



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 6th Jan 2024 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ali Hearn, Cllr Turner, Cllr Yvonne Lee, District Cllr Martin Prescott, County Cllr Fiona Hill, PCC Jonathan Ash-Edwards

IN ATTENDANCE

9 members of the public.

1. Apologies

1.1 Cllr Neil Cockrell, and Alan Wiltshire - Town House Chairman, sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Lee advised that her husband is a trustee of Barkway Preschool (See item 7).

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Barley Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Turner, Seconded by Cllr Cayford.

4. Public Participation

4.1 A member of the public highlighted the amount of Dog fouling on the Plaistow and around the village and a burst water main outside Sells Close Cottages. The Clerk advised that both these points will be discussed later in the meeting.

5. Introduction to Hertfordshire's new Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) Jonathan Ash-Edwards

Cllr Carlisle introduced our new PCC and summarised BPC's relationship with the OPCC to date with reference to the Truvelo Speed Camera scheme over the last 3 years.

Jonathan Ash-Edwards thanked the meeting and outlined the work that his office has and is continuing to undertake since he became Hertfordshire's new PCC in May 2024. He advised that Hertfordshire's Police budget which is one of the lowest in the country is currently under review with particular reference to the Police Precept which becomes part of everyone's Council Tax bills.

One area of concern that has been identified by the HMICFRS inspection of Hertfordshire is under-recording of some crime types. He advised he has implemented immediate changes to help improve overall performance to help ensure crimes are reported timely and effectively.

Police Officer numbers in the County are ringfenced - in respect of which he advised we currently have 2,360 Police Officers. Other Police staff (who include those doing operational policing roles) are not ring-fenced and this poses big challenges as these jobs are not funded well, often resulting in Police Officers having to

cover roles in call centres when they could (and should) be on the streets tackling crime. Even after any precept increase the Police will still have to make savings to accommodate increases in the new employer NI contributions following the recent Government budget - this challenge is being taken up with the Home Office at the moment.

In other areas he has a focus on the support of children and young people who are victims of crimes which is of great interest to him, and they have also been working on wider crime prevention including that in rural communities. He confirmed that from January 2025, Hertfordshire now has a new Chief Constable – Andy Prophet – previously Deputy Chief Constable for Essex.

The Road safety fund, which has funded Barley's Truvelo Camera Scheme for the last 3 years, is currently not in a sustainable position because it is not receiving surpluses from driver education courses which previously provided funding. His office is currently looking at ways they can improve the health of the fund, and the long-term aim is to extend the camera scheme to other locations.

Working across three counties is a challenge, still with mixed cross border relations and things are slower in the rural parts of the county, but with the new Chief Constable there are hopes that this can be improved.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for coming to our meeting and outlining the very important work that his office undertakes on behalf of the community.

6. **Scout Hut**

The final plans for the Scout Hut proposals were circulated to the Parish Council ahead of the meeting. The Scouts need the approval of the PC, as their landlord under the terms of their lease. These plans include a replacement new Scout Hut which will sit within the existing demise, with an additional separate kitchen and toilet area to the rear, which lies wholly within Parish Council land, that can also be used by the village. The Chair asked the Councillors if they have any objections. The meeting agreed there are no objections in principle. The Scouts confirmed they will now proceed accordingly. These plans once submitted to NHDC Planning, will be available for the public to view and comment to NHDC if they so wish.

7. **Barley Barkway School Federation – Consultation for proposed expansion into Early Years teaching.**

Cllr Lee advised the meeting that Barley Barkway School Federation (BBFS) opened a consultation over the Christmas period to extend their services into Early Years teaching from 3 yrs of age, down to 2yrs of age. This would put the school in competition with an already successful Preschool which already operates onsite at the school in Barkway. She advised that many people including Barley village residents, Barkway Preschool themselves and other parents whose children attend the Preschool have been left upset by how this consultation has been handled by BBFS and have asked the Parish Council to consider the concerns being raised and if agreed by the PC to support them by asking the school to ensure any consultation is conducted with all relevant information included which is not the case at the present time. Cllr Hill confirmed that she too has concerns over the manner in which the public consultation has happened, and the lack of information contained within the consultation itself. Having considered the contents of the consultation, the Council agreed there was a distinct lack of information to enable parents to properly understand the consequences of what was being proposed. As the consultation appeared to have expired on the 3rd January 2025 any comments that the PC wished to make needed to be made with some urgency. Accordingly it was agreed that Cllr Lee will draft a suitable letter for all councillors to approve, following which it was agreed that the Clerk should submit as soon as possible. (original consultation by BBFS attached in appendix).

8. **Planning**

8.1 **Reference: 21/00765/OP**

Outline Application: Land Off Barkway Road And North Of Flint Hall, Barkway Road, Royston, Hertfordshire. Outline Planning Application for Residential Development of up to 280 dwellings (including affordable housing) green infrastructure including public open space, landscape boundaries and SUDS with all matters reserved except for access which is to be taken from Barkway Road (as amended 13 December 2024).

The meeting discussed this proposal as a consultee. Cllr Carlisle confirmed that BPC had objected to the original application on 26 May 2021, largely on the basis of the impact on the local infrastructure.

The meeting considered the amended proposals and agreed that as there would appear to be no mitigation of the effect of this proposal on the local infrastructure BPC should substantially repeat their objection. The Chair and Cllr Lee agreed to prepare a suitable letter to NHDC for the Clerk to submit.

9. Reports from County/District Councillors

9.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

Cllr Hill reported that:

- The Integrated Plan process is currently taking place at Hertfordshire County Council with scrutinies being held in January and the budget going to Council in February.
- The HAPpy Programme took place again during the Christmas school holiday.
- The Winter Reading Challenge in Royston Library continues until the end of January.
- HCC is collaborating with partners to improve bus services and is committed to continuing with HertsLynx. Recruitment of additional drivers is taking place.
- The additional funding into SEND is starting to make an impact.
- The NHS (Acute hospitals and the Ambulance Service) is under severe winter pressure.

Armed Forces Covenant

- Links have been provided with the Barley PC Champion/appropriate contact, but a conversation still has to take place. This will be chased.
- The Christmas Card Competition was judged and the winning entry circulated.

Highways Updates

- Drainage issues in the High Street have been reported to Highways and Affinity Water.
- The Speed and Volume surveys have been carried out in Picknag Road and the data will be discussed in a more detailed meeting.

Salt Bins

- An additional salt bin has been placed in Shaftenhoe End, near Lovely View Stables, as agreed. A check will be made to see if the salt for community use has been delivered.

Public Health/Adult Care

- The new care home in Royston is now open.
- Small Acts of Kindness has supplied bags for use in the community and these are available at Royston Fire Station.

Events/Consultations

- The Councillors' Surgery in Royston Market will take place on Saturday, 11th January. The Ermine Ward Surgery was held on Saturday, 4th January in the Woodman, Nuthampstead.
- Consultation on the proposal to lower the age range of children in Barley and Barkway First Schools Federation – response submitted.

Other consultations being carried out are:

- Planning Application 21/00765/OP – Land off Barkway Road and North of Flint Hall, Barkway Road, Royston, Hertfordshire – details on the North Herts (District) Council Planning portal.
- Proposed Parking Tariff Increases for 2025/26 – comments to transport@north-herts.gov.uk

9.2 To receive a report from Cllr Martin Prescott

Cllr Prescott reported that:

In Royston it is proposed that they will scrap the “free after 3” parking in order to level prices across other local car parking locations. Cllr Carlisle advised the meeting that he understood they are proposing to charge £1 to park after 3pm.

10. Finance RFO report for the Parish Council

10.1 To consider and approve payments for the Parish Council.

EXPENSES

Payee	Date	Amount	For
Alice Robertson	31/12/2024	£90.00	Clerk gross pay balance Dec & expenses
Lynn Brett	06/01/2025	£247.18	RFO gross pay & expenses Dec
Minted Box Ltd	1/12/2024	£288.00	Ann Hosting of Barley village Website
TOTAL BPC for approval		<u>£625.18</u>	

For Information

Peninsula	27/12/2024	£223.45	Paid via DD
Alice Robertson	30/12/2024	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC
HAPTC	7/11/2024	£444.12	Membership Subscription 2025-2026 pre-approved awaiting invoice April 2025
TOTAL BPC for information		<u>£1,067.57</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

INCOMES

Year to Date

VAT refund	£2,397.87	
Club Room	£7,044.00	Rent & Ins BBP
NHDC precept	£32,000.00	Full precept
CTRS Grant	£543.01	
CDA Grant		
Other incomes	£165.00	Allotments
Interest	£155.34	
Barclays Bank	£150.00	Compensation
Alice Robertson	£2,295.00	Goal Donation
TOTAL BPC Incomes	<u>£44,750.22</u>	

Bank Balances Held

account

Balance

Barley Parish Council

Main	2188	£38,514.02
Savings	5127	£0.00
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£13,948.97
TOTAL BPC Banks		<u>£52,462.99</u>

Other Sections

Barley Show Profit	£2,317.39	Final
Barley Show	<u>£11,240.89</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>

The Payments were agreed. Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr Turner

10.2 Finalise 2025/2026 Budget

The RFO confirmed that the draft of the proposed budget for 2025/26 represents a 3.14% increase from last year due to salary and NI changes from central government. It includes the anticipated costs for the Truvelo Camera Scheme

for the year and savings that have been identified to mitigate these costs (see attached). The Chair asked the meeting to agree the budget.

Proposed Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Lee. Carried unanimously.

10.3 Quarterly accounts - The RFO presented the quarterly accounts to the meeting which were noted (see appendix).

10.4 Clerk advised the meeting that there will be a £700 cost for the refurbishment of the 3 village noticeboards and the invoice is expected later this month.

11. Finance RFO report

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

Barley Town House Charity

<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Payee	Date	Amount	For
TOTAL TH for approval		<u>£0.00</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT
For Information			
PNET	23/12/2024	£28.04	paid by DD
NHDC	2/12/2024	£37.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	17/12/2024	£143.12	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Everflow Ltd	19/12/2024	£44.52	Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information		<u>£252.68</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
<u>INCOMES</u>			
		Year to Date	
Town House YTD		£17,470.00	
BPC Donation		£5,777.18	Donation re Insurance
Bank Interest		66.73	
TOTAL TH Incomes		<u>£23,313.91</u>	
<u>Bank Balances Held</u>			
	account	Balance	
Barley Town House			
Main	3265	£36,978.76	
Deposits	8330	£3,210.00	
Savings	8104	£5,992.75	
		<u>£46,181.51</u>	
<u>Deposits</u>			
Opening balance		£3,210.00	
Received		£1,850.00	
Refunded			
Trf to main ac		-£1,850.00	
Closing Balance		<u>£3,210.00</u>	

The RFO advised the meeting that apart from regular approved direct debits/standing orders, no other payments for approval had been received this month. **Noted by the Council.**

11.2 Quarterly accounts - The RFO presented the quarterly accounts to the meeting which were noted (see appendix).

12. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

12.1 Town House Charity

12.1.1 Cllr Cayford confirmed all weekly Fire, Health and Safety checks had been carried out. Issue with one call point which will be dealt with.

12.1.2 The key locks to the Town House will be changing on the 31st January 2025 to an electronic lock system. This will enable tracking of all users of the Town House gaining entry and will ensure a higher level of security for the building.

12.2 Plaistow & Childrens Playground

12.2.1 Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow. A “No Climbing” sign has been attached to the fence in the childrens playground. The Catch on the refurbished gate by Bankside isn’t working and needs a stopper installed. Cllr Cayford agreed to speak with contractor to sort.

12.2.2 There has been a request to remove a lower plank on the gate by King Edgar Yard for better access for buggies and wheelchairs. The Clerk to arrange.

12.2.3 The gate by Picknage Road is off its hinges and needs to be repaired. It was noted that this is a responsibility for Footpaths/Countryside and Rights of Way department at NH. The Clerk will action.

12.2.4 There has been a lot of dog fouling on the Plaistow and around the village recently. It was agreed to investigate the possible installation of a Motion detector wildlife camera to help identify offenders and encourage dog owners/walkers to pick up after their dog(s).

12.2.5 Cllr Carlisle informed the meeting that a fence has fallen from a Settle property that backs onto the Plaistow. The Clerk will inform Settle and ask to repair ASAP.

12.2.6 The Clerk highlighted the need to replace the Children’s Playground Picnic Tables as they are rotting. The Clerk will get some options and quotes for the council’s consideration.

13. Truvelo Speed Cameras Scheme

13.1 The Clerk reminded the meeting that the proposed MoU will be discussed with the OPCC on the 9th January via a Teams meeting. Cllr Carlisle and Cllr Hill confirmed their attendance. Cllr Cockrell will also attend.

14. Clerks Report

14.1 CDA Herts requested a meeting to discuss undertaking a Housing Needs Survey and suggested a meeting on the 3rd or 4th Feb. Cllrs Lee, Carlisle and Turner all expressed an interest to be present. Clerk to arrange.

15. Items of correspondence

15.1 None.

16. Date of next Barley Parish meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on the 3rd February 2025, commencing at 8pm.

Contact: clerk@barleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation

Church End, Barley, SG8 8JW | 84 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EF

Tel: 01763 848281 | 01763 848283

Email: admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Barley Barkway (VA) C of E Federation of First Schools: Consultation on Change of Age Range

Proposal

Barley Barkway (VA) C of E Federation of First Schools is consulting on a proposal to admit 2-year-old children to Barkway First School. This would mean changing the age range of Barley Barkway (VA) C of E Federation of First Schools from 3–9 to 2–9 years of age, with effect from 1st September 2025.

Background

The school currently has an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class for children aged between 3 and 5 years old. The proposal is to accept children aged 2 years old as well from September 2025.

Benefits of the proposal

Children aged 2 years olds will continue to enjoy a play-based approach with adults supporting them to develop their independence, making choices and expanding on their interest in the world around them. Children will continue to benefit from stimulating environments and support to develop their curiosity, playfulness and desire to learn. Alongside this we will be able to develop the curriculum to ensure the knowledge and skills planned and taught to children aged 2 years old supports those taught in the EYFS class. By enabling children to start in the nursery as 2 year olds, we will remove a transition point and provide greater consistency and continuity for our children. Staff will work with children and their parents at a younger age, and so get to know them, identify their needs and have a greater impact earlier – well before they apply for Reception class at our school.

Evidence of Demand

In the light of recent budgets and change of Government, there is a projected increase in demand for 2 and 3 year-old Nursery places. New entitlements are being rolled out in stages:



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation

www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

- From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week;
- From September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to when the child starts at school can access 30 hours funded childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year.
- Substantial residential development approved for Barkway Village and surrounding areas near Royston and Buntingford.

Capital and Planning

Barley and Barkway Federation has applied for the School-Based Nursery Capital Grant 2024-2025 and in the interim, the school will provide funding for the changes we would like to make to our buildings.

The proposal will not affect the Published Admission Number for the school nor the capacity and will not put pressure on the classroom space for our school aged children.

Responding to the Consultation

This consultation will run from Friday 13th December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025.

Barley and Barkway Federation welcomes responses on this proposal by the closing date of Friday 3rd January 2025 either by:

Emailing: 2yoconsultation@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk – please title the email 'Nursery Consultation'

Or, by writing to Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation, Church End, Barley, Royston Herts SG8 8JW before the closing date of Friday 3rd January 2025.

We hope you will want to support our proposal – all responses to the consultation will be considered and shared with the school's leadership team and the Federation Governing Board. Responses will be shared with the Local Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education but we will not send to individual responses of any specific points made or questions/comments raised.

**BARLEY PARISH COUNCIL
QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS 2024-25**

INCOME	Budget	Budget			Actual			Cum. Actual	Variance	
	24-25	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr3	YTD	Fav/(adv)	
Precept	32,586	16,293		16,293	16,271	16,271		32,542	-44	rec'd early
Allotment Rent	275	275			165			165	-110	
Bank Interest	220	55	55	55	52		95	147	-18	
Clubroom rent	9,000	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	4,500		6,750	0	rec'd early
Clubroom Ins+Costs -refund	1260		1260			294		294	-966	incl AC recovery
Donations & Grants	-	-	-	-	100	2,345		2,445	2445	contra goal posts
VAT Refund	5,250	1,313	1,313	1,313	1,887	134	377	2,398	-1540	
	0									
TOTAL	48591	20186	4878	19911	20725	23544	472	44741	-233	

EXPENDITURE

Allotments		-	-	-				-	0	
Clerk & RFO	15,000	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,602	3,110	2,442	9,154	2096	
Club Room	0	0	0	0				0	0	
Special Projects - see below ***		0	0	0				0	0	
Donations	500	125	125	125		448	924	1,372	-997	PCC re churchyard
General repairs & maintenance	4,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	200	2,540		2,740	260	contra goal posts
Footpath & Highway Maintenance	2,000	500	500	500				0	1500	
Health & Safety Inspections	2,500	625	625	625	657	558	559	1,774	101	
Insurance - Parish Council	4,256		4,256			3,745	85	3,830	426	
Insurance Donation - Town House	5,511	5,511			5,777			5,777	-266	
IT Costs	250	63	63	63		54		54	134	
IT -Website	250	63	63	63	151			151	37	
Other/contingency	1,440	360	360	360	66			66	1014	
Parish Plan	0	0	0	0				0	0	
Plaistow & Play Area Grass Cutting	2,500	625	625	625	90	371	2,570	3,031	-1156	
Plaistow & Play Area Maintenance	2,500	625	625	625		307	560	867	1008	
Professional fees	1,000	250	250	250	372	315		687	63	ico/IA/PKF
Stationery & Postage	884	221	221	221	156	182	192	530	133	
Subscriptions	500	125	125	125	418	36		454	-79	haptc/cda
Town House Roof (see below)	-	-	-	-				-	0	
Training	250	63	63	63			17	17	171	
VAT	5,250	1,313	1,313	1,313	2,657			2,657	1281	
Village cleaning/maintenance	0	0	0	0				0	0	
TOTAL	48,591	15,217	13,962	9,706	14,146	11,666	7,349	33,161	5724	
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	0	4,969	-9,084	10,205	6,579	11,878	-6,877	11,580	5491	

cum £ 6,089

Transfer to Earmarked Reserves
Town House Sinking Fund £ 5,000 £ 5,000 to be completed towards year end when results for yr are known

*** Special Projects to include Changing Room Facilities 5k, Containers Replacement 12.5k, Potential drainage repairs on PC owned land 7.5k
recs hidden

BARLEY TOWN HOUSE ACCOUNTS

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Quarter 3 31 December 2024	Quarter 2 30 September 2024	Quarter 1 30 June 2024	YTD ye 31 March 2025	YEAR ENDING 31 March 2024	YEAR ENDING 31 March 2023	YEAR ENDING 31 March 2022
INCOME								
Lettings		3,180.00	7,840.00	6,370.00	17,390.00	23,121.61	20,417.50	10,600.00
Bank Interest		44.57		22.16	66.73	70.50	12.76	4.93
Grants & Donations				5,777.18	5,777.18	600.00		1,000.00
Other								
TOTAL		£ 3,224.57	£ 7,840.00	£ 12,169.34	£ 23,233.91	£ 23,792.11	£ 20,430.26	£ 11,604.93
EXPENDITURE								
Advertising/Marketing		19.00	44.00		63.00	388.80		523.50
Building work & maintenance incl materials		318.56	265.96	176.46	760.98	1,828.86	2,497.05	6,144.96
Caretaking		164.99	114.99	286.01	565.99	902.45	619.39	
Cleaning		1,017.70	781.85	395.00	2,194.55	2,385.25	2,522.82	140.00
Computing IT			54.00		54.00			
Council tax		111	111	115.62	337.62	340.57	324.35	602.24
Deposit Return								
Electrical work			86.40	91.20	177.60	1,710.77	795.84	1,115.57
Electricity		1,065.01	190.89	507.57	1,763.47	2,169.47	3,961.86	561.78
Equipment & materials				3.06	3.06	361.57	957.46	
Fire Extinguishers/Alarm/Emergency Lighting		204		480.89	684.89	204	815.5	1771.78
Insurances				5877.98	5877.98			
Legal & Professional fees		1740	2154		3894			
Letting Officers fees		597.00	345.50	984.00	1,926.50	2,730.50	2,903.95	1,155.50
Marriage Licence					-	319.00	1,310.50	
Other				80.00	80.00	595.16		
Wifi/Broadband		84.12	84.12	84.12	252.36	234.72	254.15	484.28
VAT								
Water rates		132.13	132.13	137.66	401.92	518.28	536.69	375.20
Wedding attendance		50.00			50.00	200.00		
TOTAL		£ 5,503.51	£ 4,364.84	£ 9,219.57	£ 19,087.92	£ 14,889.40	£ 17,499.56	£ 12,874.81
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		-£ 2,278.94	£ 3,475.16	£ 2,949.77	£ 4,145.99	£ 8,902.71	£ 2,930.70	-£ 1,269.88
CLOSING BANK BALANCES								
Community Account		36,941.76	39,222.27	35,747.11	35,747.11	32,819.50	23,987.29	21,069.35
Premium Account		5,992.75	5,948.18	5,948.18	5,948.18	5,926.02	5,855.52	5,842.76
Saffron BS								
Total		£ 42,934.51	£ 45,170.45	£ 41,695.29	£ 41,695.29	£ 38,745.52	£ 29,842.81	£ 26,912.11
Event Deposit Account		<u>£ 3,510.00</u>	<u>£ 2,860.00</u>	<u>£ 3,360.00</u>	<u>£ 3,360.00</u>	<u>£ 3,710.00</u>	<u>£ 3,212.50</u>	<u>£ 3,900.00</u>
<i>All money held</i>		<i>£ 46,444.51</i>	<i>£ 48,030.45</i>	<i>£ 45,055.29</i>	<i>£ 45,055.29</i>	<i>£ 42,455.52</i>	<i>£ 33,055.31</i>	<i>£ 30,812.11</i>

Notes

Sapele 1740 Sapele 1200, Hard BPC re ins