

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. Present

Cllr Jerry Carlisle, Cllr Ian Turner, Cllr Peter McPartland, Cllr Mel Chammings, Cllr Bill Sterland, District Cllr Gerald Morris, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Tony Hunter, Mrs Laura Childs,

1 member of the public

2. Apologies

Cllr Yvonne Lee, Mr Tim Martin (RFO), Mr Nick Shaw, Mr Graham Clark

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.

There were no other declarations of interest made.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2017 were read and approved.
Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr McPartland.

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 PC Mark Elwood, our Rural Officer. PC Elwood confirmed that there have been a number of speed checks in the village over the recent weeks, one of which resulted in a ticket being issued and several warnings were given. It was reconfirmed that it is the **police** intention to continue to undertake speed checks in the village when officers availability allow but Barley is not alone in requesting checks. Mr Clark has arranged another meeting for the end of September and will attend our October meeting to report further.

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

County Cllr Fiona Hill spoke about possibly being able to provide some funding towards another Interactive Speed Sign and the meeting agreed that we would ideally like to match any new equipment with the existing equipment we have. The Clerk was asked to let County Cllr Hill know the details of our existing sign following which County Cllr Hill would look into funding options.

Cllr Carlisle advised that works to the road surface have been done on Pudding Lane, but not completed. During these works an old drain has been discovered but it is blocked and needs to be cleared out. Ringway, Hertfordshire Highways contractors, suggested that we could undertake some 'self-help' and therefore Cllr Carlisle agreed to speak to the Hanson's, who are undertaking the road surface works, and will suggest that they clean out the drain themselves. It was noted that despite previous concerns regarding the road surface works, during recent heavy rainfall the roadway seemed to cope with the surface water run-off.

The Clerk was asked to enquire when the next visit by the street cleaner was scheduled for so that we can advise residents and ensure cars are moved.

County Cllr Hill confirmed that investigative works will be undertaken to the bridge / drain along Great Chishill Road, known as **Comberton** Bottom, funded from her locality budget. Mr Gary Henning, of Hertfordshire Highways emailed the Clerk to say that it is expected that a CCTV survey of the highway drainage along Great Chishill Road and at the bottom of the High Street in Barley will be carried out shortly, when he hoped to be present, to enable a permanent solution to both of these problem areas.

Cllr Carlisle advised that he has also spoken to Mr Derek Jerrard, of Ringway, who had advised that there may be funds available to sort out the drain problem at the bottom of London Road towards the corner by the Fox & Hounds and he has agreed to look in to this for us.

Cllr Carlisle agreed to pursue the cutting back of the trees on Bankside.

Cllr Sterland confirmed that he has spoken with Mr Booth to clarify what was required of him with regards to cutting back the grass and managing the over hanging hedges around the village footpaths and not just the church yard area.

Cllr Carlisle has advised that he has spoken with the tenant of the Club Room and advised that we will shortly be undertaking a rent review, this is to be confirmed in a formal letter.

It is understood that Cllr Lee has not yet been able to speak with Dr Wadey regarding the applications he has submitted to Hertfordshire County Council regarding changes to some of the footpaths and particularly Pudding Lane but will pursue the matter on her return from holiday.

6. Planning

There were no planning issues to be discussed.

7. Town House

Mr Nick Shaw, Chairman of the Town House Management Committee, was unable to attend the meeting but had provided the Clerk with an update.

It has been decided that a replacement fridge / freezer for the upstairs kitchen will need to be the same size as the existing one. The estimated cost is in the order of £915 inc. VAT. Following discussions it was agreed that there were no objections to the purchase of a replacement.

The Clock has been removed for repair and therefore Mr Shaw has temporarily removed the plaque that sat below it. Cllr Carlisle has found that the clock can be converted to an electronic clock and following conversations with Mrs Veronica Gooding, who donated the clock to the village, it has been decided that the Parish Council will pay half of the costs for repairing the dial and the conversion cost of £50.

8. Financial Officers Report & Signing of Payments

In Mr Martins absence Cllr Carlisle reported on his behalf that the following payments were made since the last meeting:-

Parish Council

CDA	Annual membership	£ 35.00
Steward Bullard	Grasscutting till end June	£ 630.00
Savills	Fox & Hounds valuation	£ 900.00
LCR	NALC quarterly magazine	£ 17.00
G Booth	Grasscutting & hedges	£ 345.00
Hardcastle Burton	Annual Audit	£ 690.00

Town House

B Hickford	PAT testing	£ 127.50
Nick Shaw	Cleaning May & June + materials	£ 211.48
Carol Robinson	Cleaning July	£ 90.00

In Mr Martins absence Cllr Carlisle reported on his behalf that the following payments are now due:-

Parish Council

Mrs Laura Childs	Clerk fees (July & August) and office expenses	£ 391.20
Mr Tim Martin	RFO (July & August)	£ 467.00
Mr G Booth	Grass cutting church yard	£ 180.00
Mrs Laura Childs	Norton Anti Virus annual subscription	£ 24.99

Town House

B Hickford	Car Park and emergency lighting	£ 100.45
Affinity	Annual Water and waste	£ 384.12
Prompt Fire Protection	Service & replace extinguishers	£ 160.39
Mrs Carol Robinson	Cleaning August	£ 54.00
Mrs Alison Stacey	Letting Officers fee July / Aug & Caretaking	£ 253.50
Vanessa Martin	Caretaking August	£ 50.00

Wedding deposit returned

Mr Andy Sutton	Return of wedding deposit	£ 150.00
Mr John Adams	Return of wedding deposit (once microphones have been returned)	£ 150.00

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

Prior to the meeting Mr Martin had circulated to all Councillors the insurance quotations received from Came & Co. our brokers. Mr Martin has done a thorough comparison of the quotations and found that whilst the policy recommended by Came & Co. is cheaper than the others the cover is not necessarily like for like. Mr Martin has agreed to go back to our brokers for more information and to request a requote from their recommended insurers.

It is understood that Marquee hire is still continuing despite concerns over insurance issues. It was discussed and agreed that a meeting should be called between the Flower Show, the Show Committee and Mr Jack Shephard to discuss this issue further. Cllr Carlisle will speak with Mr Martin and ask him to arrange a meeting with all concerned parties.

The annual audit report has been received from Hardcastle Burton, Mr Martin will review this at our next meeting.

Mr Martin confirmed that the Parish Council have returned most of the monies raised in connection with the proposed community purchase of the Fox & Hounds.

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

9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Carlisle confirmed that he had emptied the waste bins as they were overflowing. Unfortunately it was reported that baby nappies were still being put in the bins. Cllr Turner proposed to make some signs asking for nappies to be taken home. It has also been found that dog waste bags are being placed in the general bin and not in the dog waste bin, which is just a few feet away.

10. Website

Cllr McPartland advised that another meeting of the website working group had taken place where the structure and some of the content had been signed off. It is hoped that by the end of the month the website should be up and running. Cllr McPartland has committed to maintaining the website going forward and Mr Martin has agreed to chase up the various village organisations for their content.

11. Fox & Hounds

Cllr McPartland confirmed that following a number of requests by investors asking for their money to be returned the steering group had formally offered refunds to all investors. At the time of this meeting virtually all monies had been returned.

It was rumoured that the buyer was relatively local but this hasn't officially been confirmed. It is understood that this person also owns another successful pub in a village in Cambridgeshire. Discussions took place as to why there were no 'SOLD' signs being displayed and Cllr Carlisle agreed to approach Everard & Cole, the agent, for clarification on the status of the sale.

12. Scout Hut

Cllr Carlisle reported that Curwens, the Parish Councils solicitors, have again chased the Scout Associations solicitors but frustratingly are still awaiting a response.

13. Lock Up

Although Cllr Lee was absent from the meeting she had forwarded a report to say that the Scheduled Monument Consent has now been granted. A meeting has been arranged between English Heritage and Past Times, the building contractors, for 20th September to sign the proposed works off and then we can arrange a start date for the works.

14. Health & Safety

A meeting had taken place with Cllr Carlisle, Cllr Chamming and Mrs Janine Drew of Drew & Baltrop, the Health & Safety Consultants for the Parish Council. The current risk assessments were reviewed. The Plaistow was inspected and with the exception of 5 palings in the fence around the playground, which need to be secured, everything else was in order. There were a few minor issues picked up in the Town House; the safety tape on the stairs is coming unstuck, some minor admin issues, where posters were missing the name of the responsible people, which Cllr Chamming will take up with Mr Shaw. It was confirmed that the annual fire assessment will be carried out in December.

15. Correspondence

The Clerk received a letter from NHDC regarding clinical waste collections, reminding those that use 'sharps' to dispose of them in the correct box. The Clerk was asked to write to The Diary to put an article in there.

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

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Chamming has signed up to attend Data Protection training on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Tim Goode, of Smiths End Lane, attended the meeting to request some financial assistance with clearing the pond which lies opposite his property. He explained that the vegetation surrounding the pond has become very overgrown and that the Rands, who own the land on which the pond is sited had been approached to request that they cut it back. They have not done so and it looks unlikely that they will in the near future.

Mr Goode expressed concerns over a telegraph pole and telephone cables which are next to the pond and very overgrown and need repairing. Additionally there is an Ash tree that appears to be diseased and if it is not cut down then it could potentially fall, with the tree being of a size that it would fall on neighbouring property.

Cllr Carlisle reported that he had also been approached by Mr P McMahon who is Mr Goode's neighbour on the same subject. Cllr Carlisle advised the meeting that approx. 15 years ago a similar request to clear the pond had been met with a small donation from the Parish Council and the remaining costs were met by local residents. Mr Goode felt that a similar arrangement would be ideal now and that he had already received positive offers from those living in close proximity to the pond. It was suggested that a tree survey could be carried out on the Ash tree as if it is falling down then the land owners (Rands) would be liable to carry out works to it. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute £500 towards the cost of clearing the undergrowth surrounding the pond. Mr Goode thanked the Council.

Cllr Carlisle reported that Barley Charities had contacted him about the need for a new parish council nominated trustee and that they had suggested approaching Mrs Sharon Slater to enquire if she would be interested in serving on the committee. It was agreed that if she were willing that Mrs Slater should be the parish council nominee.

Cllr Turner has been approached by Alex Austin of Bear Fitness Training to ask if he can store some of his cross training equipment in the Container behind the Scout Hut, there were no objections.

The next meeting date was set for 2nd October. Cllr Turner gave his apologies as had Cllr Lee. Cllr Carlisle reminded the rest of the Councillors that if they were unable to make this date then we would not have a quorum and therefore would need to rearrange the meeting.

Meeting finished 22:30pm