



**Barley Parish Council meeting: 3rd June 2024 at 8pm,
Town House, Church End, Barley.**

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT

1.1 Cllr Jerry Carlisle (Chair), Cllr Ali Hearn (Vice Chair), Cllr Alan Cayford, Cllr Ian Turner, District Cllr Martin Prescott, County Cllr Fiona Hill, Nick Shaw

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

1.1 RFO Lynn Brett, Clerk Alice Robertson.

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 13th May 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Proposed Cllr Cayford, Seconded Cllr Hearn.

4. **Public Participation**

4.1 A query was raised regarding the current position of the Probation Service Offer and what activities they would be doing. The Chairman advised this was to be covered later in the Clerks report.

5. **Planning**

5.1 Nothing to report.

6. Finance RFO report

6.1. To consider and approve payments for the Council.

In the absence of the RFO, the Chairman had been requested to advise the following items for consideration and approval by the Council:

<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Payee	Date	Amount	For
Alice Robertson	28/05/2024	£282.00	Clerk gross pay
Lynn Brett	31/05/2024	£769.52	RFO gross pay
Brian Haughey	16/05/2024	£66.80	Wine & snacks Village meeting
Rospa Play Safety	31/5/2024	£117.60	Ann Inspec Picknage Play Area
John Guerrero	31/5/2024	£200.00	Repair to allotment fences
TOTAL BPC for approval		<u>£1,435.92</u>	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT
For Information			
Peninsula	28/5/2024	£223.45	Paid via DD
Alice Robertson	28/5/2024	£400.00	S/O paid as agreed with BPC
TOTAL BPC for information		<u>£623.45</u>	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
<u>INCOMES</u>			
	Year to Date		
VAT refund		£1,886.74	
Club Room		£2,250.00	Rent & Ins BBP
NHDC precept		£16,000.00	Final precept
CTRS Grant		£271.51	
CDA Grant			
Other incomes		£165.00	Allotments
Interest		£0.00	
Barclays Bank		£100.00	Compensation
TOTAL BPC Incomes		<u>£20,673.25</u>	
<u>Bank Balances Held</u>			
	account	Balance	
Barley Parish Council			
Main	2188	£36,743.71	
Savings	5127	£0.00	
TH Sinking Fund	5720	£13,793.63	
TOTAL BPC Banks		<u>£50,537.34</u>	
<u>Other Sections</u>			
Barley Show Profit		£1,004.06	Final
Barley Show		<u>£12,820.98</u>	
Barley Tennis Club		<u>£13,019.60</u>	Bank balances
S137 expenditure limit			
22/23	8.82		
23/24	9.93		
Precept Requested 24/25			
CTRS		£543.02	
Total		<u>£32,543.02</u>	

Proposer Cllr Cayford, Seconder Cllr Turner

6.2 The RFO requested the Chairman to advise that there was no further information regarding the AGAR which was now with the external auditor for review, and that all necessary public notices had been published on the village noticeboards and on the website. Otherwise, there was nothing further to report to this months meeting.

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

In the absence of the RFO, the Chairman had been requested to advise the following items for consideration and approval by the Council:

EXPENSES			
Payee	Date	Amount	For
Swift Fire	16/05/2024	£271.63	Fire alarm call out
Elvira Gusejnova	09/05/2024	£578.50	Lettings fees Mar-Apr 24
P J Robinson	31/05/2024	£91.20	Call out hot water problem
TOTAL TH for approval		£941.33	TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT
For Information			
PNET	23/05/2024	£28.04	paid by DD
NHDC	1/5/2024	£37.00	paid by DD (none Feb/march)
Octopus	15/05/2024	£187.10	Electricity supply DD monthly charge
Octopus			Electricity supply DD Est £865 outstanding
Everflow Ltd	23/05/2024	43.09	Water supply DD
TOTAL TH for Information		£295.23	PAID/PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
INCOMES			
	Year to Date		
Town House YTD		£5,415.00	
BPC Donation		£5,777.18	Donation re Insurance
Bank Interest		0	
TOTAL TH Incomes		£11,192.18	
Bank Balances Held			
	account	Balance	
Barley Town House			
Main	3265	£35,930.28	
Deposits	8330	£3,660.00	
Savings	8104	£5,926.02	
		£45,516.30	
Deposits			
Opening balance		£4,010.00	
Received		£1,800.00	
Refunded		-£300.00	
Trf to main ac		-£1,850.00	
Closing Balance		£3,660.00	

Proposer Cllr Turner & Cllr Cayford

8. Reports from County/District Councillors

8.1 To receive a report from County Cllr Hill

- The Highways Action Plan was updated and sent to The Clerk and Chairman. It was noted however that the comment regarding that the request for a surface water gully to be installed at the junction of Pudding Lane and Church End was incorrect. The request was not to deal with “puddles” but to ensure excess surface water run-off from Pudding Lane onto Church End was dealt with the remove overloading of existing road gully adjoining the old Fox and Hounds carpark access on Church End. It was agreed that this item needed to be clarified and prioritised.
- All hedges and verges impacting safety had been reported for cutting. Other hedges and verges will have to wait until after the end of the bird nesting season.
- Speed and volume surveys on Picknage Road were due to take place shortly. Data collection for 20mph zones around the district are ongoing in 2024 following which there would be a village consultation depending on the results.
- There has a health scrutiny meeting regarding health needs for the village.
- A permanent site was being sought for a new banking hub in Royston and in the meantime Lloyds Bank had agreed to stay open until September 2024.
- Cllr Hill advised that the planning application in respect of the proposed development at the top of Barkway Road leading into Royston had not yet come to the Planning Committee.
- Cllr Hill also reported that resolution of appropriate sight lines between the developer of Drayton’s site and Hertfordshire County Council Highways Department was still unresolved.
- Speed Camera – an email had been received from Karl Stonebank advising that Truvelo had removed the camera by the Picknage Road Crossroads and were working to reinstall it as soon as possible. Updated costs for continuing with the speed cameras were still awaited from the Police Commissioner Offices for the period commencing April 2025 together with a draft memorandum of understanding. The new Police Commissioner is now in post and all agreements are currently being reviewed.

8.2 To receive a report from Cllr Martin Prescott

- Cllr Prescott raised the issue of street cleaning and whether this was now being carried out satisfactorily. The council advised him that too often the wrong sweeper was sent out resulting in inadequate or no cleaning at all being undertaken on certain sections. Furthermore the monthly cleaning cycle was considered to be wholly insufficient for a rural location. The schedule that had been received had moved fortnightly cleaning out to a monthly basis without any prior notification.
- Cllr Prescott also reported that NHDC reorganisation following the recent local elections was still in progress.

9. Reports from Working Parties, Committees and Portfolio Holders

9.1 Town House Charity

The Chairman Nick Shaw reported that there was a faulty emergency door which was being resolved later this week. It was also proposed to change the wiring for the lights in the toilets to avoid potential damage by vermin was due to be considered at the next committee meeting at the end of June 2024. The estimated cost was £1900.

Nick Shaw also reported that he had met with Tim Ashcroft from Sapele Design regarding the necessary planning application required for the replacement windows. Tim Ashcroft’s fees would amount to some £1200 to include all necessary drawings for both Planning and Listed Building consent. This fee excludes the cost of the two applications. These application costs would be significantly reduced if the application was made in the name of the Parish Council. The actual amounts to be confirmed. Nick Shaw will report back on the windows generally following the Town House Committee meeting at the end of June.

Cllr Cayford confirmed all weekly Health and Safety checks had been carried out and there were no further items to report.

9.2 Plaistow & Green Areas

- 9.2.1** Cllr Cayford carried out weekly checks on the playground and Plaistow. It was noted that there was some surface decay to the tables and chairs in the children's playground. It was also reported that there appeared to be evidence of a motorbike to have been taken into the children's play area resulting in a deep groove surrounding the swings which requires to be filled in.
- 9.2.2** 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. The top bar is at the required minimum height but the lower bar should be removed which some consequent minor works to the grass bank to allow wheel chair access.
- 9.2.3** The damage to the fencing around the Tennis Courts remains unresolved, although the Tennis Club are aware. New bench will be installed next couple of weeks by Alice Robertson
- 9.2.4** The proposed new Junior Goal Posts were discussed and it was reported that they would be securely stored when not in use.
- 9.2.5** Nothing further to report on the proposed works to improve the footpath from Church End to the Plaistow.

10. Clerks Report

- 10.1** The proposed Safeguarding Policy had been distributed for approval. Cllr Turner had not had an opportunity to properly consider the policy but it was agreed by all other Councillors that subject to Cllr Turner not having any further comments to be reported by 7th June 2024, the policy was agreed. The Safeguarding Officer for the purposes of the policy would be the Parish Clerk.
- 10.2** Cllr Turner reported he is still to set up his .gov email address.
- 10.3** It was clarified that with regard to the Armed Forces Covenant that the only commitment required from the Parish Council was to generally support and signpost Veterans. County Cllr Hill agreed to send Cllr Turner details of the person to contact to enable the Parish Council to sign up to the Covenant.
- 10.4** Parish Council Vacancies it was reported that the 14 day notice period expires on the 5th June. If no requests for an election were received, then the Co-opting process would be instigated. To date there remain 4 applicants for the 2 vacancies.

11. Items of correspondence.

None reported

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

The date of next Parish Council Meeting which will be 1st July 2024 commencing at 8pm.

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