

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

**1. Present**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Mel Chamings, Cllr Bill Sterland, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), Mr Tim Martin (RFO)

5 members of the public  
Mr Graham Clark, Mr Nick Shaw

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, District Cllr Gerald Morris,

**3. Councillor's declaration of interest**

Cllr McPartland wished it to be noted that his daughter had involvement with the recommendations made for the new village website and additionally asked it to be noted that he lives opposite Kestrels, Church End, Barley, which is to be discussed as a planning matter on the Agenda.

There were no other declarations of interest made.

**4. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were read and approved. Proposed by Cllr McPartland and seconded by Cllr Chamings.

**5. Matters arising**

Mr Graham Clark, who has agreed to continue with police liaison on behalf of the Parish Council, reported on his most recent meeting with Sgt Guy Westwood. A number of speed checks have been carried out in the village and as long as officers are available they will continue to do so. It was noted that PCSO's are additionally allowed to issue tickets and that they will also be carrying out speed checks. Sgt Westwood asked Mr Clark if there were any other issues, other than speeding, that the village would like raised. Mr Clark is happy to liaise with Sgt Westwood in all regards.

Mr Brian Haughey has forwarded a report to the Clerk containing figures taken from the Interactive Speed Sign whilst it was placed along Church End, this report was circulated amongst the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Further to County Cllr Fiona Hill's previous offer about possibly being able to provide some funding towards another Interactive Speed Sign Cllr Hill has made further enquiries about the type of sign and what it can do and advised that funding through the Highways Locality Budget would only be provided if we were to take a SID that is compatible with those installed elsewhere in the County and not necessarily compatible with the unit that we currently use. If we wanted to match our existing unit then we could claim for funding using Cllr Hill's own Localities Budget but it would be only partly funded and the village would have to fund the outstanding amount. It was agreed to defer a decision until next months meeting as Mr Brian Haughey is investigating possible alternatives to VAS and SID units used elsewhere.

The Clerk has received notification of the drain clearance investigative works which are due to be carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Derek Jerrard of Ringway, Herts Highways contractor, will be placing signage in the area to ensure that it is clear of parked cars.

Ringway are currently not accepting responsibility for the recently uncovered drain at the bottom of Pudding Lane. As it is not on their list they claim that they don't have responsibility to clear it out. Cllr Carlisle agreed to speak with Mr Jerrard of Ringways about getting it added to the list.

Cllr Carlisle spoke to County Cllr Hunter regarding the ownership of the trees on Bankside, County Cllr Hunter agreed to look into this matter.

Cllr Carlisle has advised that we have now formally served notice on the tenant regarding the rent review due under the terms of the lease of the Clubroom. Cllr Carlisle has met with the tenant and matters are progressing. It was agreed that he would provide an update at our next meeting.

## 6. Planning

***Case ref: 17/02267/1HH & 17/02268/1LB - First floor rear extension. The Ramblers, High Street, Barley.***

This application was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that there were no objections to this application.

***Case ref: 17/02316/1 - The Gables, Fully Planning Permission. Residential development of eight dwellings, garages, parking and landscaping. New access road, car park for existing surgery, relocation of existing electricity substation and double garage and store attached to existing garage for 'Chadwick'.***

Cllr Carlisle proposed, in light of such a significant planning application, that it would be preferable to discuss this at a meeting where we could have a full council. The Clerk was asked to request an extension to respond to this application and to arrange a meeting where all members of the Parish Council could be present.

***Appeal ref: APP/X1925/W/17/3178886 - Kestrels, Church End, Barley. Proposed development: Three bedroom detached dwelling with basement garage / room following demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Additional access off Church End (amended plans received 17/2/17).***

This appeal is being heard via written representations. The Parish Council have been asked if there are any further representations that they would like to make. Following discussions it was agreed that there were no further comments to those already presented from the Parish Council, the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

## 7. Town House

Cllr Carlisle handed back the clock to Mr Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, following its recent repair.

Discussions took place regarding the purchase of the replacement fridge / freezer for the upstairs kitchen with concerns being raised regarding the suitability of the proposed fridge/freezer due to the split of freezer versus fridge. Mr Shaw would just like to move forward with purchasing a replacement and asked that the Parish Council decide what they would like and then advise him.

Mr Shaw has produced and circulated to Parish Councillors a proof for a new brochure for the Town House. He has had an offer to print the new brochure for free. All those present agreed he should go ahead with this.

There is a Committee meeting due to be held prior to Christmas and Mr Shaw will be proposing that the hall, stairs and landing areas are to be decorated as they are looking very scruffy.

Mr Martin advised that a new electricity supplier has been appointed.

## 8. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

Mr Martin reported that the following payments are now due:-

### Parish Council

Mrs Laura Childs	Clerk fees (September) and office expenses	£ 306.00
Mr Tim Martin	RFO (September)	£ 134.40
BDO	Annual audit fee	£ 396.00
HMRC	PAYE quarter	£ 319.20

It was agreed that all these payments should be made  
Proposed by Cllr Sterland and seconded by Cllr McPartland

### Town House

Mr N Shaw	Reimbursement for cleaning	£ 170.59
Carole Robinson	Cleaning (September)	£ 74.50
Mr J Carlisle	Reimbursement for clock repairs to A Charles	£ 250.00

It was agreed that all of these payments should be made  
Proposed by Cllr Cllr Sterland and seconded by Cllr Chammings

Mr Martin confirmed that the Parish Council have now returned all of the monies raised in connection with the proposed community purchase of the Fox & Hounds. It was also discussed that any associated costs involved with the Fox & Hounds will be paid directly to the Parish Council by the Plunkett Foundation, negating the need to set up a separate bank account. Mr Martin will collate all costs and make an application for reimbursement.

The annual audit has been received from BDO (external auditors) and we now have notice of the conclusion of the audit. The audit opinion has been given, the meeting approved this and accepted it and we have received their notice. The Clerk was asked to display the notice on the Parish Council notice board.

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

## **9. Recreation Ground**

In the absence of Cllr Turner, Cllr Carlisle reported that there were no issues with the Plaistow. An email has been received from the company who installed the playground equipment advising that they had completed their final inspection of the equipment in September. Cllr Carlisle asked the Clerk to request a report of the inspection.

## **10. Website**

Cllr McPartland advised that the website is now ready to go 'live', following a slight delay as it needed to be signed off by the working party.

## **11. Fox & Hounds**

Cllr McPartland said that he had been unable to get any sort of update from the estate agent who is handling the sale of the property. He agreed to continue to pursue this matter.

## **12. Scout Hut**

Cllr Carlisle reported that some progress had been made at last although there were now conversations going on over who would be the tenant, the Scout Association or the local group trustees. He assured the meeting that this however was just a matter of sorting out the wording of any legal documentation.

## **13. Lock Up**

Cllr Carlisle reported that a meeting had taken place between English Heritage and the contractor, there have been a few extra bits of work identified but it shouldn't escalate the costs too much and we are now just awaiting a date for the works to commence.

## **14. Health & Safety**

Janie Drew of Drew & Baltrop has now reviewed all of the risk assessments and there were just a couple of safe working practices to be carried out by the Clerk and the RFO at their homes. All Town House issues have now been cleared off. The Town House fire risk assessment will be undertaken in December.

## **15. Correspondence**

Julia Clarke, HCC Countryside Access Officer emailed following a report of the poor condition of the surface of Barley FP6, which runs from Church Lane down the side of the Town House car park to the Plaistow. She has undertaken an inspection of the path and didn't find it to be in a terrible state but wanted to ask the Parish Council their thoughts on how appropriate they find the path for village use and what they think of the pea shingle finish of the path. Ms Clarke advised that any improvements, when funds are available, would be crushed concrete and fine dust material rolled to provide a firm and even surface, but not a tarmac made up path. The Clerk was asked to respond to Ms Clarke to say that in an ideal world the pea shingle is not an ideal finish and that if the funds are to be available then resurfacing in the appropriate material would be agreeable.

All other correspondence received is to be distributed amongst the councillors.

## **16.Any Other Business**

The Clerk has received a call from Emma-Louise Wood of Church Lane offering to donate a tree to the village, she was asking what sort of tree we would like. Cllr Sterland offered up some suggestions and the Clerk agreed to go back to Ms Wood with our preferred choice.

The British Legion have approached Cllr Carlisle asking if it is possible to have the war memorial cleaned and any repairs undertaken. It is understood that Barkway are currently carrying out renovations of their war memorial and the Clerk was asked to contact Catharine Toms, Barkway Parish Clerk to ask how they went about securing a grant for these works.

Next meeting date 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Meeting finished 22:20pm