

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 9 June 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 D Lord	Cllr G Hughes
Cllr J Weaver		

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 1 member of the public.

1. [Chairman's Welcome and record of Apologies for Absence received](#)

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

2. [Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda](#)

None

3. [Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 May 2022.](#)

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

4. [Parishioners Forum](#)

A resident of Barton Gate raised what she considered to be a health and safety issue regarding the overgrown footpath on the B5016 between Barton Gate and Barton village. Pedestrian access past the hawthorn hedge becomes increasingly hazardous every year and the white chevrons force vehicles even closer to the pavement. Even when the hedges are cut, undergrowth still causes problems and the pavement can no longer accommodate a double buggy. The resident was disappointed that BPC do not engage with the landowner. It was explained that County Highways are the only authority with powers of enforcement. Nesting birds is often the excuse for not cutting but the resident indicated RSPB only give this as a recommendation and human safety should be the priority. Cllr Lord understood it was illegal to cut throughout May to September whilst birds were nesting. The resident would appreciate BPC putting pressure on County to enforce hedge cutting. It was also suggested contacting ESBC to arrange pavement sweeper to remove some of the undergrowth detritus. The resident will write in formally and ask neighbours to do the same. If the neighbours are in agreement, we will ask Cllr Jessel to hold a surgery for the residents affected.

Cllrs were aware other areas of the village also have the same issue such as Dunstall Road and Walton Lane the latter having recently been strimmed.

The resident also reported that gullies had become blocked following re-surfacing. Each one is to be reported individually. Cllr Sharkey advised he had put in a full report of all blocked gullies and they should be jetted once a year. The SCC team flag up gullies that cannot be lifted but then no-one returns to attend to these. Cllrs are compiling time line details on this.

5. [Police, County and Borough Council Reports](#)

1. [Police](#)

Report circulated. Cllr A Jones will be attending a forum armed with stats and queries.

2. County Council – no report

3. Borough Council – no report

6. Committee Reports as annexed.

1. Finance

- 1.1. Resolved - acceptance of the updated Summary of Assets
- 1.2. Resolved - acceptance of the Explanation of Significant Variances
- 1.3. Resolved - acceptance of the year end Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments account
- 1.4. Resolved - noted the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022 (page 3 of the AGAR) and the accompanying Internal Auditors report letter;
- 1.5. Resolved – approval of the Council’s response to the Annual Governance Statement (page 4 of the AGAR)
- 1.6. Resolved – approval of the Accounting Statements (page 5 of the AGAR)
- 1.7. Resolved – approval of the publication of the Notice of Appointment of the Date for the Exercise of Public Rights.

It was **resolved** all accepted the Annual Return papers and the recommendations within the circulated financial reports, noted and approved.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey advised the circulated Committee Terms of Reference had been reviewed and were relatively unchanged.

Bellways development – the committee report on the meeting with Naomi Perry as circulated was noted. Cllr Gilbey would add to the report that remedial works to the Full Brook were promised to be completed by the end of October. Another meeting is arranged for 29 June. Culverts to be replaced to enable full access for clearing. Holland Sports Club will contact the management company regarding a piece of land attached to the “allotment land”. Cllrs had noted Holland Sports Club interest in the land which would eventually be transferred to the Parish Council. Other options for this land use were offered but the land is prone to flooding and the top soil has been removed so therefore it is of little use for items such as a community orchard.

Resolved - Report and comments noted and accepted.

3. Parks and Open Spaces

No meeting. The grounds maintenance contractor is still being met and continues to make a good impression. Church Lane boundary has been trimmed on our side but further clearing of ivy etc. is to be requested.

Fishpond – The railings on the new bank have been done and soil has been delivered to tidy the area. Pegs to be looked at. It was noted some fish have grown too large for the pond and will be removed and replaced following the current spawning period.

New planting area at the entrance to Holland Sports Club - this will be tidied up and fenced off by a community payback team.

Village Green registration – Cllr Gilbey advised this is being referred to ESBC legal department by Naomi Perry.

4. Burial Ground
Nothing to report

5. Human Resources
Nothing to report. Meeting scheduled for the following week.

6. Allotments
A few changes may reduce the waiting list slightly and a joint tenancy has been taken out on one plot.
Cllr Sharkey reported that the field to the east of the Key Trust allotments may be an opportunity to extend allotment space. This would depend on the Key Trust negotiating with the current lessee of the field to reclaim part of the land. Cllr Hughes to check if those currently on the waiting list were still interested and Cllr van Daesdonk will speak to Cllr J Jones to explore this further.

7. VEC
The village events went well. Half of the knitted crowns were taken Thursday evening despite being tied to the railing posts. Thanks were expressed to all involved with the beacon event and the decorations.
A proper case is being built to protect the beacon and storage options were discussed. It was agreed to write to all pubs and clubs to thank them for pulling together in the organisation of village events, perhaps send a professionally printed certificate from the Jubilee pack.

7. Administration

1. Correspondence

All items noted.

Efflinch Lane resident – overhanging tree in garden. An application to cut back was refused. This was not a BPC decision as we are only consultees - we had advised balanced crowning so as not to leave the tree unstable. The resident was aggrieved that we didn't consult with him or assist in helping find a resolution. We had suggested an amicable discussion. Cllr Gilbey noted our comments on the application were requesting thinning properly in balanced way. A TPO is in place to protect the tree. Cllrs feel there is no more they can add and concerns were more around the impact on the public realm.

Request for cameras from Cllr A Jones – this had been denied as lorries can use the B5016 to Town Hill – the weight limit does not prevent HCVs which can turn right onto the B5016. Cllr A Jones to copy in all.

Bollards outside St James – Richard Rayson is not happy with the height reduction and wanted them glued back together. Cllr van Daesdonk felt we should not be involved as they are Highways property. It was agreed to make suggestions on repair at no cost to BPC and refer all parties to come to an agreement.

8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Speedwatch

Cllr A Jones reported on new members of the team going out. 46/660 vehicles speeding.

2. Flood Risk Group

Cllr Sharkey reported on a recent meeting and progress made on issues with Barton Brook,

Full Brook and St Modwens.

Response to the landowners or Mill Lane – tributary off Full Brook to Mill Crescent, this was discussed at the Flood meeting. De-silting was the landowners’ responsibility. SCC had cleaned the culvert but the inlet silted up and was causing a back-up. Cllr D Lord to draft a response outlining how to resolve this.

9. Councillors Reports

1. Cllrs A Jones and J Taylor asked for any questions to be forwarded for the Police and Crime Commissioner who they would be seeing at the Needwood forum. Cllr A Jones had compiled some stats for Barton around population in comparison to Uttoxeter to show that the level of policing was disproportionate in Uttoxeter’s favour – Uttoxeter and Uttoxeter Rural have 3 PCSOs and 6 Sergeants – Needwood is a larger area and currently only has 1 PCSO. Crime stats were Needwood 52, Uttoxeter 38, Uttoxeter Rural 36. With a higher crime rate this demonstrates we are under-policed. Policing for Needwood equated to 35 hrs per week which includes travel time for the vast area. There is the use of a police room at the fire station but no internet as our PCSO doesn’t have the code. It was also felt we need to hear about successful prosecutions. The clear-up rate for Staffs is less than 10%. ASB is being under-reported due to lack of police action and fear of repercussions. The Speedwatch team were not always supplied with feedback. Police Surgeries need to return to village. One query to be put was the necessity for all officer to be graduates.
2. Bell Lane – Cllr Bennett reported on large weeds alongside the Middle Bell. Cllr Sharkey suggested speaking to the manager directly or sending a photo to Derby Brewing Co.
3. Holland Sports Club insurance – NALC legal advice had been taken around the policy wording and this had been circulated to all Cllrs. All agreed happy to have BPC interest ‘noted’ on the policy rather than being jointly named.
4. Cllr Young updated on the Festival plans. They will not need a road closure now. Rev Andy is getting village pubs involved.

10. Dates of Future Meetings:

7 July; 4 August - Parish Council Meetings

1 Sept - Parish Council Meeting followed by Trustee Barton Village Hall Meeting;

6 October; 3 November; 1 December 2022 – Parish Council Meetings

The meeting closed at 9.16 pm