

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held 5 January 2023 – 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 G Hughes

Cllr D Lord

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; Needwood Cllr J Jones, 3 members of the public. PCSO x 2

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

A few moments silence was observed to reflect on our recently deceased member of staff, Val Windsor.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs B Ashcroft, J Jessel

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

None declared

3. [Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 December 2022.](#)

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

4. [Parishioners Forum](#)

A resident drew Cllrs attention to major A38 roadworks throughout March to Autumn. He was advised to make representations at the open information day in Alrewas. Several accidents have occurred recently at Catholme mainly due to HGV's making last minute decisions to re-route. Cllr Julia Jessel to be approached regarding HGV signage improvements on A38 to avoid last minute decisions by HGV drivers.

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

1. Police

PCSO Tim Leathers advised no report generated due to annual leave and issues with a system upgrade. They continue to patrol local hotspots. A flasher has been apprehended, with two associated Barton incidents. They are aware of Facebook reports concerning damage to vehicles tyres but these have not been officially reported so no incident logs to generate resource needs. A Cllr asked if there had been any activity in Small Meadows Lane as there had been potential suspicious activity seen – PCSO will create an intel log.

Cllrs asked about the stolen Camper van – this is an ongoing investigation and CCTV enquiries are being made. Cllr Lord whilst litter picking at Barton Turn reported canisters found. Police will monitor. Whilst possession and using is not illegal, supply is.

Police Drop in sessions were scheduled every three weeks, not proving a great turn out but will continue. They attend St James Church place of warmth sessions and were welcomed to drop in to Barton Village Hall POW.

2. County Council –:

Cllr Jessel had sent in a report -

There has been a meeting between Countryside Properties UK, Staffordshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council officers and the Environment Agency regarding the design of the new bridge at Walton. The issue has not yet been resolved but all organisations have agreed to work towards an acceptable solution. Once further details are known Cllr Jessel will circulate a briefing note to all interested parties.

A Needwood Divisional Forum meeting, via Zoom is to be scheduled shortly. The meeting will cover:

Presentation from National Highways regarding the future maintenance work on the A38 and proposed diversion routes and mitigating measures.

The forthcoming Local Government County Council Divisions Boundary Review, which will have an impact on the Needwood Division as the current electorate is 20%+ over target.

Update from Staffordshire Police.

3. Borough Council – Cllr J Jones has been working on levelling up and heritage. Some Christmas bin collections were missed and had to revisit. Cllrs remarked that on blue bag collection days litter is left strewn behind them noticeably on Short Lane.

Local Plan Review due from May onwards after elections.

6. Co-Option of Councillor

The two candidates present were each allowed to say a few words in support of their application and answered a few questions.

The first candidate offered skills around data analysis and social media work – when employed he tends to work from home and any study is typically done remotely.

The second candidate offered a hands on approach assisting with maintenance, health and safety inspections in the playgrounds - he has an engineering background.

Both were prepared to be available for advice and hands on assistance with projects should they be unsuccessful with the co-option.

Councillors moved to exclude members of the public who were then asked to leave the room whilst a brief discussion on the candidates and a blind vote took place.

The Chair advised she had accepted a resignation letter dated today from Cllr J Weaver standing down due to new work commitments. The Clerk advised ESBC would need to be notified and due process followed so only one co-option could take place at this time. Cllrs voted with a majority in favour of the second candidate, Stephen Harley to be co-opted onto the Council.

The public were then invited back into the meeting.

7. Committee Reports as annexed.

1. Finance

Due to an increase in the tax base figures supplied from ESBC, the previously agreed precept request is now calculated to a Parish Rate of £41.16 and an increase of 6.06% or £2.35 increase per annum on a Band D property.

Cllr Sharkey noted we were still awaiting an invoice from the grounds contractors for the additional November grass cut.

It was **resolved** to approve the circulated financial reports and committee recommendations.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey – The new Co-op signage was discussed as it is in the conservation area. The

application had not been validated so not registered. A retrospective application was now expected. ESBC's enforcement officer will take action if the application is refused. Cllr Lord felt ESBC should be proactive rather than waiting for the application. Cllr J Jones to speak to enforcement officer.

An application was expected for a large new build house development at Small Meadows Lane. Cllrs have declined their request for a site meeting.

Cllr Sharkey had attended a pre application tree site meeting at Barton Lodge – we were informed that the ESBC tree advisor is now a private consultant. Cllr J Jones to investigate who the replacement is, hopefully an experienced arboriculturist.

3. Parks and Open Spaces

Revised price schedules had been received from our grounds maintenance contractor and these were relayed to Council. We were still awaiting figures from the second tenderer. It was agreed to accept the increase for one year only but we were not prepared to increase for subsequent years.

4. Burial Ground

Cllr Bennett advised that the gravedigger had concerns about a pending burial dig, rodding done and the situation was better than thought.

Cllrs to revisit drainage issue when Boultons return to look at Collinson Park. Meet with gravedigger to discuss.

5. Human Resources

The Committee will meet to review litter picking employment.

6. Allotments

Cllr Hughes reported the current waiting list is at 10, no change.

Cllr Sharkey advised more grit is available for pathways and a grab lorry could be available if it can access.

Chair suggested an audit of any supplies kept down there be carried out.

7. VEC

Cllr A Jones reported the Christmas tree has been taken down. She will purchase some storage boxes for lights etc. Road closure signs to be stored back in attic room for other events.

Redundant highways signs removed from Main Street and chased for collection by County.

8. Correspondence

All items noted. Cllrs to attend A38 roadworks drop in sessions.

Bellways ground maintenance plan. Cllr Lord advised they had met on site in December asking them to clear up site to see what needs to be done. ESBC were asked not to approve the plan. There was a wider planning issue around costs involved in bringing the site into an acceptable condition – current ground rent is not covering the cost once Bellways hand over the site. The watercourse needs ongoing work to protect neighbouring properties.

9. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Speedwatch

Cllr A Jones relayed a police report on 12 months data. 30 hrs Speedwatch, 500 cars given

letters, 2/3 given 2nd and 3rd letters. There had been a complaint from someone caught using a

phone.

2. Flood Risk Group

Barton Brook – Cllrs Lord and Sharkey had met virtually with Trent Rivers Trust to discuss natural flood management methods and engaging with local landowners. Offered to meet on site. Grange Wood, Netherseal was a good example to show landowners a successful model. A report was to be finalised by March and hope to have some positive feedback to give residents. Full Brook – already discussed.

Walton By-pass bridge, agency officer advised they are currently satisfied water levels won't be affected in the village.

10. Councillors Reports

1. The Chair revisited the request to publicise the Elections with a view to encouraging candidates to stand in May. A Chime article will be forwarded and an Elections page on our website would be created by the end of the month.

Cllr Sharkey would come up with a list of jobs and skills beneficial. Projects will be showcased. The Make A Change Campaign will be uploaded and Cllrs were encourage to utilise video themselves or write brief articles on what Being a Councillor has meant to them. An informal gathering at Holland Sports Club was also mentioned as this had been successful in the past. The Clerk would attend Elections training which may throw up more ideas.

2. Cllr Sharkey had discussed gullies with our Highways liaison Sam Griffiths, a meeting is to be scheduled with Highways.
Cllr Sharkey had also met Vic Trigwell regarding the Christmas Star and improvements on how to connect it more safely.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:

2 February, (advance apologies Cllr A Jones); 2 March, 6 April 2023,

The meeting closed at 9.30pm