

BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 via Zoom

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mel Chammings (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. Cllr David King was absent from the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2 November 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Sterland 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

- 1) _ County Cllr Hill confirmed that a virtual meeting with David Lloyd (PCC) to discuss the new camera proposal would take place on 10th December.
- 2) Clearance of the outstanding gully and drainage work at Picknage road would take place on 12th December (County Councillor Hill update on the agenda). *Post meeting note – the work has been postponed until 19th December.*
- 3) Cllr Haughey responded to the request by Cllr Carlisle about potential s106 items.
- 4) Application for LBC consent for the work on the Town House roof was sent to planning control.
- 5) Proposal for external help to promote weddings at the Town House completed.(On the agenda)
- 6) Any other actions were discussed within 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 be provided in the Plaistow would be included 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. Cllr Haughey reported that he had attempted to seek further quotes but so far no company had shown an interest.
- 3) Repairs to the kissing gates on the footpath surrounding Lovely View horse field were still outstanding. The clerk was asked to chase this up

UPDATE FROM COUNTY CLLR HILL

- The works to the embankment and drainage on London Road was still scheduled for March next year. Gary Henning would visit the site and look at the location of the hedge. Given that the embankment had slipped it was likely that the hedge in part now belonged to Highways. Cllr Carlisle again made the point that the works plan should not be signed off until the site meeting with all concerned parties was reconvened. County Cllr Hill said that it was important to send official notification to Highways to explain the PC views on this. The clerk would draft a note to that effect. Cllrs made the point that they did not want the work to be compromised and that getting the work done to schedule, whilst addressing residents concerns was imperative.
- County Cllr Hill would chase up the access details and paperwork for the meeting with the OPCC scheduled for the following day. She gave assurance that a lot of work had been done and hoped for a successful outcome to the speeding camera issue. She was personally concerned about the speeding issue, particularly where there were offenders driving at extremely high speeds and had asked the police to carry out regular checks in the village.
- Covid 19 heavily dominated every Cllrs portfolio. It was great that a vaccine had been found but it was important to get the message across that the current rules should be adhered to as Covid cases had not stabilised to a satisfactory level across the county.
- Libraries were open, social distancing being enforced
- Royston Recycling Centre was open, but Buntingford was still closed

PLANNING

- a) Erection of detached garage following demolition of existing detached garage.
Ref: 20/02762/FPH 3 Bankside, High Street, Barley**

There were no objections to this application

- b) Single storey extension following demolition of existing garage. Ref: 20/02510/FPH
Roly Poly Cottage, Pudding Lane**

There were no objections to this application

- c) Erection of one detached 4 bed dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.
Ref: 20/02419/FP Churchfield, Pudding Lane**

It was noted that the new build footprint was larger, and the height of the two storey section was some 30% higher than existing. There was discussion about the use of a zinc sheet for the roofing material for the main house. Views ranged from positive to negative about the appropriateness of the material given the very prominent location. Notwithstanding these items, the council decided that there was no objection to the application in principle, subject to planning conditions stating that the use of the annex/guest wing should be tied to the use and

occupation of the main house and that all Permitted Development Rights are withdrawn.

d) Erection of one 5 bed detached dwelling following demolition of existing. Variation of permission granted 23/01/20. Ref 20/02693/S73. Wells Cottages, Smiths End Lane

There were no objections to this application in principle but it was noted that the application did not include any landscaping proposals. Having regard to this council's comments in connection with the previous applications for the site, and its very prominent location, it was agreed that the Council would request that NHDC require the applicant, prior to determination, to submit an appropriate and substantial landscaping scheme for the site and if NHDC are minded to approve the application including the landscaping proposals, that compliance with such proposals be a condition of any consent granted.

**e) Internal alterations and insertion of window to new study Ref: 20/02839/LBC and Insertion of roof light to rear elevation Ref: 20/02840/LBC
The Belfry, Manor Farm, Barley**

There were no objections to these applications

Other planning

District Cllr Morris advised the meeting that planning control was waiting for further comments from the Conservation officer, the Environmental Agency (EA) and the Leading Local Flood Authority (LLFA) before any decision would be made on the Draytons Garage development. Given the size of this development (12 dwellings) the Parish Council asked District Cllr Morris to call the plans in to the Planning Committee for decision. The clerk would put the request in writing.

We had received notification of an application at Langley Farm to erect a substantial agricultural barn. The issues around this hinged on the fact that large vehicles would use single lane roads to transport materials, affecting the integrity of the lanes and creating a hazard to other road users, particularly walkers and cyclists. The clerk would send objections on behalf of Barley Parish Council. Attendees were also encouraged to send personal responses.

District Cllr Morris left at 21.00

TOWN HOUSE

• Promotional Proposal

There were a number of concerns expressed about the proposal. The fact that it was an agreement with only one company and that initial enquiries went through that company rather than our local hirer. The length of the trial period was also questioned.

There was however an agreement that there was a need to promote the venue for weddings.

VAT

Mr. Martin shared the results of his recent meeting with the VAT adviser. It was now clear that weddings were subject to VAT which will affect what arrangements we need to make in future. Cllr Carlisle and Mr Martin will meet with the VAT adviser to better understand the arrangements that need to be put in place. On this basis it was decided to put the promotional proposal on hold until our next meeting in January.

- Town House roof

The listed building consent application had been made. Mr Shaw had received one quote so far for the works and a further two quotes are in the pipeline.

- DBA safety consultant visit

A recent visit by the consultant to review the Town House Fire Risk Assessment went well. There were no significant issues raised. The improvements to the fire/smoke alarm system, fire exit indicators and emergency lighting were noted.

- The Town House Wheelie bin would be locked from now on, to avoid it being used as a general village refuse bin.

- The Tennis Club asked for use of the toilets. This was agreed subject to the conditions stipulated in the Covid Regular Users Risk Assessment.

FINANCE

The following list of payments was authorised at this meeting

Barley Parish Council

PKF Littlejohn	£240-00	Annual assurance review of AGAR
Hardcastle Burton	£ 834-0	Annual review of the T H Accounts
M.Chammings	£ 352-40	Clerking for November
T.Martin	£ 362-00	RFO for November
T.Martin	£124-99	Reimbursement re Microsoft Office
T.Martin	£ 506-40	New football goal and netting
S.Bullard	£ 1,336-78	Grass cutting Plaistow & Play Area 2020
S.Bullard	£ 300-00	One off footpaths work
Minted Box	£ 230-40	Annual website hosting

Herts Tree Care	£ 576-00	Tree work
Red Graphic	£ 137-00	Flyers for Barley Assist

Payments were proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Sterland

Barley Town House

R.Saklatvala	£ 50-00	Letting Officer fee for November
TJ Fire & Security	£ 66-36	Fire Extinguisher service

Payments proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr Sterland

Payment made in between Meetings

Barley Parish Council

R.Bland	£ 263-81	Reimbursement materials for renovation of the post box in Smiths End Lane
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Proposed J.Carlisle
Seconded B.Sterland

Finance report

- Budget
Mr Martin presented the Precept setting budget 2021-22, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the figures presented were broadly in line with the plans that had been discussed at previous meetings. Although it left the total reserves at lower rate than normal, it was felt that given the circumstances this year it was not appropriate to increase the precept which had remained at the same level for 10 years. If necessary, plans could be adjusted throughout the year to ensure that reserves stayed at a reasonable level. Final decisions on the budget would be made at the next meeting. Cllrs were asked to reconsider the plans and budget and to alert the RFO to any potential changes prior to the next meeting if possible.
- Audit
The audit process was concluded, with no comments made by the external auditors. It would now be posted on the website. Following the review by Hardcastle Burton year end financial information for the Town House had been sent to the Charity Commission and an acknowledgement had been received

District Cllr Hunter left at 21.50

RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Turner reported that:

- The picnic table seat was repaired and would be reinstated. Repairs to the gates still needed attention.

- The goal post and net were due to be delivered tomorrow. Bullards had been appointed to fix the post and carry out any ancillary work.

HEALTH & SAFETY

There were no additional health and safety issues other than those already discussed under the Town House and Recreation Ground reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

- We had received a letter from the Sustainability team in HCC asking if we were interested in joining the Greening Campaign. The clerk would ask for more details and circulate for discussion at a later meeting.
- Royston and District Community Transport had written seeking funding support. As this was a service used by our residents it was agreed to donate £ 250. The clerk would send a positive reply.
- The ONS census 2021 was due to be completed in March 2021. Our local census engagement manager contacted the council to discuss how we could work together to support any parishioners that for a number of reasons may be less likely to complete the census questionnaire. The clerk would make contact with the engagement manager to discuss how we might help.

AOB

- Cllr Haughey had organised the street cleaning rota for next year. The deep clean would happen in March and follow the same arrangements as this year. Cllr Haughey had spoken to the owner of the trees that overhung the carriageway in Church End. These would be cut back to allow for a proper clean of the footpath.
- Mr Martin said that the Diary was now in need of financial support, having lost a lot of advertising during this year. It was suggested that the annual fee should be raised. County Cllr Hill also suggested that an approach to Ashley Hawkins, the NHDC Community Engagement Officer, would be helpful. As the Diary reaches the socially isolated there was a clear case for financial support.

The meeting ended at 22.30.

The next meeting would be held by zoom on Monday 4th January 2021