



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 8pm,  
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **PRESENT**

**1.1** Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair) Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr Neil Cockrell, Cllr Ian Turner, District Cllr Martin Prescott, County Cllr Fiona Hill.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

4 members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies**

**1.1** Cllr Alison Hearn sent her apologies.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

**2.1** None

#### **3. Minutes**

**3.1** The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Cayford, Seconded Cllr Lee.

#### **4. Public Participation**

**4.1** A member of the public questioned the 18 month closure notice of Church End for maintenance by Highways that had recently been published. Cllr Carlisle and Cllr Hill confirmed that it's standard format for roads requiring work to issue this length of notice as it allows the contractors to come anytime within that time period to do the work. Notices to inform public of actual dates will be erected closer to the time of works.

#### **5. Planning**

##### **5.1 Ref: 25/00309/FP**

Full Planning Permission: Ivy's Cottage, Smiths End Lane, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8LH. Erection of one detached self-build 2-bed retirement dwelling and ancillary works

*Barley Parish Council (BPC) considered this application at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and resolved as follows: Barley Parish Council objects to this application and ask NHDC to take the following comments into consideration when reaching their decision.*

*In March 2022, an outline application for the erection of a single two story dwelling on the same site was submitted. BPC objected to that application and in September 2022 North Hertfordshire DC refused consent. Subsequent to the refusal, on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the North Hertfordshire District Plan for 2011-2031 was adopted; the planning policy context against which this application should be considered is now clear and unequivocal.*

*There are two key issues relating to this site; it is outside the settlement boundary for Barley and within the Barley Conservation Area.*

*The two key Local Plan policies are critical to the consideration of this development are Policy SP2 Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution and Policy CGB1 Rural Areas Beyond the Green Belt:-*

- **Policy SP2**

*This policy identifies Barley as a Category A village where general development will be allowed within the defined settlement boundaries. But the site in question is well outside the settlement boundary for Barley as defined in the adopted local plan.*

- **Policy CGB1**

*Land outside the settlement boundary is classified as rural land beyond the green belt. In these areas planning permission will be granted provided that the development:*

- a) Is infilling development which does not extend the built core of a Category B village;*
- b) Meets a proven local need for community facilities, services or affordable housing in an appropriate location;*
- c) Is strictly necessary for the needs of agriculture or forestry;*
- d) Relates to an existing rural building;*
- e) Is a modest proposal for rural economic development or diversification; or*
- f) Would provide land or facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and cemeteries that respect the generally open nature of the rural area.*

*Quite clearly this proposal does not satisfy any of these criteria.*

*The applicant additionally references sustainability policies and self-build considerations. But given the development does not pass the tests set by the key fundamental policies of the Local Plan, sustainability and self-build considerations are not relevant.*

*The site lies within the Barley Conservation Area (BCA). Development in conservation areas must preserve or enhance the character of these designated areas. It should be complementary to the character of the area and make a positive contribution to the overall appearance of the conservation area taking into account siting, scale, design and use of materials.*

*The Parish Council considers that the proposed development will erode and cause harm to the significance of the BCA which covers the whole of Smiths End Lane. Many of the existing properties fronting Smith's End Lane are listed; in particular Blythe Cottage and South Cottage which face the site, and Ravello Rose adjacent to the site. These assets make a valuable contribution to the setting of Smith's End Lane and to this part of the BCA, as indeed does the existing verdant gap between Ivy Cottage and Ravello Rose.*

*This proposal would undoubtedly change the character of the built form on the site as a whole and its associated land; given the elevated nature of the site, approximately two meters above the level of Smith End Lane and with a ridge height of some 6.8m, the siting, scale, height and form of the proposed dwelling would cause demonstratable harm to the setting of not only the listed buildings but of all the properties in this part of the BCA.*

*After careful consideration, Barley Parish Council consider the proposed development does not comply with the key fundamental policies of the adopted local plan and would cause harm to the conservation area and adjoining listed buildings. We can see no mitigating factors that would justify an exception to the planning framework and as such believe the application should be refused.*

**5.2a Ref: 25/00408/LDCP**

Wellside Cottage Smiths End Lane Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8LJ.

Erection of detached outbuilding incorporating 3no. roof lights to the front elevation.

**5.2b Ref: 25/00409/FPH**

Full Permission Householder: Wellside Cottage, Smiths End Lane, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8LJ. Creation of vehicular access off Smiths End Lane and existing vehicular access permanently made redundant and installation of 1.2m

*Barley Parish Council considered these applications at their meeting on the 7th April 2025 (and 25/00408/LDCP) and resolved as follows:*

*Barley Parish Council have no objection in principle but would ask that Highways are satisfied that there is no conflict with the adjoining property's existing access - which not only serves their property but will also be the access for the new offices currently being built on their site too - This is in very close proximity to the proposed new access for Wellside Cottage.*

**5.3 Ref: 25/00644/S73 - Land North Of 2 Millers Close, Picknag Road, Barley, Hertfordshire**

Section 73 Application: Variation to Condition Number(s): 2 (Addition of solar panels to rear roofs of the approved dwellings) to planning permission reference 23/02948/FP granted on 29.07.2024 for Terrace of three 3-bed dwellings including creation of vehicular access off Picknag Road, parking and landscaping.

*Barley Parish Council considered this at their meeting on the 7th April and can confirm there are no objections.*

## **6. Reports from County/District Councillors**

### **6.1 County Cllr Hill reported that:**

#### **Highways Action Plan**

Cllr Hill confirmed this has been completed by Highways officers and herself, and was circulated to Barley Parish Council.

#### **Highways Updates**

All issues arising from the development on Picknag Road have been reported again and Enforcement officers are investigating, particularly damaged kerbs.

Information from the recent Speed and Volume surveys in Picknag Road has been forwarded to Barley PC, together with supporting information from the Highways officer.

The gateway works have been completed.

Works are due in Church End.

The bridge between Barley and Royston is being monitored prior to the schedule for structural works.

#### **Armed Forces Covenant**

The Board meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March was well attended and positive. Barley PC has signed up to the Covenant and is just awaiting confirmation. Cllr Hill attended the Adventure Day at Stanmore which was the prize for the winners of the Christmas card competition.

#### **Events/Consultations**

The Councillors' Surgery was held in Royston Market on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. The Ermine Ward Surgery was held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Woodman, Nuthampstead with the Business Breakfast in Nuthampstead held on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

### **6.2 Cllr Martin Prescott reported that:**

Due to the appointment of a new contractor for Street cleaning we are still waiting for an update on cleaning schedules.

Regarding the issues of dog waste by Barley Surgery, the Council agreed the Clerk should look into it. Cllr Prescott will forward contact details to investigate the purchase price and ongoing disposal of a new bin at this location.

Cllr Prescott advised that a proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors for Barley from 6 to 7 comes to a close for comments on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and that any comment Barley Parish Council want to make needs to be made by then. The Council discussed the reasons behind why this was proposed and agreed that Barley did not support the suggested increase in Councillors from 6 to 7 and would respond accordingly.

## 7. Finance RFO report for the Parish Council

### 7.1 To consider and approve payments for the Parish Council.

<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>					
Payee	Date	Amount	For		
Alice Robertson	25/03/2025	£266.00	Clerk gross pay balance March & expenses		
Lynn Brett	26/03/2025	£397.20	RFO gross pay & expenses March		
Broadmead Lesiure	22/03/2025	£108.00	Quarterly inspection village playground 5/3/25		
North Herts Council	11/3/2025	£674.74	Emptying dog bins 1.4.25 - 31.3.26		
Citadel Solutions	20/03/2025	£96.00	Set up emails J Carlisle & Yvonne Lee		
Citadel Solutions	1/4/2025	£96.00	Call out email issue on L Brett PC and Laptop		
Alice Robertson	7/4/2025	£37.24	Balance on invoice not yet claimed		
<b>TOTAL BPC for approval</b>		<b><u>£1,675.18</u></b>			
<b>For Information</b>					
Peninsula	26/3/2025	£223.45	Paid via DD		
Alice Robertson	28/3/2025	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC		
Alice Robertson	26/3/2025	£283.18	Fasthost Costs for Emails pd 26/03/2025		
HAPTC	1/4/2025	£444.12	Membership Subscription 2025-2026 pre-approved awaiting invoice April 2025 Paid 03/04/2025		
Bullard refund	13/3/2025	-£330.02	Wrongly charged. Refunded in same month		
Host-It		£35.88	Email standard boxes 18.3.25 - 17.3.26		
Transfer to Sinking Fund	26/3/2025	£5,000.00	For future donation to TH re windows		
<b>TOTAL BPC for information</b>		<b><u>£6,056.61</u></b>	<b>PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED</b>		
<b><u>INCOMES</u></b>		<b>Year to Date</b>			
VAT refund		£3,059.66			
Club Room		£9,000.00	Rent & Ins BBP		
NHDC precept		£32,000.00	Full precept		
CTRS Grant		£543.01			
CDA Grant					
Other incomes		£165.00	Allotments		
Interest		£204.68			
Barclays Bank		£150.00	Compensation		
Alice Robertson		£2,295.00	Goal Donation		
<b>TOTAL BPC Incomes</b>		<b><u>£47,417.35</u></b>			
<b><u>Bank Balances Held</u></b>	account	Balance			
<b>Barley Parish Council</b>					
Main	2188	£31,178.64			
Savings	5127	£0.00			
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£18,998.31			
<b>TOTAL BPC Banks</b>		<b><u>£50,176.95</u></b>			
<b><u>Other Sections</u></b>					
Barley Show Profit		£2,317.39	Final		
<b>Barley Show</b>		<b><u>£11,240.89</u></b>			
<b>Barley Tennis Club</b>		<b><u>£19,694.70</u></b>	Bank balances		
<b>S137 expenditure limit</b>					
22/23	8.82				
23/24	9.93				
<b>Precept Requested 25/26</b>		£33,564.00			
CTRS		£556.66			
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£34,120.66</u></b>			

The Payments were agreed: Proposed by Cllr Cayford, Seconded by Cllr Cockerall

7.2 The RFO advised that Cllr Cockerall and Cllr Cayford are being added as signatories for Barclays Bank.

## 8. Finance RFO report for the Townhouse

### 8.1 To consider and approve payments for The Town House Charity (as Sole Trustee)

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Payee	Date	Amount	For
The Diary	09/03/2025	£80.00	Advertising in The Diary
Caley Clark	02/04/2025	£150.00	Cleaning for March 2025
North Herts Council	01/04/2025	£120.77	Trade Refuse Service 1.4 - 30.6.25
North Herts Council	01/04/2025	£116.48	Trade Recycling Service 1.4.25 - 31.03.26
AJG Insurance	03/04/2025	£5,866.74	AJGAllagher insurance renewal
<b>TOTAL TH for approval</b>		<b>£6,333.99</b>	<b>TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT</b>
<b>For Information</b>			
PNET	24/3/2025	£28.04	paid by DD
NHDC	1/3/2025	£0.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	12/3/2025	£220.10	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Everflow Ltd	24/3/2025	£48.19	Water supply DD
Lucas Ling	31/3/2025	£150.00	Deposit for 6 sets of window latches Email approved
Justin Drury	1/4/2025	£6,244.33	Work to Replace TH windows Email approved
<b>TOTAL TH for Information</b>		<b>£6,690.66</b>	<b>PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED</b>
<b>INCOMES</b>		<b>Year to Date</b>	
Town House YTD		£21,580.00	
BPC Donation		£5,777.18	Donation re Insurance
Bank Interest		87.93	
<b>TOTAL TH Incomes</b>		<b>£27,445.11</b>	
<b>Bank Balances Held</b>	account	Balance	
<b>Barley Town House</b>			
Main	3265	£31,877.03	
Deposits	8330	£4,310.00	
Savings	8104	£6,013.95	
		<b>£42,200.98</b>	
<b>Deposits</b>			
Opening balance		£4,210.00	
Received		£400.00	
Refunded		-£300.00	
Trf to main ac			
Closing Balance		<b>£4,310.00</b>	

The Payments were agreed: Proposed by Cllr Cayford and Seconded by Cllr Cockerall.

8.2 The RFO advised that the renewal premium for the Town House Insurance is £5,866.74. This was approved by the Council - Proposed Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Cayford.

8.3 Cllr Carlisle confirmed the need to inform the Insurance company when the works to the windows are due to commence.

## 9. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

### 9.1 Town House Charity

- 9.1.1 The Town House Chairman confirmed they have committed to renewing the 6 windows upstairs. Works begin in June and Cllr Carlisle confirmed that the CDM regulations do apply to the works.
- 9.1.2 The Outside lights are now working.
- 9.1.3 The flickering light in the Town House carpark will be replaced by LED lamps.
- 9.1.4 Alan Cayford confirmed all weekly Fire, Health and Safety checks had been carried out and there were no issues.

### 9.2 Plaistow & Childrens Playground

- 9.2.1 Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow. Two fence rails need nailing and Cllr Cayford confirmed that he will do this otherwise there appeared to be no other issues.
- 9.2.2 Cllr Cayford also advised that we have heard from HCC Countryside Management advising us that quotes were currently being sought by them to resurface the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow to make it more access friendly.

**10. Truvelo Speed Cameras Scheme**

- 10.1 The Clerk confirmed we are still awaiting the final documentation in the agreed form from the OPCC for signature.

**11. Clerks Report**

- 11.1 The Clerk advised that she will contact North Herts Community Funding to apply for a grant to purchase the 2 new picnic benches needed to replace the old rotting ones in the Play Area in The Plaistow.
- 11.2 The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors if they wished to change the time of the monthly PC meetings from 8pm to 7.30pm. The Council resolved they wished to remain with an 8pm start.
- 11.3 The Clerk reminded the meeting of the Annual Village meeting being held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- 11.4 Allotment agreements were finalized. The meeting agreed no increase on fees.
- 11.5 The water has been off at the allotments and this needs reconnecting with a new water meter.

**12. Items of correspondence**

- 12.1 We received an email notifying us of Giant Hogweed growing on the border of Herts & Cambs. The location has been confirmed it is private property and is therefore not a matter for the Council.
- 12.2 The Tennis Club emailed to request if it was possible to avoid Grass cutting on Wednesday Mornings during Tennis lessons. The Clerk forwarded to Bullards for their consideration.

**13. Any Other Business**

- 13.1 None raised.

**14. Date of next Barley Parish meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting, which will also be the Council's Annual Meeting, will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, commencing at 8pm. The Annual Village Meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, commencing at 8pm, also in The Town House.

**Contact:** [clerk@barleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@barleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)