerns.

Cllr Carlisle went on to explain that he had contacted the planning department regarding this application and had been advised that whilst the application had not yet been decided the planning officers are minded to approve the application but won't do so until there is a sufficiently good standard of highway to the application site. Cllr Carlisle reminded the meeting that the Parish Council objected to the application on a number of different grounds but particularly on the grounds of the potential flooding issues. The Parish Council considers that any improvement to the surface of Pudding Lane without any surface water drainage being incorporated would only accelerate the flow of flood waters. The Parish Council believe that because Pudding Lane is in the Barley Conservation Area and that as the nature of the works to this un-adopted road of unknown ownership would appear to constitute 'engineering works' then planning permission should be required. The planners had further advised Cllr Carlisle that they understood that there was an agreement in place with all the owners of those properties who use the road to allow the works to go ahead. Clearly however that is not the position at the present time.

The Clerk was asked to email the planning department to advise that we have become aware of works being undertaken to Pudding Lane which we consider are premature in that they have begun without the agreement of all the residents who use the road. Furthermore as Pudding Lane lies within the Barley Conservation Area and as the contours of the road are being altered, constituting engineering works, a further planning application should be submitted in respect of the proposed works.

7. Town House

In his absence, Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, emailed a report. He advised that having waited for some time for a third party to prepare a new leaflet he has decided to attempt one himself. A draft has been forwarded to the Councillors for their comment. Mr Martin advised that the PAT testing was due to be done shortly. It was also reported that the cleaner had thought that the fridge in the kitchen upstairs wasn't working but Mr Martin has investigated and it appears that it is now working. The fridge is however old and a replacement may need to be sought.

8. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

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

Parish Council

Cayfords	Survey of the Fox & Hounds Public House	£ 600.00
Jenny Clark	Printing of leaflets & questionnaires for Fox & Hounds	£ 53.00
Mr Geoff Booth	Grass cutting & petrol	£ 125.00
Mrs Laura Childs	Clerk fees (May) and office expenses	£ 364.39
Mr Tim Martin	RFO (May) & stationary	£ 173.20
Between Time	Scheduled ancient monument application	£1,080.00

It was agreed that these payments should be made.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland.

Town House

Mrs Carol Robinson	Cleaning May	£ 72.00
Mrs Alison Stacey	Letting Officers fee May	£ 59.60

It was agreed that these payments should be made.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Chammings.

Returned cheque – Wedding deposit

£150 Leanne Manning

Cllr Chammings & Cllr Sterland signed the bank mandate form to allow them to sign cheques and authorise payments on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Turner advised that he had inspected the Plaistow and everything was fine except for the broken latch on the gate that exits onto the High Street. The bins need to be emptied and Cllr Turner clarified with Mr Clark, who previously has this responsibility, that the refuse was placed in the Town House waste bins. Cllr Turner agreed to have a sign made up requesting that no nappies are placed in the bins.

The Council has been approached asking if it was possible to install two movable 5-a-side football nets on the Plaistow to make the recreation ground more attractive to youngsters. Cllr Carlisle reminded the meeting that this had been investigated previously and that unfortunately due to Health & Safety issues we were not allowed to have them in place.

10. Website

Cllr McPartland advised the meeting that the development of the new website is proceeding well and is very near to going live. The working group are shortly to meet to discuss the content of the website pages and then photos will need to be gathered for the various clubs and societies around the village. Cllr McPartland also discussed updating the Parish Councillors photographs and proposed to take these at our next meeting.

11. Fox & Hounds

Cllr McPartland, as Chairman of the Steering Group, confirmed that a bursary has been awarded by the Plunkett Foundation so this will help towards any costs incurred.

Cllr McPartland reminded the meeting that the steering group had set out to raise £300,000 from the village and had managed to raise £205,000. This represented contributions from 60+ households within Barley and 1 from a neighbouring village. Unfortunately this was less than the pubs asking price of £265,000 ex VAT and where it was understood expressions of interest from other parties had been received in excess of this figure.

The steering group have consequently taken the decision that they do not consider that they are in a position to recommend that the village can proceed to make a realistic bid for the property and the Parish Council now need to decide what they wish to do. Cllr Turner asked if raising a mortgage had been considered and Cllr McPartland advised that this had been discussed together with other means of borrowing but it was decided that the property should be purchased with equity raised and that had the village been successful then a mortgage/other borrowings and grants may have been sought to complete the necessary renovation works to allow the pub to reopen. Cllr McPartland, speaking on behalf of the steering group, is recommending that the Parish Council retain the monies raised for a short period of time just in case other bidders do not materialise or their offers do not proceed. It was agreed that a communication would be circulated to all those who have contributed to the fund to advise and seek their consent to this course of action.

The meeting agreed with Cllr McPartland's advice on behalf of the steering group that the village is not in a position to proceed to make a bid at this time and the Clerk was asked to email NHDC Community Asset Registration accordingly. Cllr McPartland expressed his thanks to the rest of the steering group who have worked so very hard towards this venture.

Cllr McPartland confirmed that the Building Survey of the property had been received, but that the property valuation which had been commissioned was not yet to hand although expected shortly.

12. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that at last some progress has been made and we may shortly be in a position to progress the lease. The local scout group have instructed the Scout Association Trust to proceed with the legal agreement.

13. Lock Up

Cllr Lee reported that Between Times, who are the building contractor for the works, have now submitted the Scheduled Ancient Monument application for approval to the works. Subject to receipt of this consent the works should start within the next few weeks.

14. Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle advised that he will shortly be meeting with Drew & Baltrop, he agreed to advise Cllr Chammings of the date as she will be taking over responsibility for Health & Safety.

Cllr Turner confirmed that he had passed on the information regarding the marquees to the Show Committee.

15. Correspondence

All correspondence received is to be distributed amongst the councillors.

16. Any Other Business

Following receipt of interest from a parishioner to join the allotment waiting list, it was agreed that Cllr Sterland would now take over this role from Mr Clark. Currently there is just one person on the waiting list.

Cllr Lee asked that some of the grass verges and hedges along the villages footpaths are cut back, Cllr Carlisle will speak to Mr Booth and ask that he cuts these back.

It was also reported that there are a number of Ash trees that have lost branches and other tree branches in the hedge row overhanging Footpath 17, which runs alongside the field belonging to Mr & Mrs Phipps. It is understood that some sort of tree survey had recently been carried out and it is hoped there will be some follow up work undertaken.

Meeting finished 22:37pm