

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held at the Town House on Monday 2nd November 2020 via Zoom

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Brian Haughey, Cllr Bill Sterland, Cllr David King

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mel Chamings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Tony Hunter and Mr. Nick Shaw
4 members of the public.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Yvonne Lee. District Cllr Hunter would arrive late due to other meeting commitments.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5th October 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October were read and approved.
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

All cleared actions were discussed and updated later in the agenda.

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 Haughey would seek further quotes for repair/renewal of the septic tank and pump system behind the scout hut.

District Cllr Hunter arrived at 20.15

UPDATE FROM COUNTY CLLR HILL

London Road- Drains and Embankment issue

The ongoing issues of London Road included:

- Trees overhanging the Highway and dispute about ownership
- Overflowing and blocked drains causing a regular hazard at Crossways
- Slippage of the embankment, narrowing the carriageway and preventing access to the drainage system.

The householders believed that the hedge, which bordered their land and the road, was their responsibility to maintain and they had done so over many years at their own expense. Mr D Jerrard of Ringway (Hertfordshire Highways contractor) recently informed the householders that Highways owned the hedge and that they would carry out necessary work to cut back/remove the hedge to gain access to the embankment and drains.

Having believed that the hedge was their responsibility the householders were understandably concerned. County Cllr Hill said that she would personally look into the matter and get resolution.

A site meeting with all interested parties to discuss the issues had been postponed. Meanwhile Mr. Jerrard had sent an email outlining a staged plan to cut back the hedge, check and repair drains as necessary, cut back the embankment and fix it in place with kerbing or similar. There was no proposal in the plan to replace the hedge.

Whilst the land owners accepted the fact that the drains needed to be accessed and repaired, they required assurance that any works would recognise and address that:

- Money had been paid out by the land owners over many years for maintenance of the hedge
- Their privacy and security would be compromised
- There would be a potential impact on the saleability and value of their property

County Cllr Hill said that she would ensure that everything that had been put forward would be discussed with the appropriate HCC officials and contractor and that a further site visit and revised plan would be produced. She gave assurance that the householders would be involved in the planning process.

Other Drainage issues

Unfortunately, the recent drain and gully clean had not been completed satisfactorily in the time allocated. The drain under Picknagge Road had only been partially cleared which had resulted in further flooding and furthermore the road gullies at the bottom end of the High St. between Draytons Garage and Picknagge Rd were still surcharging. The Parish Council understood that Ringway (HCC Highways Contractor) proposed to complete the required work in the spring of 2021. This was wholly unacceptable to the Parish Council. Residents were anxious and constantly on the alert to flooding in their homes. County Cllr Hill advised that she had been unaware that the previous floods had breached residents' homes. The machine known as a Vactor Unit, needed to clear the drains, was booked to capacity but Cllr Hill confirmed that emergency slots were sometimes available.

Cllr Carlisle suggested that as a practical and speedy solution, the Parish Council could source and fund the required work on the basis that HCC would then recompense the Parish Council.

County Cllr Hill said that she would discuss both options with officers. Cllr Carlisle again stressed the urgency of getting the work done.

Similarly, but prior to the recent drain and gully clean, flooding had recently occurred to a property in the High Street. County Cllr Hill said that she had been unaware of this and asked that items such as this be brought to her attention immediately. She would take the matter up with the agent acting on the resident's behalf if the problem was not yet resolved.

Speeding issue in Barley

The meeting with the PCC and other interested parties had been very constructive. County Cllr Hill would ask the OPCC to circulate the notes from the meeting and suggest a suitable date and time of next meeting, which had been promised for December.

One of the residents, who had attended the meeting, raised concern that in seeking a suitable solution to please all, that the time it would take to get to implementation would be months away and that a speedier solution for Barley should be considered.

District Cllr Morris left at 21.20

PLANNING

- a) **Single storey front extension, installation of roof lights to existing side elevation roof slopes, external cladding, replacement windows and doors to main dwelling and internal alterations. Erection of carport extension to existing detached outbuilding, and erection of flint wall to front elevation following part demolition of external walls to accommodate new extension.**

King Thorn, Smiths End Lane, Barley. Reference: 20/02300/FPH

There were no objections to this application subject to there being no significant loss of major tree cover

- b) **Further planning updates**

The Chairman and Cllr Lee attended a meeting with Claremont Consultancy and Marriot Homes with regard to a proposal for the development of land at Chishill Road/Picknage Road.

Cllr Carlisle reported that it became clear that this was a site finding consultation although the landowner was aware. Cllrs discussed the issues including the siting of the local shop, highway safety and visual impact. The consultants left the meeting clear about our priorities and they may return in future with an amended plan.

- c) **Draytons**

The response to the amended plan was still in draft form and would be sent to Cllrs once complete. Separate to the application the Parish Council had been asked to consider priorities should, despite the Parish Councils' objections, NHDC were nevertheless minded to approve the latest amended application and a s106 agreement become applicable. Cllrs Lee and Carlisle had given consideration to this and identified 4 potential areas relating to drains, speed alleviation, community amenities and site maintenance. Cllr Carlisle asked other Cllrs to consider the suggestions and respond by the end of the week.

TOWN HOUSE

Mr Shaw reported that:

- The Savills report on roof repairs had been circulated. The Cllrs noted the recommendations and delegated the actions to the Town House committee. This included liaising with the Savills officer responsible for the report, requesting Listed Building Consent for the work to be carried out and because of projected costs, obtaining 3 quotes for the work.
- Because of the success of the small weddings in October it was agreed that marketing the Town house as an ideal venue for small, intimate weddings was a good strategy. To this end a wedding organiser would be asked to present a proposal to the Committee before submitting to the Council for approval.
- There were no further weddings booked until the spring. It was agreed to close the Town House until the end of March, with a cleaning, maintenance and frost protection programme in place,
- A new electrical company to replace Busy Bee was now in place.

County Cllr Hill and District Cllr Hunter left at 21.32

FINANCE

The following payments were authorised at the meeting

Barley Parish Council

M. Chamings	£ 381.20	Clerking for October
T.Martin	£ 198.90	RFO for October
T Martin	£669.97	Reimbursement for Toshiba laptop
HAPTC	£ 60	Training course Finance

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Haughey

Barley Town House

M Chamings	£16.50	Reimbursement new keys cleaning products
Royston Domestic Appliances	£ 56	Repair to Belling cooker
B Hickford	£ 80.50	Service kitchen fan and attention to water heater
R Saklatvala	£362.50	Letting officer fee
C.Robinson	£60	Cleaning October
C Haenlein	£90	Refund part deposit for wedding breakfast
Cashman/Ramsey	£200	Refund wedding deposit
Cashman	£200	Refund Wedding deposit

Proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Sterland.

Payment made between meetings

Barley Parish Council

DBA Safety Ltd	£800	Annual Health & Safety support
----------------	------	--------------------------------

Proposed by Cllr Carlisle and seconded by Cllr Sterland

Additional Finance report

There was nothing to report from the auditors yet.

RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Turner had inspected the Plaistow and reported that:

- Repairs to the gates and picnic table would be completed when the weather improved.
- The cost of replacing a single goal post and net at £325 + £97 delivery cost was agreed. Cllr Turner would seek a quote from Bullards to erect the new post and any ancillary works.
- There had been a post on Facebook querying why swings had been removed in the playground. This had been part of the agreed risk assessment when the playground was re-opened in the summer. Given that a further lockdown had just been announced the meeting decided not to replace the swings at this time. A review of the risk assessment would be carried out in the new year.
- A set of steps leading down to the tennis court needed repair. Cllr Turner said he would ask the Tennis Club to action this.

HEALTH & SAFETY

There were no additional health and safety issues other than those already discussed under the Town House and Recreation Ground reports. DBA Safety inspection was planned for 30th November, but it was suggested that this might be moved due to the recent lockdown. The clerk would contact DBA Safety.

AOB

Cllrs approved the quote, subject to receipts being provided, for the refurbishment of the phone box in Smiths End Lane. Mr. Bland was thanked for overseeing the work.

Cllr Haughey outlined his proposal for street cleaning in the new year. This was accepted by the councilors and Cllr Haughey was thanked for his continued commitment.

The meeting ended at 22.20