



**Barley Parish Council Annual Meeting: 12th May 2025 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Neil Cockrell, Cllr Ian Turner, District Cllr Martin Prescott, Fiona Hill, RFO Lynn Brett, Clerk Alice Robertson, Town House Chairman Alan Wiltshire.

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the coming year 2025-2026

- 1.1** To consider nominations for and to elect the Chair for the coming year. Cllr Carlisle confirmed he did not want to stand for Chair. Nominations were received proposing Cllr Lee for Chair. One nomination was received for Cllr Hearn. Cllr Hearn declined the nomination. No other nominations were received. Cllr Lee was elected as Chair for the coming year by a majority.
- 1.2** To consider nominations for, and to elect the Vice Chair for the coming year. Nominations were received for Cllr Hearn for Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. Cllr Hearn was elected as Vice Chair for the coming year.
- 1.3** Cllr Yvonne Lee expressed her thanks to Cllr Jerry Carlisle on behalf of all the Parish Councillors, for his many years (33!) serving as Chairman on the Council.

2. Apologies

- 2.1** Cllr Martin Prescott and County Cllr Ruth Brown sent their apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1** No declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes

- 4.1** The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 7th April were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Cayford, Seconded Cllr Carlisle.

5. Public Participation

- 5.1** No matters raised.

6. Planning

- 6.1 Ref: 25/00889/FPH - Woodcroft, Picknag Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HP**
Full Permission Householder : Erection of detached garage and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing outbuilding. Front porch with roof to extend over existing attached garage and replace existing front garage door with windows to facilitate garage conversion. Replace existing first floor side balcony with glazed infill and replace existing No.2 rear dormer windows with No.1 box dormer. Installation of external cladding and alterations to fenestration. (as a variation of planning permission 24/02383/FPH granted 13.01.2025)

Barley Parish Council considered this application at their meeting on Monday 12th May and resolved as follows:

There is no objection in principle to this application, though the Parish Council have also noted that the mature mixed hedge at the front of the property onto the road has been removed in its entirety, and leylandii planted in its place and would ask that the planners look at this.

- 6.2 Reference: 25/00895/LBC – Old Manor House, Shaftenhoe End, Bogmoor Road, Barley, Royton, Herts, SG8 8LE. Listed Building Consent:** Internal alterations and opening to facilitate investigation works to existing listed building fabric.

Barley Parish Council considered this application at their meeting on Monday 12th May and no objections to this application were raised.

- 6.3 Planning application 21/00765/OP: Land off Barkway Road and North of Flint Hall, Barkway Road, Royston, Hertfordshire. Outline application for residential development of up to 280 dwellings (including affordable housing) green infrastructure including public open space, landscape boundaries and SUDS with all matters reserved except for access which is to be taken from Barkway Road (as amended 22nd April 2025)**

Barley Parish Council considered this application at their meeting on the 12th May 2025 and resolved as follows:

Barley Parish Council objected to the original application and subsequent proposed amendments in January 2025. Having reviewed the supplementary traffic analysis, we can see no additional information that addresses any of our concerns, namely the adverse impact on infrastructure.

The current Local Plan was only adopted in 2022 and this site is not identified for development.

Our two principle areas of concern remain traffic and health provision; the supplementary information on the assessment of traffic impact does not address any of our previously expressed concerns.

The revised traffic assessment, has been updated and should be more reflective of current post Covid traffic flows. However, as far as we are able to determine, the analysis still discounts planned and proposed development outside the envelope of Royston, for example the substantial development proposed in Barkway, and totally disregards the impact of traffic flows into Royston from the surrounding villages, particularly Barley, Barkway and Reed. Additionally, the very flawed assumption is made that almost all traffic coming from this proposed development would turn left into Royston and not right – why? This assumption defies all logic and is totally unrealistic. Traffic wanting to go east on the A505, or indeed to Melbourne, is not going to queue on the gyratory system in central Royston and then negotiate numerous traffic islands to reach the A505, when there is the option to turn right out of the development, travel to Barley and then turn left up to join the A505 at Flint Cross – not withstanding that this junction is already under considerable stress. The developers and their advisers should look at where the new residents are likely to be employed and this should inform their traffic analysis. We would argue that the majority of the new residents are unlikely to be employed within Royston – it is more likely to be London (with the alternative

option of commuting into Liverpool Street from Audley End, necessitating traveling through Barley) or Cambridge. This would result in traffic turning right out of the development not left as the developers and their consultants have assumed. The analysis is fundamentally flawed and thus completely overlooks the impact on surrounding villages and the A505 junction at Flint Cross.

It has been recognised for many years that the A505/B1368 junction is under considerable stress, and this will only increase with the Granta Park development and further planned schemes at Sawston and Duxford. These may be “out of county” but this doesn’t mean they should be ignored. The cumulative impact of all of these schemes plus the proposed residential schemes in Royston and Barkway must be considered.

No further information has been provided to address all of the collective objections submitted to NHDC with regard to health provision.

Barley Parish Council is of the opinion that none of the very key points concerning traffic and health have been addressed by the applicant.

Barley Parish Council continues to object to this application and urges North Hertfordshire District Council to refuse the planning application; if permitted it would cause demonstrable harm not only to Royston but also to the surrounding villages.

We urge all agencies involved in consideration of such applications to take an integrated, joined-up approach, ensuring the correct infrastructure is in place to provide truly sustainable developments that positively contribute to the area rather than severely impacting on the quality of life for existing residents.

6.4 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 - AMENDED

Barley Parish Council (BPC) considered the amendment to this application, to partially sit the new building down by approximately 0.5m, at their meeting on the 12th May 2025.

Despite the applicant’s amended proposal, Barley Parish Council remain of the view that the application is contrary to approved planning policy as set out in the current approved Local Plan, in particular Policy SP2 Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution and Policy CGB1 Rural Areas Beyond the Green Belt. The location of the site within the Barley Conservation area imposes further expectations from any proposed development.

This application remains contrary to planning policy; Barley Parish Council are of the view it should only be considered for approval if a strong argument can be made for it to be considered as an exception to planning policy. The applicant has not advanced any arguments to support such a consideration and thus we can see no mitigating factors that would justify the grant of planning permission.

After careful consideration, Barley Parish Council remain of the view that 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 urge NHDC to refuse the application.

6.5 **Ref: 25/01009/FPH - Full Permission Householder : Installation of hardstanding to front of property together with dropped kerb and vehicle crossover onto B1039 36 Picknag Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HP.**

Barley Parish Council considered this application at their meeting on the 12th May 2025.

We are sympathetic to the needs of the applicant to achieve a satisfactory vehicular access and hard standing arrangement, however, we do question whether the proposed solution is the best and most practical solution. The proposed new crossover would be directly opposite to Edgar Yard and in close proximity to both the existing service road and adjoining field access. Picknag Road is extremely well used and has recently seen the development of additional residential properties adjacent to Millers Close together with a newly created access directly from Picknag Road.

We would suggest rather than create yet another new access/crossover, it would be preferable to try and utilise access from the existing service road; Barley Parish Council consider this to be a safer option for all road users. It would also address the issue of ownership of the crossover as shown on the submitted plans. This area is included by red edging on the submitted application plans but we do not believe the area of the tarmacadam drive over across the grass verge is within the ownership or control of the applicant.

For the reasons set out above, Barley Parish Council has reservations with this application and would ask NHDC to consider our comments before determining this application.

7. Finance RFO report

7.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council.

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
Alice Robertson	25/04/2025	£128.78	Clerk gross pay balance April & expenses
Lynn Brett	05/05/2025	£432.72	RFO gross pay & expenses April
Donation to Pcc	12/05/2025	£500.00	Donation towards churchyard mtc
TOTAL BPC for approval		<u>£1,061.50</u>	

For Information

Peninsula	28/4/2025	£223.45	Paid via DD
Alice Robertson	28/4/2025	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC
ICO	4/4/2025	£47.00	Data protection fee
HMRC	25/4/2025	£56.40	Paye to March 2025
TOTAL BPC for information		<u>£726.85</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

VAT refund	£431.08	
Club Room	£4,079.05	Rent & Ins BBP
NHDC precept	£16,782.00	1st Half precept
CTRS Grant	£278.33	
CDA Grant		
Other incomes	£165.00	Allotment
Interest		
TOTAL BPC Incomes	<u>£21,735.46</u>	

Bank Balances Held

account Balance

Barley Parish Council

Main	2188	£50,436.15
Savings	5127	£0.00
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£18,998.31
TOTAL BPC Banks		<u>£69,434.46</u>

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit	£2,317.39	Final
Barley Show	<u>£11,240.89</u>	
Barley Tennis Club	<u>£19,694.70</u>	Bank balances

S137 expenditure limit

24/25	10.81	per elector
25/26	11.1	

Precept Requested 25/26	£33,564.00
CTRS	£556.66
Total	<u>£34,120.66</u>
1st Precept paid 09/04/2025	

The Payments were agreed. Proposed Cllr Cayford, Seconded by Cllr Carlisle.

- 7.1.1 The RFO read out to the Council each item in “Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement”, and “Section 2 - Accounting Statements” of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 3, for the purposes of acceptance and agreement by the Council.
- 7.1.2 The RFO then presented the AGAR for approval and signature by the Chair for submission to the external auditor.
- 7.1.3 The RFO circulated to all councillors the 2024/2025 Internal Audit Report dated 12th May 2025 prepared by Hardcastle Burton LLP Internal Audit Service. The RFO highlighted the comments and recommendations made by the Internal Auditor which the council and council officers noted. It was agreed that where necessary these would be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

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

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
Brian Haughey	04/08/2025	£35.35	New toilet seat and lights for ladies toilet
Elvira Gusejnova	28/04/2025	£437.50	Fees & Expenses Jan-Apr 25
Caley Clark	05/09/2025	£210.00	Cleaning TH April 2025
TOTAL TH for approval		<u>£682.85</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT

For Information

PNET	25/4/2025	£29.83	paid by DD
NHDC	1/5/2025	£47.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	11/4/2025	£135.54	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Everflow Ltd	25/4/2025	£49.79	Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information		<u>£262.16</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

Town House YTD	£5,620.00
BPC Donation	
Bank Interest	
TOTAL TH Incomes	<u>£5,620.00</u>

Bank Balances Held account Balance

Barley Town House

Main	3265	£31,600.88
Deposits	8330	£5,110.00
Savings	8104	£6,013.95
		<u>£42,724.83</u>

Deposits

Opening balance	£4,310.00
Received	£800.00
Refunded	
Trf to main ac	
Closing Balance	<u>£5,110.00</u>

The Payments were agreed. Proposed Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Cockrell

8.1 The RFO advised that due to the donation from Barley Parish Council towards the Town House insurance pushing the totals over a threshold, a financial internal audit will now be required. The RFO suggested that Hardcastle quote to do this. The Council agreed. The RFO to action.

9. Reports from County/District Councillors

9.1 To receive a report from Previous County Cllr Fiona Hill

Hertfordshire County Council

There has been additional funding allocated in the Integrated Plan (Budget) towards flooding and verge erosion across the County.

Highways Action Plan

Updated by Highways officers/County Councillor and sent to Barley Parish Council. All actions either scheduled or completed.

Highways Updates

The damaged kerbs following commencement of the development have been reported and the issue is being investigated by Planning Enforcement at the District Council regarding repairs.

Highways officers have identified the junction of Picknag Road/Cambridge Road for future works. Works due to take place this week have been slightly delayed on Picknag Road.

The data from the Speed and Volume survey in Picknag Road has been sent to the Parish Council to form part of future discussions with the OPCC and local Police.

Barley is on the list for data to be collected regarding 20 mph zones but the outcome depends on whether areas are identified and funding.

The bridge between Barley and Royston identified for structural works is being regularly monitored by Highways in the meantime.

Rural Surgery

The Surgery took place in the Woodman, Nuthampstead on 3rd May.

9.2 To receive a report from Cllr Martin Prescott

Cllr Prescott was not present.

10. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

10.1 Town House Charity

10.1.1 Cllr Cayford, advised that the Health and Safety Checks in the Townhouse have been undertaken and no issues have been raised.

10.1.2 The sound system changes are due to start in the next few months.

10.2 Plaistow & Green Areas

10.2.1 Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow and confirmed that there were no issues other than one of the planks on the fence by the field boundary fence had come away. Cllr Cayford to repair.

11. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that:

11.1 The Annual Village Meeting is being held on 14th May at the Townhouse, 7.30 for 8pm start.

11.2 An application for a grant of £1500 for the purchase of 2 x recycled plastic Picnic tables to replace the decaying existing ones, had been applied for and we are waiting to hear if we have been successful.

- 11.3 The Clerk received a quote for the installation and ongoing emptying of a dog poo bin to be located near Butterfield/Surgery. The costs quoted are:

Cost of New Dog Bin and Post / Anchor = **£335.44**

Cost of Installation of Dog Bin = **£49.88**

Cost to empty the bin weekly = **£2.78 per week**

The Parish Council agreed there have been requests for a dog waste bin to be installed at this location for many years to help with the continued littering of full poo bags at this location, and that it will address the additional recent complaints from Barley Surgery of dog waste being deposited in their General Waste Bin. It was agreed to go ahead with it, as a cost incurred by the Parish Council following confirmation that North Herts District Council were unable to service and cover the cost. The Clerk to action following agreement of exact location for the bin.

- 11.4 We have had a number of complaints about horse riding on footpaths in and around the village, including along Green Lane by the Surgery. The Clerk confirmed she had been communicating with Robert Lloyd responsible for footpaths and rights of way to find a solution to deter further incidents. The Councillors confirmed that as Green Lane is not a Public Footpath and owned privately, that this incident is a matter for the landowners to resolve.
- 11.5 The Clerk Confirmed that Cllr Carlisle signed the OPPC agreement for the Truvelo Cameras and returned it for final signature by Highways.

12. Items for future discussion

- 12.1 Cllr Hearn requested to review and consider Truvelo Camera alternatives. The Clerk to instigate investigations.
- 12.2 Cllr Turner suggested arranging a meeting with the OPPC to review the regular speeders on the Truvelo Cameras
- 12.3 Cllr Hearn to investigate Defibrillator demonstration options.

13. Date of next Barley Parish meeting

- 13.1 The date of next Parish Council Meeting will be 2nd June 2025 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
clerk@barleyparishcouncil.gov.uk