

Barley with Wheatley Booth Parish Council (BPC)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 9th January'25 at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr. D. Heap (Chair) Cllr. D. Goldsbrough Cllr. J. McGregor Cllr. J. Harthan
Cllr. J. Connor Cllr. G. Grimshaw Cllr. L. Rushworth

In Attendance: C A Heap (Clerk & RFO)

Public: None

1.	Welcome: The Chairman welcome Cllr Harthan back after maternity leave. Apologies: Absent: None	
2.	Councillors Declaration of Interest: None	
3.	To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 11th December 2024. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting should be APPROVED and that the Chair sign them as a correct record and append to the PC website.	
4.	Public Participation: Roger & Susan Clarkson of Barley Green Mr Clarkson informed the PC he was about to move to York. He had attended many PC meetings and came to express his gratitude for the work done by the PC and to praise them, based on his public sector experience, as a well-managed and effective Council. A small gratuity was given to Mr Clarkson for his support to the PC over recent years.	
5.	Financial Matters: The following payments were approved / ratified for payment:	
	December'24	Expenditure
	16	ABC Electrical Xmas Lights
	16	Blachere Snowflake on Village Hall
	16	ABC Electrical Xmas Lights
	17	Octopus Energy Electricity Nov
	18	UU Water Toilets
	23	Gatekeeper Salary
	23	Clerk Salary
	23	RFO Salary
	23	Lloyds Jones Toilet Supply
	23	Women's Institute Xmas Lights Batteries
	January 2025	
	2	Shorrock Trichem HygieneBin
	7	Wilkinson Dec Toilet Clean
	10	PwE Commission December
6.	Planning Applications (PA) for Consideration by Members & Updates: None	

	<p>Update PROPOSAL: Full: Erection of a garage attached to plant store. Application 24/0742/HHO AT: Far Banks Farm Cross Lane Barley FOR: Mark Plat The PC had objected to this application previously. The chairman reported he had attended the BwP Committee meeting the previous night and that whilst the application had been approved by officers it had been refused by members. This was due to its position next to the converted barn within the AONB; the proposed garage would result in a harmful impact on the character of the open countryside and landscape and would be incongruous in design with its relationship to the adjacent dwelling. This would be contrary to policies ENV1 and ENV2 of the Adopted Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy, Development in the Open Countryside SPG, and Forest of Bowland AONB SPG.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Parish Maintenance & Village Projects – Members to receive Reports & Proposals</p> <p>Toilet Block Upgrade Robert Baines reported that he has not been able to make any progress due to family illness. He has offered to withdraw from the project allowing another company to get involved. The chair has replied that we would not get another company involved but a Councillor would have to take the project on which is about preparing a specification for flooring, doors/frames and urinals then getting contractors involved. The chairman has asked Robert if he still wants to continue and what are the time frames. A reply is awaited and progress reported at the next meeting. Action: Cllr Heap.</p> <p>Update on CCTV Camera Replacement Project Cllr Grimshaw reported he had made no progress in the last month but was confident the project would progress in January.</p> <p>Update on Playground Inspections Cllr Goldsbrough informed he had completed a fourth inspection and he had forwarded all reports to the Clerk earlier in the day - Action completed. He would undertake the January inspection and arrange further inspections with Cllr Harthan now she has returned from maternity leave. Action: Cllr Goldsbrough.</p> <p>Update on application for formal registration of Village Green by Pendle BC The Chairman reported that he had requested PBC apply for the VG to have a registered status on 1st November and is awaiting their response. Cllr Heap will request an update. Action: Cllr. Heap.</p> <p>Update on Other Village Projects – None</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Traffic Issues, Turning Area, Car Park & Planned Events</p> <p>Cllr. Goldsbrough reported that he will present details for the proposed additional RPS signage including wording, font size, colour and proposed location for discussion at the next Council meeting. This is to increase visitors' awareness of the RPS. Action: Cllr. Goldsbrough Deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr McGreggor commented that there was a clutter of signs in the village with some redundant. Cllr Harthan offered to prepare an inventory of signs for consideration. Action: Cllr Harthan.</p> <p>Events in Barley – None were reported.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Feedback on the Xmas decorations 2024 and update on decommissioning. The chairman reported that all the Xmas lights had been erected by mid-December including the large snowflake on the Village Hall and the Sleigh with Reindeer on top of the bus shelter.</p>

	<p>It had not been possible to take down the Xmas decoration due to the 6" snowfall on 4th January and the subsequent freezing conditions expected to last until 12 January. The Contractor will be away on holiday until near the end of the month. In the meantime, the Santa Sleigh can be removed, Action Cllr Heap, and the tree lights removed, Action Cllr Connor.</p> <p>Cllr. Rushworth reported that the VH Committee might prefer to have white lights on the VH next year & Cllr. Goldsbrough suggested additional white lights could be erected on the tree on the TA. The Chair reminded that the previous decision was to leave the snowflake in situ.</p>
10	<p>Members are asked to set the Council Tax Precept for 2025-26. Members agreed, given the Councils positive financial position, to set the tax precept at zero for 2024-2025. Action: RFO to inform Pendle BC.</p>
11	<p>Reports from Chairman Update on large Waterplus invoice in September of £1,497 and October of £560. The Chairman reported that following the excessive Waterplus invoice the readings had returned to normal figures so it was doubtful the high reading was due to a leak. The Clerk has written to request an additional meter to enable each business to be charged accurately rather than the current estimated cost share. The Cabin has been informed and is satisfied with this proposed action. Action: RFO</p> <p>Outstanding Action - Winter Maintenance Policy on Website – Completed Cllr Grimshaw The Chair reported the winter maintenance information had been posted onto the website.</p> <p>Attempts had been made to apply grit to the car park but to date access had been a problem. It was hoped that grit salt could be applied before the weekend when visitor numbers could be high given the sunny weather forecast and the snow on the ground. Action: Cllr Heap.</p> <p>The chairman had attended the fitting of an electric Smart Meter in the toilet block on 6 Jan. Boothman Wood – The chairman is hoping to meet the new owners soon. Action: Cllr. Heap.</p>
12	<p>Clerk & Financial Officers Report The current bank balance was £91,901 and after setting aside commitments, and reserves, the monies available for the Council to spend is £41k.</p>
13	<p>Members to review and update the Councillors Action list 2024-25 Following discussion members agreed to maintain all the current actions on the list.</p>
14	<p>Discussion Items from Councillor James McGregor Highways Engagement - road maintenance/repairs and drainage on Barley Lane? Cllr. McGregor expressed concern regarding the condition of the road surface and drainage on Barley Lane. He reported that during recent bad weather conditions the road had further deteriorated and road edges were eroding causing a hazard to vehicles and also debris to run off and block drains. Major road improvements had been undertaken on Barley Road and Pasture Lane in 2024 and similar needed to be scheduled for Barley Lane given the volumes of traffic using the road. It was agreed to write to LCC to raise residents' concerns and request a site visit. Action: Cllr Heap. The Chair said that minor potholes and defects, including blocked gullies, can be reported to LCC though the 'Love clean Streets' website. https://lovecleanstreets.info/ If a member has reported a defect they can mention it on the Whatsapp group to avoid repeats.</p>

Local Authority Street Cleaning and litter picking support?

Cllr. McGregor reported that litter is regularly deposited on Barley Lane by tourists parking to climb Pendle. There is only one small waste bin which is not sufficient for the number of visitors. PBC do not provide a litter picking service. The Chair suggested lobbying PBC to install a larger wastebin as recently installed on the Village Green, and members agreed to 50/50 funding if this could be arranged. It was also suggested that litter picking on Barley Lane could be added to the Lengthsman's duties. **Action: Cllr Heap.**

Local authority parking enforcement support at peak tourism times?

The chair informed that enforcement officers do attend during busy periods and are aware of how busy Barley can be at times. However, there is only a limited resource and so visits are never as much as anyone wants. He felt that double yellow lines were well observed by visitors in the village centre but the resident parking was not as well observed. This might be improved with more signs – see Item 8.

What opportunities are available to improve relationships between the PC and local businesses.

Cllr McGregor suggested a list of local businesses be put together so that the Council knew more about local suppliers who could assist the Council, citing a local farmer being able to do the car park gritting. Members agreed. **Action: Cllr McGregor** to start compiling a list.

The Council briefly discussed the personal abuse directed at the Chairman by the Barley Mow owner on Facebook during Xmas day. The Turning Area had been full of vehicles and the Chair had sent a message to the Barley Mow pointing out that there were no arrangements in place to permit parking but, in case there was a misunderstanding, no parking enforcement was taken. Cllr McGregor asked why this message had only gone to the Barley Mow and the Chairman said it was because a dispensation had been given to them the previous year allowing parking. Members agreed the abuse was unwarranted and the Chairman felt no response was required.

Removal of cones around the village, especially in residential parking bays.

Cllr. McGregor expressed concern that residents placing traffic cones in the road were creating a hazard and they were unsightly. The Chair said that now a resident's parking scheme was in place there should not be any cones used to reserve parking and that that the Council had an expectation they would be removed once the scheme had settled in ie. after six months. Cllr Goldsbrough replied that residents still place cones because some people still park in the resident parking area taking up resident's places. The chairman added that the Council had no powers to remove the cones but Lancashire CC, or individuals, could remove them.

15 **Reports from Councillors & Borough Councillor Reports:**

Cllr Goldsbrough had sourced a dog fouling sign for the playground.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 13th February 2025 (agenda items by 6th February)