

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

**1. Present**

Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chairman), Cllr I Turner, Cllr G Northen, Cllr Y Lee, Cllr M O'Brien, District Cllr Gerald Morris, Mrs Laura Childs (Clerk), 18 members of the public

**2. Apologies**

District Cllr Gerald Morris, County Cllr Tony Hunter, Mr Tim Martin (RFO), Mr Nick Shaw (Town House Management Committee Chairman)

**3. Councillor's Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Northen advised that she had a potential conflict of interest due to her employment with Ginmeister Ltd and an item to be discussed later in the meeting.

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 16 were read and approved.  
Proposed by Cllr I Turner and seconded by Cllr Y Lee

**5. Matters Arising**

Cllr Northen reported that Mr Partt has now started the renovation works to the red telephone box on the High Street. He has requested a further £30 to be added to the restoration budget to cover replacement glass for the smaller panes, which was approved.

Mr Brian Haughey advised that the new speed activated interactive flashing sign has been purchased and is currently operating but without any flashing message. This is in order to get a 'base line' of speeds, prior to then turning it fully on.

Cllr Northen reported on behalf of Ginmeister Ltd that despite a delay in their proposed new premises, alternative accommodation for the business has been found and they hoped to be moving from Dovehouse Shott in approx. 1 months time.

The Clerk advised that she has not received a response from the planning department regarding any application for renovation works to the boundary wall at Nobles Cottage, which is gradually falling down. She agreed to chase again and also to write to the owners of Nobles Cottage asking of their intentions.

Cllr Clark spoke about a recent meeting with Sgt Guy Westwood regarding the proposed 'rent-a-cop' scheme. Sgt Westwood's Superintendent was opposed to the idea as it could be seen to go against those villages that couldn't perhaps afford such a service. He was however willing to allow us to have a PCSO on a similar 'pay per day' basis but their powers are somewhat limited when it comes to actually charging people with speeding.

## 6. Planning

### ***Pre-application presentation by Bidwells of proposed development at junction of Picknag Road & Chishill Road to include housing and relocation of the village shop***

Mr Rob Hopwood of Bidwells, acting on behalf of the Doggett Family (Doggett Trust) who own this land, passed around some very basic plans and artist impressions of their proposal. He explained to the meeting that the Doggett family had been thinking about building on this land for some time and now felt the time was right to progress further. They are proposing 12 dwellings, to include 4 pairs of semi detached houses and 2 detached houses and a pair of bungalows, together with provision for a new larger village shop. Mr David Bray, who runs the existing village shop, has expressed an interest in expanding the goods and services he provides, possibly to include a butchery and off road car parking which would ease congestion currently experienced in Church Lane.

The Chairman explained that North Herts District Council have persistently turned down this site as a preferred development site and it is not included in the latest proposed Local Plan 2011 – 2031. It stands on the edge of the escarpment and provides a vista from the village across to the fields to Great Chishill. Any development would be easily viewed from Great Chishill too as it stands on the sky line. The proposed location for the new shop is right on top of what is already a very difficult junction, with restricted sight lines and any further development of the corner site would only compound the problems. Concerns were raised that people would also undoubtedly just park outside the shop rather than use any off road car park and this would then exasperate the problems at this junction. It was suggested that any shop would be better located further down the road, away from the problematic junction onto the Great Chishill Road.

Cllr O'Brien expressed his disappointment that any development on this parcel of land would completely take away the open aspect and vista from Barley, across to Great Chishill, and would take something significant away from the village.

Cllr Lee spoke about the current planning policy being against this development at the moment, as the site was outside of the village envelope. Putting that aside, she asked if there was any flexibility within their proposals to perhaps provide more affordable housing in the scheme. Mr Hopwood said that the Doggett family were very keen to work with the village.

Discussions took place and questions were raised by both the Councillors and members of the public present, these included:

- What would happen to the existing shop / site that the shop stands on – it was thought that this would most probably become a house.
- Road safety would need to be addressed; the proposed corner site for the village shop was the most difficult place to cross the road for pedestrians. Consideration must be given to address these issues.
- For an expanded shop to succeed it would need to attract more customers which equated to more traffic. The village already suffers with speeding traffic and that situation will not ease.

Mr Hopwood thanked the meeting for their input and agreed to take all comments back to the Doggett family for their consideration.

**Application ref: 16/02400/1 Creeve, The Mount, Barley**

**Full Planning Permission: Erection of 1 x 2 bed dwelling with integral garage and creation of new vehicular access off Cambridge Road**

Cllr Carlisle explained that the plans for the proposed development didn't show much detail but nonetheless it was clear to see that the description of a '2 bed dwelling' was somewhat misleading as it is a very large 2 bed roomed chalet style bungalow amounting to well over 300sq.m. This site is not within the current village envelope and therefore the presumption is against development but it is noted that the whole of the site is included within the preferred options of the development plan currently being prepared by NHDC but which is yet to be adopted.

Following detailed discussions it was agreed that the Clerk should advise NHDC that this council would not support the application and therefore we object to the proposal because it is currently contrary to policy as set out in the current Local Plan but if NHDC were minded to approve the application then we would ask that restrictions on future development be imposed on any consent and we would ask that any permitted development rights be withdrawn.

**Application ref: 16/02218/1HH Spindrifft, Picknage Road, Barley**

**Full planning permission: Two storey side extension**

This application follows two previous planning applications on this property, both of which have been refused planning and failed subsequent appeals. The most recent application was discussed but the council were not willing to give a definite view on this one until they had seen the planning appeal decision on the last application. The Clerk was asked to write to Ann McDonald, NHDC Planning Officer to get a copy of the planning appeal decision. The Clerk was additionally asked to request an extension to respond, to enable the council to discuss this application again at our next meeting, once we've had sight of the appeal decision.

**Proposed residential development of 140 homes on land stretching between Royston Road and Cambridge Road, Barkway (marked as BK3 on NHDC draft Local Plan)**

This proposed development in Barkway was discussed as there are concerns regarding the inevitable impact that the additional traffic, newly proposed shop, and the increased load on the local doctor's surgery that this development would have.

A public meeting is scheduled to be held at the Community Room, Barkway tomorrow afternoon and all those present were encouraged to attend and give the planners, Strutt & Parker, their views.

## **7. Town House**

Cllr Northen spoke about producing a leaflet to advertise the Town House and asked if anyone had any up to date photos of the Town House, particularly any of the inside when decorated up for a wedding. Mr Haughey suggested putting contact details to rent the Town House into the notice board. This was something that was previously in place but has possibly been lost over time.

## 8. Financial Officers report & signing of payments

In Mr Martin's absence the Chairman reported that the following payments were due to be made.

### Parish Council

G Booth	Mowing around the village	£ 172.00
Tim Martin	RFO fees (September)	£ 333.60
OST Technology	Speed Radar equipment	£ 3,984.00
HMRC	PAYE for July – September	£ 313.20
Hardcastle Burton	Payroll services July – September	£ 111.00
Laura Childs	Clerk fees & office expenses (September)	£ 267.60
Manor Farms	Water supplied to the allotments	£ 90.38

It was agreed that these payment should be made

Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Turner

### Town House

Carol Robinson	Cleaning (September) & materials	£ 74.50
A Stacey	Letting Officer fees (Sept) & caretaking	£ 135.55
Tim Martin	Caretaking	£ 50.00

It was agreed that these payments should be made

Proposed by Cllr Northen and seconded by Cllr O'Brien

Cllr Northen advised that Broadmead Leisure have been chasing for payment of their final balance. They have provided an extensive report detailing that the outstanding items have all now been done. They are however refusing our request to get back the playground safety inspector to complete a final sign off without making an additional charge. They are of the opinion that this is not required and would therefore pass on any charges that they would incur. The retention that Barley Parish Council are withholding totals £4,090.80. It was agreed that we would pay the original inspector to come back and conduct a final sign off inspection and we would then pay the retention fee to Broadmead Leisure.

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

## 9. Recreation Ground

Cllr Clark reported that apart from the bins overflowing everything was ok. Sadly some dirty nappies are still being left, and the possibility of erecting signs was discussed.

## 10. Scout Hut

Nothing further to report.

## 11. Lock Up

Cllr Lee has met with two builders that English Heritage have recommended, sadly only one of them has provided a quotation for the works. Basically the specification for works is the same as that produced 8 years ago, when repairs were originally investigated, and although there has been some deterioration the specification is still valid. The quotation has come in slightly less than that produced 8 years ago but they have omitted to include the processing of the application to listed buildings and therefore Cllr Lee will ask them to factor this into their costs.

It was agreed to instruct the company to go ahead and the Town House facilities will be made available to them.

## **12. Health & Safety**

Cllr Carlisle advised that he is due to meet with the Parish Councils Health & Safety advisors, Drew & Baltrop next week. It was also noted that the Health & Safety information needs updating in the hall way of the Town House.

## **13. Correspondence**

Cllr Northen had previously distributed a letter of resignation, a change in work commitments means that she no longer has the time to give to the Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr Northen for her invaluable commitment and contribution to the Council over the last two years.

The Clerk was asked to place a notice in The Diary advertising the Parish Councillor vacancy and Councillors were asked to consider anyone who might be suitable.

All other correspondence received is to be circulated amongst Councillors.

## **14. Any Other Business**

Cllr Lee asked that the Website be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Improved communication was one of the key issues raised in the recent Village Plan and the current website is hindering this.

The Clerk was asked to enquire of Naomi Reynard, NHDC planning department where the appeal is to be held for the Fox & Hounds, how long it is scheduled for and are we able to make representations.

Mr Nick White asked that repairs are undertaken to the driveway to the car park at the rear of the Town House where it meets the actual gravel parking area, there is a large dip and could cause significant damage. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would speak with Darren Partt and ask him to provide a quote to repair it.

Cllr Clark will shortly be meeting with the Head Teacher of Barley School regarding the Speeding poster initiative.

Cllr Turner raised the issue of the gullies in London Road, where none of the runs appear to be working properly and many of the underground pipe joints are understood to be distorted. The Clerk was asked to write to the relevant department to request that works are carried out as a matter of some urgency to rectify not only this problem but also the blocked road gullies to the bottom end of the High Street and all the other blocked road gullies around the village which have been well documented with Hertfordshire Highways.

Cllr Clark agreed to speak to Sam Mitchell of Quakers, following our recent letter, to advise which hedge / foliage requires cutting back.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Rand family to request that they cut the hedge back that borders London Road, opposite the Chequers.

Meeting closed at 22:15