

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held at the Town House on Monday 14 October 2019

1. PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Bill Sterland, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Cllr David King.

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mel Chamings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), Nick Shaw (Town House)
5 members of the public.

3. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Haughey, County Cllr Fiona Hill, and District Cllr Gerald Morris.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2019 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Sterland and seconded by Cllr King

6. MATTERS ARISING

The clerk was asked to report on the action log which had been distributed with the agenda papers.

Cleared actions

- 1) The Village Plan meeting on 24th October was published in the PC email list and on the website and on Facebook. (this initial meeting was postponed until early January)
- 2) The Clerk notified the NHDC Electoral Office that the Council had no representations to make about the current election arrangements which were considered to be satisfactory.
- 3) The Clerk sent off a completed registration form for the PC to become a Tree Charter Branch.
- 4) The Clerk requested 34 x20g bags of winter road salt from HCC. (This has since been acknowledged and the salt will be delivered during November)
- 5) An update from Helen Leitch on the status of the Conservation Statements was received. The Barley Statement would be forwarded to the PC when it was completed. Cllr Lee would contact Helen Leitch to request input to the Statement.
- 6) The Council agreed to close the action point relating to the collective parishes proposal until a permanent senior police officer was in post.

Action carried forward

- 1) On October 1st, the enhanced cleaning programme was carried out successfully in Church End. On October 29th the High Street would be cleaned on the same side as the Surgery and Richmond Coaches; opposite Bankside and the Fox & Hounds.
- 2) Two of the six children's safety poster that the PC commissioned and paid for, were now positioned in Barley, one at the Chequers and one at the top of Cambridge Road. Suitable locations for the remaining four posters (collected by the Clerk from Royston Police station) would be decided by the councillors.

- 3) Work to the London Road hedges would be undertaken by Reg Nodes on 19th October.
- 4) Mr Truett would attend the next parish council meeting and would give feedback on the scout's public meeting in September.
- 5) Work on the review of the Emergency Plan was ongoing, and planned as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- 6) An update on the Highways action plan was received and it was noted that Barley would receive new roundel speed signs as part of HLB scheme. It was also noted that the road and land off Picknage Road was not Highways maintained. Although previously owned by NHDC the ownership was now with 'settle' (formerly North Herts. Homes). Cllr Carlisle advised that residents should make enquiries to 'settle' about their legal rights.
- 7) Cllr Lee, having agreed to carry out further research on the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) reported back to the meeting. Although take up of NPs was growing and the availability of government funding made it a more attractive proposition, a NP would require backing by NHDC and more importantly support by referendum of the village. Cllr Lee would continue to look in more detail at the process and consult villages that had already gone through the process.
- 8) Further work on the cost of services and plans for renewal of the PC container were in train(*Cllr Haughey who leads on this will report back at the November meeting*)
- 9) Speeding proposal: A further redraft of the letter to the chief constable was presented, but was not accepted. Cllr Carlisle suggested an amendment to the proposal to include the parish council paying for police administration time. The council resolved to set up a small working group of Cllr Haughey, Cllr Lee and Mr Emerson to revise the letter, to include the new proposal, for consideration and approval at the next parish council meeting.

7. TOWN HOUSE

Mr. Shaw gave feedback on the recent Town House Committee meeting.

- He thanked Cllr Turner for his work on reinstating the locks on the display cabinets.
- Light sensors would be installed on the outside staircases
- The chairs would be steam cleaned
- Fees for local users would be increased from £12.50 to £15 from 1 April 2020 to cover the costs of electricity and heating
- The committee recommended that £15000 of current income be moved into a deposit account
- Parking for Town House users was an ongoing problem. It was noted that cars were still parking in front of the School Fire emergency gate. The Clerk would write to all regular users to remind them of the need to keep the exit clear. Mr. Martin would speak to the school suggesting the need for a more prominent sign on the gate

8. PLANNING

Wells Cottage, Smiths End Lane, 19/01102/FPH refers

The council had no objections to the revised plan as long as it contained a sustainable landscaping scheme as part of the planning conditions.

Burnels Barn 19/02088/FPH refers

The council objected to this application and fully supported the objection already submitted by the adjoining landowners and their planning consultants.

9. FINANCE

Mr. Tim Martin (RFO) reported the following payments were due to be made:-
Barley Parish Council

Marks Gardening Services	77.50	Mowing footpaths
Francis Duncan	198.00	Supply bulbs for village planting
M Chammings	354.00	Clerking for September
T. Martin	402.00	RFO for September
Hardcastle Burton	216.00	Payroll July-Sept
HRMC	393.60	PAYE for quarter

The above payments were agreed and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland

Barley Town House

R. Saklatvala	511.00	Letting Officer fee+ wedding
C. Robinson	100.00	Cleaning for Sept.
Return of deposits		
B Norris	150.00	Wedding in July
D Nottingham	150.00	Cancellation
C Weston	150.00	Cancellation
E Myers	40.00	Wedding

The above payments were agreed and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland

A number of payments were authorized between meetings:

PKF Littlejohn	240.00	External audit fee
Melbourn Buildings	425.00	Balance for allotment shed
Came& Co	2103.19	Parish Council insurance premium

Mr. Martin also reported that the meeting with the consultant in Swindon to discuss our VAT position would be arranged soon.

The Insurance renewal terms, which were circulated in advance of the meeting, were approved

The council resolved that £10000(ten thousand pounds) currently held in the Town House bank account be moved into a 6months notice deposit account.

10. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Turner reported that the dog bins needed to be emptied and the front face of the bins needed to be cleaned. He would ask Mark Davies to attend to the cleaning of the bins. The Clerk was asked to contact NHDC to arrange for the bins to be emptied under our contract with them.

He also reported on his visit to the FA consultant which he believed was a fact finding meeting on their part. He reported that the FA may be interested in funding a multi surface area in the Plaistow. Separately it was suggested that adult outdoor fitness equipment could be installed, as is the case in Great Chishill. Cllr Turner also reported on recent developments in five aside goal posts, which were mobile and safer than previously. These ideas would be considered as part of the Village Plan.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed that the Town House monthly check was satisfactory. One of the alarms which had developed a fault had been repaired.

The next meeting with DBA Safety, the Council's Health and Safety consultant would take place on Monday 18th November when the Fire Risk Assessment would be reviewed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The council received a letter from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance requesting a donation. Although the council regarded this as a worthy cause it was reluctant to set a precedent as generally the council does not make such donations as there are so many worthy causes and it is not feasible to support them all. Councilors, however, resolved to raise the issue of supporting a named charity of the year at the annual village meeting.

12. AOB

Mrs. Vi Moxey would like to plant a small tree behind the bench at the bottom of Bakers Lane. As this request was in keeping with our tree charter status the idea was fully supported. The Clerk would make enquiries about the ownership of the land in question.

Jan Mc Gil l (leading the proposals for re-establishing the Village Show) reported that a meeting between herself and the Flower Show committee would take place at the end of the month. One of the key issues for the committee was the safety of the marquees and whether there were funds available to ensure the necessary repairs. Cllr Carlisle said he would speak to the past treasurer of the village show about the account.

The meeting ended at 22.20