

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 3rd APRIL 2017**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr I Turner, Cllr G Clark, Cllr P McPartland, Dst. Cllr Gerald Morris, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), Mr Tim Martin (RFO)

2. Apologies

Cllr Yvonne Lee, County Cllr Tony Hunter & Mr Nick Shaw (Chair of Townhouse Management Committee)

3. Councillor's Declaration of Interest

Cllr McPartland asked it to be noted that he lives opposite Kestrels, Church End, Barley which is to be discussed as a planning application on the Agenda.

No other declarations.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6th March '17 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr G Clark and seconded by Cllr P McPartland.

5. Matters Arising

The paperwork to formally adopt the red telephone box in Smiths End Lane has now been completed. It was agreed to add this item to the agenda of the Village Meeting to discuss what should be now be done with the box.

Cllr Carlisle advised the meeting of discussions which took place with Mr Gary Henning, of Hertfordshire Highways, when they met last month. The road surface by the entrance to Crossways was discussed and along with other road surfaces around the village it is a County wide problem and Highways are aware. They are in negotiation with the contractor who initially installed the top dressing to try to get the problem resolved. At their meeting the subject of the road gullies around the village was also raised, including particular concerns for those in London Road where the gullies have become completely blocked and are collapsing in places. Mr Henning had explained that as with everything funding is an issue. It is suggested that we keep pressing for the works to be done. Mr Henning agreed to resolve the barrier issues at the bridge along Royston Road, he didn't think that this would be too much of an issue. Cllr Carlisle asked the Clerk to email Mr Henning to ask if he could update us on the other items discussed at their meeting.

Cllr Turner reported that he would contact the owners at Crossways where the hedges had been requested to be cut back, he was unsure if they had been cut back or not.

Cllr Carlisle advised that he had spoken with the Rights of Way Officer at Hertfordshire County Council, Julia Clarke, regarding the proposed changes to the status of Pudding Lane and Footpath 17 which runs from Pudding Lane along to Smiths End Lane. The changes are proposed as part of a review of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way in Hertfordshire which records the various footpaths, bridleways, byways and highways etc. within the County and where reviews can be sought where it is considered that the Definitive Map is wrong. Such reviews are conducted by the County Council based on historic evidence that can demonstrate that the right of way e.g. footpath or bridleway or highway was historically used as such but was incorrectly shown on the map and/or has fallen into disuse for some reason but where the right of way still exists as it has never been extinguished. The current status of Pudding Lane is undefined and the change of status if agreed by the County Council would confirm it as a Restricted Byway on the Definitive Rights of Way map. The proposal to change Footpath 17 from a footpath to a Restricted Byway is also proposed and the meeting agreed that given the width of the path and the restrictions getting on to the path that this would not be suitable and should be resisted.. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the applicant to request that we enter into a dialogue about these proposals.

Cllr Clark gave an update on his last meeting with Sgt Guy Westwood and he was pleased to report that we are now seeing more regular speed checks in the village. PC Mark Elwood has been coming at different times and has attended 4 times in the last 4 weeks. These checks will continue as long as resources and manpower would allow. Cllr Turner asked if enquiries could be made by Cllr Clark as to why no tickets were issued.

Long discussions took place about the effectiveness of the speed checks and Cllr Turner talked about installing chicanes in the village to slow down traffic. Dst. Cllr Morris was asked to find out what NHDC policy was on installing chicanes without street lighting.

Cllr Carlisle reported that he had attended a meeting with Heidi Alan MP for South Cambs to discuss the A505 junction at Flint Cross. This is an accident black spot with a recent fatal accident and improvements to the junction are continually being sought. Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to undertake resurfacing works, new road markings and to look at extending the 50mph limit back towards Royston. The possibility of the junction becoming signal controlled was raised but this level of works would undoubtedly require Hertfordshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to jointly fund which in the current financial climate would make such a proposal unlikely in the short term. However the currently planned works are scheduled to take place during this summer and while largely cosmetic it is hoped that they will help with road safety/ driver awareness at this location.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme was discussed and it was understood that the OWL system had now replaced this, its effectiveness however was questioned as notifications weren't always timely or relevant to our local area.

Two people have come forward following our request for Parish Councillors to co-opt onto the Parish Council and it was agreed to take forward at the next meeting and AGM in May.

6. Planning

Case ref: 17/00281/1HH Lea View, Smiths End Lane, Barley – Replacement front porch

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that there were no objections to this application however it was noted that this replacement porch is twice the size of the current porch and is in front of the building line of the property.

Case ref: 16/03141/1 Kestrels, Church End, Barley – Review of amended plans for three bedroom detached dwelling with basement garage / room following demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Additional access off Church End

Following discussions it was agreed that we would respond to this application as follows:

Barley Parish Council continue to object to this application as amended by the revised plans and in arriving at their decision wish the District Council to take the following comments into account:-

(1) We note that the proposed dwelling has been re sited on the plot away from the adjoining property, 2 Church End, and that the angle of the roof slope appears to have been altered so that the ridge height of the proposed new dwelling is reduced. We also note that as a consequence of relocating the new house on the plot the access to the basement car park has been relocated to the eastern side of the plot adjacent to No 2 Church End. In all other respects we understand from the applicant who attended the meeting that the proposal remains otherwise largely unaltered from the original application.

(2) The proposed repositioning of the new house and reduction in height are welcomed but are disappointed that the amended application does not address any of our other concerns previously notified to the District Council and we repeat our objections to the application as set out in items 3, 4, 5, and 6 of our response to the original application dated 16th January 2017 in their entirety.

Case ref: 17/00627/1LB & 00626/1HH Belfry, Manor Farm, Church End, Barley Single storey side conversion of garage to playroom. Internal and external alterations

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that there were no objections to this application.

Nobles Cottage, Smiths End Lane, Barley

Notification has been received from the owners of Nobles Cottage to inform the council that during works to re thatch the property problems were discovered with the upstairs windows at the rear of the property. After consultation with the Conservation Officer they have agreed to repair the windows and at his suggestion install 'eye brows'. The planning application for this and repairs to the flint wall at the front of the property will be submitted shortly.

7. Town House

In his absence, Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee had emailed the Clerk to report that the clock is not working and he has taken it to the clock maker who supplied it. It will probably be absent for a while whilst being repaired.

Mrs Alison Stacey, Letting Officer has reported that we have a healthy number of functions booked for the coming year, including 5 weddings, 1 civil partnership and 2 evening parties booked so far.

It was discussed whether the disabled blue badge signage needs to be increased in the disabled parking bay.

8. Finance Officers report & signing of payments

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

Parish Council

Laura Childs	Clerk fees & office expenses (March)	£ 383.16
Tim Martin	RFO (March) and stationary expenses	£ 191.59
HAPTC	Annual membership	£ 383.16
NHDC	Emptying of dog waste refuse bins	£ 474.24
HMRC	PAYE	£ 313.20
Hardcastle Burton	PAYE services	£ 111.00
Came & Co.	Town House annual insurance	£ 1,767.35

It was agreed that these payment should be made

Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Clark

Town House

Carol Robinson	March cleaning	£ 72.00
Alison Stacey	Letting officer fee (March) & annual advert in The Diary	£ 105.25
Busy Bee	Various electrical works	£ 815.28
Affinity Water	Annual water charge	£ 97.99
Drage Security	Fire alarm	£ 144.00

It was agreed that these payments should be made

Proposed by Cllr McPartland and seconded by Cllr Clark

Cllr Carlisle advised that Bright Advertisings rent for the Clubroom is due to be reviewed this year.

The rates for the Town House have been received and they remain the same as last year.

Mr Martin advised that the Annual Audit notice from BDRC has been received and this will be reviewed at our next meeting. Mr Martin confirmed that he will circulate the accounts for 2016 / 2017 via email to be reviewed by everyone prior to the meeting.

Mr Martin spoke about a notice that has been received regarding registering any employee of the Parish Council who is entitled to a Workplace Pension and that they should be notified before 1st May '17.

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

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Clark reported that the quarterly inspection has now been undertaken of the new play equipment by Broadmead Leisure and the slide has been adjusted.

The grass has had its first cut and the fencing has been done. Unfortunately nappies are still being left in the bins.

10. Website

Cllr McPartland advised that the working group for the new website are making excellent progress. They are at the point of discussing with the website developers styles and layouts of the new website. It is hoped by the next meeting to have something to show the Parish Council.

11. Fox & Hounds

Two meetings have now taken place with the steering group and a letter and questionnaire have been circulated to every household in the village asking if they would like to invest financially in the Fox & Hounds should the Parish Council be successful in its bid to buy the pub. Feedback was also requested on peoples preference as to how the pub would be run. There are two main options; a not for profit organisation and a private enterprise. The Plunkett Foundation who have offered support and advise have advised that we would qualify for their full support and that they will be appointing an advisor but they will only contribute up to £100,000 if the option chosen to run the pub is via the social enterprise model. We have qualified immediately for a £2,500 grant to put towards any initial costs such as the questionnaire.

It is understood that Mr Mark Brown, who is the new owner of the plot adjacent to the pub, is unlikely progress anything with the new build until next year. This is apparently because there are quite a few restrictions within the planning consent regarding archaeological digs etc. Cllr Carlisle suggested that if we are successful in our bid then we perhaps need to co-ordinate any building works with the renovations of the pub.

12. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle advised that he has now heard from the Scouts who have written to our lawyers, they confirmed that they are happy with the form of the lease and want to clarify the form exactly as the lease will be in the name of the local trustees rather than under the banner of the 'Scouts Association'. Subject to taking advice on that it looks likely that things can be drawn up quite quickly.

13. Lock Up

In the absence of Cllr Lee, Cllr Carlisle reported that he understood the contractor was ready to start but Ancient Monument approval was not yet in place. Cllr Carlisle was meeting with the Contractor who would be resolving this. They are now hoping to start the work in the next 4 – 5 weeks.

14. Health & Safety

Cllr Carlisle confirmed that the fire alarm emergency lighting system has now been done in the Townhouse. Mr Nick Shaw has agreed to check the system on a monthly basis and log it.

The **next** meeting with Drew & Baltrop will be arranged shortly.

Cllr Turner advised that the Barley Show Committee have not done a Health & Safety assessment and are aware that they should. They have asked for any advice on how to create method statements for erecting marquees, electrical, bouncy castles etc. Cllr Clark said that he had a friend who runs a large show / fete in Chigwell and that he would ask her for some guidance.

15. Correspondence

All correspondence received is to be circulated amongst Councillors.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Carlisle reported that he had received an email confirming that Bright Advertising and the School have now met and come to an arrangement regarding the bees at the Clubroom. It is understood that they will be arranging for an expert to dispose of them.

The Clerk advised that the allotment rent is now due and Cllr Clark agreed to send up to date details of the current plot holders. It was agreed to keep the rent at the same rate as last year.

A number of complaints have been received regarding staff parking on the road outside of Margaret House when there is ample space in their staff car park. The Clerk was asked to write to Margaret House and request that they advise staff to use the staff car park or if that is full then to use the car park at the rear of the Townhouse.

Cllr Carlisle, at his meeting with Mr Gary Henning of Hertfordshire Highways had asked if he could look into again the ownership of the trees on Bankside. He asked the Clerk to chase for an answer.

Whilst the village website is out of action the Clerk was asked to post a copy of the latest meetings minutes on the Parish Council notice board on the High Street.

Meeting dates for the AGM and the Annual Village Meeting were agreed for 8th and 10th May respectively. The Clerk agreed to post these in The Diary and on the Parish Council notice board.

Cllr Clark advised the meeting that he has now moved from the village and he will therefore no longer be able to remain on the Parish Council. Cllr Carlisle suggested that he formally resign from the Parish Council at our next meeting and AGM on 8th May when we hoped to co-opt two new members to the Parish Council.

Cllr Clark gave a set of keys for the padlock to the gates behind the Scout Hut to Cllr Turner.

Meeting closed at 22:35