



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 1st July 2024 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ian Turner, District Cllr Martin Prescott, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Cllr Neil Cockrell, Cllr Yvonne Lee, Nick Shaw,

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Cllr Hearn was unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Cayford, Seconded by Cllr Turner.

4. Co-option of new Parish Councillors

4.1 Neil Cockrell and Yvonne Lee were co-opted onto the Parish Council.

5. Public Participation

5.1 A member of the public wished to raise that London Road still had issues for hedge trimming. Richmond Coaches parking on the pavements recently have been adding to the issues as vehicles are having to come down the middle of the road to avoid the hedge. Cllr Hill has confirmed they have reported it as needing to be trimmed and confirmed that the hedge fronting London Road is the County Council's to maintain. Also, the hedge on the road out of Barley leading to Chishill also needs to be trimmed.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Ref: 24/01197/FPH & Planning Ref: 24/01198/LBC – Single storey rear extension and erection of porch canopy over side entrance following demolition of existing rear lean-to. 1 Sells Close Cottages, High St Barley, SG8 8HY

Barley Parish Council considered these applications at this meeting, and agreed there were no objections to the proposals. The Clerk will respond to the Planning Department.

6.2 Planning Ref: 23/02948/FP – Amended Plans – Terrace of 3 bed dwellings including creation of vehicular access off Picknage Road, Parking and Landscaping. Land North Of 2 Millers Close, Picknage Road, Barley Hertfordshire

Barley Parish Council considered the amended application at this meeting and unanimously resolved as follows:

Barley Parish Council object to this application as amended and we repeat in full our previous objections to this proposed development in addition to which we make the following further comments:

- We do not consider the amended proposals address any of the matters raised in our objection to the original proposal as set out in our response dated 7th March 2024. Indeed we consider the reduced onsite parking to be a major retrograde step increasing our concerns that this proposal will lead to additional parking issues on Picknage Road with many visitors and delivery vehicles etc. having to park outside the site on the highway with consequent increased safety concerns.
- We note that the applicant has made some very minor changes to the building design as shown on the drawings although we note no changes have been made to the planning application nor to the Design and Access Statement or Heritage Statement. It is our view that none of these very minor design changes to the buildings have any impact on the fundamental principle of development in this location, the design of that development and the comments previously made by Barley Parish Council.
- We particularly note that the Conservation Officer for North Herts Council has raised a strong objection to the proposed development in his recommendation to NHC and which in our view emphatically supports the objections made by us (Barley Parish Council).

For all the above reasons Barley Parish Council remain of the view that this application should be refused and we urge North Herts Council to do so.

7. Finance RFO report

7.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council.

Barley Parish Council

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
Alice Robertson	26/06/2024	£218.00	Clerk gross pay balance
Lynn Brett	26/06/2024	£561.12	RFO gross pay & expenses
Stewart Bullard	07/06/2024	£222.48	First Cut of Footpaths 14.5.24
PCC Donation	27/6/2024	£448.00	for G Booth churchyard works
Alice Robertson	27/6/2024	£2,295.00	Goals £2429.94 less agreed disc
Tim Ashcroft	30/6/2024	£648.00	Planning approval TH windows
TOTAL BPC for approval		<u>£4,392.60</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT

For Information

Peninsula	28/5/2024	£223.45	Paid via DD
Alice Robertson	28/6/2024	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC
TOTAL BPC for information		<u>£623.45</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

VAT refund	£1,886.74	
Club Room	£2,250.00	Rent & Ins BBP
NHDC precept	£16,000.00	First Half precept
CTRS Grant	£271.51	
CDA Grant		
Other incomes	£165.00	Allotments
Interest	£51.59	
Barclays Bank	£100.00	Compensation
TOTAL BPC Incomes	<u>£20,724.84</u>	

Bank Balances Held

account

Balance

Barley Parish Council

Main	2188	£35,388.59
Savings	5127	£0.00
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£13,845.22
TOTAL BPC Banks		<u>£49,233.81</u>

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit	£1,004.06	Final
Barley Show	<u>£12,820.98</u>	
Barley Tennis Club	<u>£13,019.60</u>	Bank balances

Precept Requested 24/25	£32,000.00
CTRS	£543.02
Total	<u>£32,543.02</u>

Proposed Cllr Turner, Seconder Cllr Cayford

7.2 Financial Regulations- The meeting considered the revised regulations prepared by the RFO and which were agreed by Councillors subject to the minimum cost for individual acquisitions and work ordered without the need for multiple quotations or tendering being increased from £500 to £1500. It was also agreed that the Clerk would amend some small typographical and grammatical errors prior to the amended Regulations being uploaded to the website.

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

Barley Town House Charity

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
PJ Robinson	17/06/2024	£86.40	Replace 13A spur for water heater
Lynn Brett	26/06/2024	£54.00	Software exps 1.4 - 30.9.24
TOTAL TH for approval		<u>£140.40</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT

For Information

PNET	23/05/2024	£28.04	paid by DD
NHDC	3/6/2024	£37.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	12/06/2024	£87.28	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Octopus			Electricity supply DD Est £865 outstanding
Everflow Ltd	23/05/2024	44.52	Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information		<u>£196.84</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

Town House YTD	£6,290.00	
BPC Donation	£5,777.18	Donation re Insurance
Bank Interest	22.16	
TOTAL TH Incomes	<u>£12,089.34</u>	

Bank Balances Held

Barley Town House

Main	3265	£35,739.67
Deposits	8330	£3,360.00
Savings	8104	£5,948.18
		<u>£45,047.85</u>

Deposits

Opening balance	£3,660.00
Received	
Refunded	-£300.00
Trf to main ac	

Closing Balance **£3,360.00**

Proposer Cllr Cayford, Seconder Cllr Turner.

- 8.1** Lynn Brett advised that she had been asked by the Chairman of the Barley Charities, in his absence, to raise with the Parish Council the appointment of the new Rector Mark Bridgen in place of the previous Rector Ruth Pyke, as a Parish Council representative trustee to Barley Charities. This substitute appointment was agreed by the Council.
- 8.2** Cllr Carlisle confirmed that the Architect Tim Ashcroft has been asked to check whether both Planning Consent and Listed Buildings Consent is required in order to replace the windows.

9. Reports from County/District Councillors

9.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

Cllr Hill reported that:

- The Highways Action Plan has been updated and sent to all parties.
- There are lots of activities happening in the libraries, so do be sure to check in on these.
- Town grasses have been cut in some areas where safety has been an issue. The Clerk advised we have had various sightline issues on Bankside recently, including at a number of junctions around the village where sight lines were impaired. Cllr Hill reported that these have been reported and are due to be trimmed if they haven't been already.
- Cllr Hill is still looking into the sightlines of the access at the Draytons development and will update as soon as possible..
- The Armed Forces Barley D Day event went well with a strong turnout.
- The Armed Forces Covenant application is ongoing and we are waiting to hear back from them.
- The Clerk commented on the growing success of the local "Herts Links" bus service.

9.2 To receive a report from Cllr Martin Prescott

Cllr Prescott reported that:

- A meeting with the cleansing team here in Barley at their next walkabout review about our current street cleaning requirements is currently being set up. The Clerk will respond and follow up.
- There is a potential grant for internal defibrillators available – The Clerk suggested perhaps the Phone Box in Smith's End Lane might be an appropriate location. The Clerk to look into this.

10. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

10.1 Town House Charity

- Cllr Cayford confirmed all weekly Health and Safety checks had been carried out and there were no further items to report.
- There has been a leak inside the wall in the upstairs kitchen which has now been fixed.
- Replacement windows for the Town House – The need for Listed Building and Planning Consent is currently being looked into by Tim Ashcroft of Sapele Design.
- Nick Shaw has applied for a grant to help with the window improvements, we will be notified by the 13th Nov if we get the grant. Work is expected to begin from Spring 2025. Nick Shaw advised it shouldn't affect income at the Townhouse as work can be done around scheduled events.
- A member of the public has advised they have found a couple of other grants that could be applied for to help with the improvements/repairs. Details will be forwarded to the Town House Committee for consideration.

10.2 Plaistow & Green Areas

10.2.1 Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow. Caps and other repairs will be completed soon by Broadmead Leisure.

10.2.2 Cllr Cayford also reported that he had reviewed the minimum distance required under the bar to the kissing gates allowing wheelchair access onto the Plaistow. This lower bar has now been removed and clearance has been tested which should now be at an acceptable height for access.

10.2.3 The new bench was installed by Alice & Neil Robertson with help from Tim Drake.

10.2.4 The new Junior Goal Posts that have been donated will also arrive soon. Some concern was raised over how we could ensure they weren't misused after use. It was agreed the goals would be securely stored when not in use with combination locks and details released to requests via email which would be trialled for 3 months.

10.2.5 Nothing further to report for proposed works to improve the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow.

11. Clerks Report

- 11.1** The agreed Safeguarding Policy has now been uploaded to the website. The Safeguarding Officer for the purposes of the policy is listed as the Parish Clerk.
- 11.2** The Parish Council Risk Assessment for Barley Show was sent to the Barley Show and Flower Show Organisers.
- 11.3** Cllr Turner reported he has set up his .gov email address but had concerns over its security, although as this is the recommended route by Central gov and the HAPTC, it was agreed we would continue with its use. Cllr Lee and Cllr Cockrell have been sent details on how to set up their new email addresses.
- 11.4** Armed Forces Covenant update - the only commitment required from the Parish Council was to generally support and signpost Veterans. County Cllr Hill confirmed we are still waiting to hear from the organizers to finalize set up.

12. Items of correspondence.

A letter from an anonymous community member about rabbit holes and the maintenance of the footpaths in general was received by the Clerk. Cllr Cayford agreed he would contact the same person he has been dealing with at HCC for the footpath improvements from Church End to the Plaistow, as this would appear to fall under their responsibility.

13. Items for future discussion

- 13.1** Village Speed Cameras – we are waiting on details of proposal from the Police Commissioners Office
- 13.2** Tree for the Plaistow - to plant in the autumn.
- 13.3** Notice Board Maintenance – some are in need of repair and will need to be looked at in the autumn.

12. Date of next Barley Parish meeting and items for the agenda

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 2nd September 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Contact: Alice Robertson, Clerk to Barley Parish Council
Barley.pariahclerk@gmail.com