

# MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 3 February 2022 – 7.15 pm Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

## Present: -

Cllrs S van Daesdonk (Chairman)

Cllr A Jones

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr L Bennett (Vice Chairman)

Cllr L Young

Cllr I Gilbey

Cllr E Sharkey

Cllr J Weaver

Cllr G Hughes

Cllr D Lord

**In attendance:** - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; Cllr J Jessel; PCSO Tim Leathers; 5 members of the public.

### 1. Chairman's Welcome and Record of Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs S Severn, B Ashcroft and J Jones.

### 2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None declared.

### 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 January 2022.

It was resolved that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman

### 4. Parishioners Forum

4 Residents of Arden Road were present and a spokesperson referred to their strong objections to a planning application for an infill property at the rear of no. 8. The application fails to meet the criteria set out in the Borough Council's Local Plan. The residents believed a total of 16 objections had been submitted. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council are consultees only and the decision sits with ESBC. The Parish Council's response echoes the residents' concerns. ESBC can only apply their own local plan policies and national policy. The residents were advised to object individually rather than petition. The Clerk had requested an update on how many properties had been built from the windfall allocation of 25 houses within planning period. If the application goes to Committee, the residents may be invited to speak at the meeting. The residents were also disgruntled that they had not received acknowledgments for their objections and comments and have in fact struggled to register their objections despite employing consultants on their behalf. Clerk to write to Naomi Perry and Cllr Allen expressing these concerns.

### 5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

#### 1. Police

PCSO Tim Leathers report had been circulated. The New Chief Constable was making changes which would reduce neighbourhood bobbies but have response officers based out of local stations. The Operating model appeared similar to previous years. Cllrs would be interested to hear from him in person at a future meeting.

The report figures reflected system updates which should provide a more accurate reflection of what is happening locally. Tim advised he would not be able to attend meetings frequently as dates clashed with other parishes.

2. [County Council](#) – Cllr J Jessel

County were approving a 4 year strategic plan. Cllr Jessel will produce a Newsletter to summarise.

Drakelow development - Paul Costin at Countryside Properties is the director negotiating with Derbyshire / Staffordshire County Councils. Unfortunately, the approved new bridge was now non-compliant with modern standards and needs upgrading. Whilst they have been consulting with local Parish Councils including Walton, they have so far not consulted Barton and have been told they must.

Walton Lane and the Bailey Bridge – this would become a cycling and pedestrian route. It needs raising up due to flooding issues. Some barriers had been replaced along Walton Lane and Richard Rayson is aware of the road breaking up. Due to the likely alterations required, emergency repairs only will be done. Staffordshire County Council will still be responsible for maintenance.

Barton Brook – Cllr Jessel has been chasing the Environment Agency on plans and has shared a report with Cllr Sharkey. By the end of March, costed options should be available and they will be in a position to share these more widely.

St Modwens culvert – there is still a length to be cleared. The Land Registry searches had not identified owner obligations along this narrow strip. Cllr Jessel will push SCC to clear it if costs of trying to establish the owner prove too onerous.

Repairs – a small amount of budget remaining with following identified jobs – a dip in the pavement on Short Lane which pools; the entrance to JTHS needs repairing; an area of Main Street also to be attended to.

Some funding from the Climate Change Action fund is still available with a closing date of 25 February. Max allocation of £500. Guidance is on carbon reduction and waste reduction. The qualifying criteria will be circulated.

Central Government appear to be keen on appointing mayors which Staffordshire do not want. SCC have agreed to closer working with leaders of authorities to agree a working model with more devolved powers and budgets. The idea is that there should be a single point of contact for public to access information rather than being passed from authority to authority.

Cllr Sharkey referred to CIL money from developers for traffic measures. With farms diversifying and more distribution centres, the road network was unsuitable. County now recommends refusal of these but the Borough still approve. Investment in major highways and infrastructure before commencement of development is now policy. Whilst S106 commitments demand healthcare and education spend – developers are adept at proving financial liability issues and the full amount needed falls short.

Cllr A Jones asked Cllr Jessel if a camera could be utilised to monitor traffic on Main Street. Cllr Jessel to chase the relocation of the weight restriction sign. A traffic count on Scotch Hills had also been requested.

3. [Borough Council](#) – Cllr B Ashcroft’s report had been circulated.

6. [Committee Reports as annexed.](#)

1. [Finance](#)

It was Resolved that the recommendations and circulated reports be noted and approved.

2. [Planning](#)

The refusal of the plan to convert the Country Services buildings into residential properties stating outdoor amenity space was inadequate was being appealed. Our original objection will

stand. The Local Plan refers to local services. However, there are no further grounds for refusal.

61 The Green - Planning enforcement were continuing to investigate land encroachment of part of the highway.

Planning Conservations areas – the committee were striving for a united response. Tutbury PC would be providing examples. Article 4 directions had not made any difference in Tutbury and no enforcement made. The committee were awaiting response from other Parishes.

Bellways Estate - lack of progress on their open space. If S106 cannot be altered, the original wording is binding. If the land is adopted by ESBC they will be responsible for that section of the brook.

### 3. Parks and Open Spaces

It was proposed to move the Collinson Park boundary matter to in camera session to end of meeting with the exclusion of press and public due to legally privileged discussions.

All agreed.

Cllr Sharkey advised the new grounds maintenance contract was being confirmed.

The annual Playdale inspection had been carried out and found fair wear and tear but no risks or issues. Anchor boxes were discussed and a solution to be found. They had given good advice and repairs will be cheaper than thought.

Coppicing to be done.

Fishpond contamination – funding had now been offered. The Clerk had reiterated that the money will have to be spent only on mitigation of further pollution risks. Pipe, reeds filter beds etc had been mentioned and costs to be obtained.

### 4. Burial Ground

Notices were displayed in December regarding unsafe memorials. 4 relatives had indicated repairs would be carried out. The Committee will meet to discuss what will be done next.

Many of the graves may no longer have surviving relatives to tend to them.

### 5. Human Resources

Our litter picker is out of action due to injury but her son is covering the work so will continue to be paid for those hours. Our Lengthsman has also been doing a bit of litter picking.

### 6. Allotments

9 on waiting list. Cllr Hughes referred to enquiries coming via email and a few from out of the parish. Whilst our rules do not prohibit non parishioners, he would like parishioners to be given priority. A form would be created to fill in via the website with addresses to be submitted. All agreed priority to be given to parishioners once the current 9 had been allocated. The Clerk would check the lease from SCC for any wording which may prevent this.

### 7. VEC

The Woodland Trust trees to be delivered end February for the Queen's copse. We only have permission for 30 which are already on order, however the Church would like to put 3 more in. It was suggested they approach the Ward Cllr as space may be found on the other ESBC green space by the brook.

2 of the benches recently installed need refixing as were found to be rocking. This will be investigated.

## 7. Administration

### 1. Correspondence

The GoFundMe amount is to be accepted. Cllr Sharkey will meet the organiser to discuss the options on how to spend the money to protect the pond from any future contamination. Greener Barton enquiry - results of the survey to be made available on website. The funding opportunity mentioned had already been applied to but was refused. Suggest the resident takes this on himself.

Observations made regarding the old Millennial signage plots – Cllr A Jones to investigate putting in mobile a speed indicator device which could be moved between the two sites.

Gilmour Lane – Cllr Sharkey had spoken to the school regarding the current state, this would be escalated with John Treadwell / Cllr Jessel. The responsibility lay with the LEA but they do not have funds. If no resolution it was suggested a volunteer action group could clear the area. Clerk to write to John Treadwell, cc Shelly Sharpe and Cllr Jessel.

Parking issues around John Taylor High School – Cllr A Jones is attempting to engage Road Safety Education and Safer Roads Partnership to assist. The resident is looking into checking cars idling. Information within the Node report could be shared. Double yellow lines are being obscured by leaves, particularly in Church Lane.

Post box demand replacement – the Clerk had received the same response as the resident. Cllrs felt the demand for a replacement should be pursued as the nearest boxes would involve a 1k round trip for vulnerable residents.

Public Space Protection Orders Review - these cover only dogs and alcohol. If the Fishpond were added proof would be required that there is a problem. Cllrs were unanimous that the current orders remain as is with no changes.

Cllr Sharkey had received a call regarding a house for sale in Brookside which had been marked as flooding in their garden on map. The resident is now having problems with the sale and questions why the property was included on the flood map. The plans which were drawn by Cllr Sharkey concurred with the Flood Agency plans which clearly show it is in the flood area.

### 2. Electronic Decisions

None

## 8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

### 1. Speedwatch

The team had been out in Captains Lane and recorded 1 in 7 speeding. Training sessions are available but 3 or 4 new volunteers are needed. Annual figures for Staffordshire show 9,000 first letters sent for a first offence, 500+ letters sent for second offenders, 54 received visits from the police. There had been 3,000 hours of volunteering in Staffordshire.

### 2. Flood Risk Group

The Environment Agency had not heard from Mr Mycock. A dedicated public meeting would be arranged followed by a Flood Risk Group meeting.

## 9. Councillors Reports

### 1. Crowberry Lane Car Park Review

Cllrs discussed the 4 hr limit and parking overnight. Charges would be difficult as visitors to the village hall and Co-op would have to be free. All agreed signs were adequate and no changes to the parking restrictions were necessary. A sign should be introduced with notice that vehicles parked at own risk.

2. Cllr Hughes asked if the Speedwatch team had noticed marked reduction in HGVS. Whilst no evidence had been gathered the numbers do appear to have reduced in general.
3. Holland Sports Club were planning events for the Jubilee. They had asked for permission to use the green areas in Potters Way and fencing in Efflinch Lane for advertising. All agreed as long as the disabled bays were kept clear.
4. Family Festival – Cllr Young advised meetings had been started and new people were involved. The festival would take place in September with activities at St James Church only. It would be Jack Sheldon’s last year and he is looking for somewhere else to store the teddy rides. Have tried various sources including Mercers but one ride ended up at the tip. The Committee also need someone to take on repairs etc.

10. **Dates of Future Meetings:** 3 March, 7 April, 5 May, 9 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December 2022

A brief closed session now commenced.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm