

**BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting of Barley Parish Council**  
**held on Monday 1 February 2021 via Zoom**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Brian Haughey, , Cllr David King, Cllr Yvonne Lee

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mel Chammings (Clerk), Tim Martin (RFO), County Cllr Fiona Hill, District Cllr Tony Hunter and Mr. Nick Shaw

1 member of the public.

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Sterland and District Cllr Gerald Morris

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January were read and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Lee 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) Mr Doggett had kindly cleared the ditch following the drain clearance at Picknage Road. He would continue to liaise with Anglian Water about long term maintenance of the ditch, although he was having difficulty finding the right contact. Cllr Lee said that through her contacts she may be able to help. Cllr Carlisle said that given the ditch was there only to take highway surface water then the Parish Council would also press for action from Herts Highways to resolve the issue long term.
- 2) Settle had contacted the owner of the Bankside property to explain that there was no right of access to the Plaistow. They confirmed that the gate was padlocked and not in use. They also confirmed that they took responsibility to find a solution but during the lockdown they were only dealing with urgent priority work. The Clerk had diarised contact with settle again in April, when hopefully restrictions may be lifted.
- 3) Application to the Road Safety fund (RSF) had been made and acknowledged.

Actions outstanding

- 1) Although the Village Plan Review meetings were postponed, Cllr Lee hoped to continue work on the survey questions. The suggestion that the provision of outdoor adult fitness equipment for the Plaistow should be added to the new Village Plan was accepted as part of the consultation process.
- 2) Cllr Haughey would seek further quotes for repair/renewal of the septic tank and pump system behind the scout hut. To date no further company was prepared to give a quote.

- 3) Further information was sought by the clerk about the Greening Campaign and was forwarded to Cllr Sterland to consider on behalf of the BPC. It was agreed that the concept was a good one and could be developed as part of the Village Plan. The Clerk was asked to contact the Greening Campaign official to ask for help on what we could realistically do and how we should implement it. The first stage would be a public meeting where officials would explain the concept and gain engagement from villagers. It was suggested that the Annual Village meeting would be suitable for this to take place. The clerk would continue to liaise with officials.
- 4) Repairs to the kissing gates on the footpath crossing Lovely View were still outstanding. The clerk wrote again to Countryside Management but to date no response had been received.
- 5) Cllr Carlisle had identified a problem with the cover to a pipe, installed by Countryside Management which carried water from the top field down FP10 and along FP17 towards Pye Cottage. The Clerk would report this as a priority.

#### **UPDATE FROM COUNTY CLLR HILL**

- The vaccination programme was underway and currently on schedule.
- Because of the Covid restrictions it was not appropriate for a significant number of people to meet face to face, even if work-related. For that reason, the planned meeting to discuss the London Road drainage work would not go ahead. Gary Henning would still visit the site and a virtual meeting with the affected homeowners would be arranged. It was confirmed that the work would go ahead in March/April as planned.
- County Cllr Hill had received thanks from some Picknage Road residents, following the clearance of the drain, but it was noted that there was now a potential H&S problem. This would be examined by Gary Henning and the solution would be funded from the Highways Locality budget.
- Cllr Haughey asked if during Mr Henning's visit to Picknage Road he could look at a solution to prevent rubbish entering the pipe in future. It seemed like a simple grate was required that could be removed easily periodically to clear the rubbish. County Cllr Hill would pass this on to Mr Henning.

#### **PLANNING**

- a) **Single storey rear extension, Ravello Rose, Smiths End Lane  
Ref: 21/00012/FPH & 21/00013/LBC**

There were no objections to this application. The Council however would request that given that this residence is in a conservation area and is listed, that future permitted development rights should be withdrawn.

- b) **Section 73 Application: The Gables, High Street, Barley, SG8 8HY – proposed amendments to parking to plots 5 and 6, change of external material plot 5 and variations to building type, scale and appearance of plots 3 and 8. Planning ref: 20/03072/S73.**

Following discussion on points of clarification raised by Cllrs, the Council agreed that there were no objections to this application.

#### **FINANCE**

The following list of payments was authorised at this meeting

Barley Parish Council.

M Chamings	£333.20	Clerking January
T Martin	£122	RFO January
S Bullard	£408	Demolishing old & installing new goal posts
NHDC	£528.05	Emptying dog bins 20-21
Hardcastle Burton	£223.20	Payroll services Oct-Dec
The Diary	£500	Grant to assist

Payments were proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Haughey

Barley Town House

D Partt	£ 216	Repairs to doors
T Morgan	£ 200	Return of wedding deposit

Payments proposed by Cllr Haughey and seconded by Cllr King

Finance update

- The letter from the tax advisers to update the VAT advice had not arrived yet. Mr Martin would follow this up.
- He would also circulate the Finance Risk Assessment Schedule for discussion and validation at the next meeting.
- Following an advert in the diary, 2-3 people had shown an interest in the RFO position. Applications would be discussed at the next meeting.

**TOWN HOUSE**

- There was still a problem with the electrics in the downstairs toilets. As the building was closed and to save on call out charges, Mr Shaw proposed to delay repairs and to link them in with the PAT testing due at the beginning of March.
- Promotional Proposal  
The promotional work had begun and it was hoped to hold an open day in the Spring. Mr Shaw confirmed that the agreement was subject to a six- month review.
- Town House roof  
Three quotes which had been distributed prior to the meeting were discussed at length. It was agreed that Ricketts was the preferred bidder. The work however was subject to CDM requirements. A fee quote from Savills to act on the Council's behalf in relation to CDM was awaited. As part of CDM the contractors may require welfare facilities. Mr Shaw confirmed that the electrical repairs to the toilets would be carried out prior to work commencing.  
Mr Shaw was asked to write to Ricketts to inform them of the Parish Council's intention to award the contract to them, subject to satisfactory assurance from Savills regarding CDM matters.  
For consistency, Mr Shaw would act as the client representative on the job.

## **RECREATION GROUND**

- Cllr Carlisle reported that there had been a number of favourable comments about the new goal post and net.
- Cllr Carlisle alerted everyone to an incident involving a child walking her puppy on the Plaistow. She allegedly was followed by a man running, wearing a mask. The incident was reported to the police who were taking it seriously.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

The Town House monthly checks were found to be satisfactory. Cllr Turner and Mr Shaw continued to turn on the heating when frost temperatures were forecast. In advance of opening, the Clerk would draft a note to regular users reminding them about the fire evacuation procedures. These would also be included in the letting terms and conditions.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **AOB**

- Cllr Haughey reported that his initial research into installing electrical charging points in the village had reached an impasse at this stage. There was insufficient electrical supply and the cost to the parish to upgrade, instal cabling and purchase the units was unaffordable. Members agreed to put this on hold until such time that the government policy and electrical infrastructure were aligned. The need for the facility would still feature as part of the Village Plan.
- Cllr Haughey also reported that he had received a street cleaning schedule from NHDC which was unworkable. He would respond to the responsible officer. District Cllr Hunter asked to be copied into the response and said that he would make representation on our behalf.
- The request from the Diary Committee for assistance, with supporting documents, had been distributed prior to the meeting. Members declared that they had no interest by way of direct or family association with the Diary Committee.  
Reduction in advertising and rising production costs had reduced revenue to a critical stage. County Cllr Hill said that she, Cllr Hunter and Ashley Hawkins (NHDC Community Engagement officer) had met with the treasurer of the committee and could confirm that there was a critical need for financial support. Following discussion, it was agreed that a grant of £500 would be appropriate.

The meeting ended at 21.30.

The next meeting would be held by zoom on Monday 1st March 2021