

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
1 February 2024 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr J Taylor	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr I Gilbey	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr J Brookes

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

1. Chairman’s Welcome and Record of Apologies for Absence  
Cllr Sharkey welcomed all to the meeting.  
Apologies were noted from Cllrs, D. Lord, C. Walker, K McInerney; L Young, C Allcock; Needwood Ward Cllr J Jones
2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda  
none declared
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 January 2024  
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
4. Parishioners Forum  
No comments.
5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports
  1. Police  
December crime stats had been downloaded from Staffordshire Police website.  
Clerk to contact Staffordshire Police to invite the new Chief Inspector to a future meeting.
  2. County Council –  
The Chairman had attended a meeting with our County liaison officer and updated on priority gully sucking –1-2 days’ work would be allocated for the end of February, beginning of March and will concentrate on the flood risk areas, top end of Efflinch to Short Lane and flood areas further down towards Mill Lane; then Wales Lane near the Radhurst Rise junction. It was acknowledged that there are not enough gullies on Brookside, from the Park Road bend to past Westmead Road. These areas should be put on the annual schedule along with the B5016 rather than standard tri-annual. Councillors would like to enquire of the future of the Amey contract in servicing local roads.  
Cllrs discussed the bollards at Dunstall Road / Main Street junction, 3 of which had now been demolished by RTCs – replacements are being sourced. CCTV had been supplied of the latest incident. Clerk to contact Kanes to establish why they were coming through village.  
The need for better signage of the HGV restriction routes was discussed.  
Satnav information was discussed and whether HGV drivers were ignoring the information - to be checked with Cllr Jessel.  
Cllr Brookes mentioned the Branston interchange works and possible implications for Barton with traffic congestion.

3. Borough Council –  
Nothing to report.

6. Development of Strategic Plan

The Strategy meeting was scheduled for 23 February - 2pm-6pm : Kim Bedford to facilitate.  
Barton Live / Annual Open Meeting – week commencing 6 May in the evening – exact venue, date, and time to be confirmed. Communications Committee to formulate plan and create public survey.

7. Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Cllr Naylor summarised the meeting notes of 8 January.

Cllr Sharkey briefed all about the Flood Alert System and the history of flooding in Barton. Repair cost for low level flooding in the village had worked out at circa £1.5m.

Cllr Brookes queried the usefulness of the current temporary gauge. Critical readings are taken by the Environment Agency. Cllr Gilbey declared an interest in this item as a victim of flood but went on to relay his story of what he had experienced and how he and neighbours could have been better prepared using flood defences with sufficient warning. Data can be fed into an automated warning system.

Our Commitment period to the on costs is to be checked.

The temporary gauge will stay in place until a new one installed following the Flood Levy Board decision.

Proposal to contribute up to a maximum contribution of £600 per year for this flood prevention measure. **Resolved** All in favour.

The final version of minutes of the last Finance meeting with modifications would be made available.

**Resolved** – minutes and finance reports accepted.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the planning comments and objections circulated.

Footpath 17 diversion was discussed and an explanation given by the Chairman.

Walton By Pass – the redesign was needed in order to be adopted by SCC and SDCC.

Countryside application to increase the number of houses built is to be heard on 6/2. The condition will be that monies from Countryside are to be put in escrow with a programme of milestones for the bridge build. BPC have been represented on the bridge liaison committee and will not be attending the hearing – our 2-page response sets out our comments.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Meeting notes circulated. Quotes being analysed.

Maintenance contract to resume in April but an early grass cut may be required in March.

Nesting box to be discussed at their next meeting with a view to adapting it to deter the cormorants.

CCTV had been problematic with cameras off line in the park. There was also an issue to resolve around access for the previous Chairman and separation from the Village Hall cameras.

Proposal – Accept quotation of £500 + VAT to rectify all of CCTV issues on site as cannot be done remotely.

**Resolved** - All agreed.

Fishpond – Cllr Taylor requested a communication be sent to the schools to raise awareness around pond safety. Children have been throwing items when the pond is frozen over and

trying to retrieve them which is unsafe. We also need to encourage looking after the pond environment.

**Resolved** – all agreed to send communication to all three schools.

4. Burial Ground -

Improvement works to the ashes scattering area and the installation of a new memorial bench - discussions ongoing.

5. Human Resources –

The litter picking vacancy has been advertised.

Cllr Brookes queried whether any policies adopted which had not been reviewed would remain in force until replaced or officially withdrawn.

**Resolved** – All in favour of policies remaining in force until reviewed or officially withdrawn.

NALC/SLCC templates are being looked at for best practice and latest versions.

6. Allotments -

Draft Renewal Lease from the County Council. Cllr Brookes had raised a query as to whether payment of rent would be annually or quarterly in advance whether an invoice had been raised or not. Allotment committee to discuss and make formal recommendation.

7. VEC –

Meeting notes were referred to. Risk assessment to be looked at for road closure events.

8. Communications -

Meeting notes were referred to and it was now proposed that the Communications working group become a committee with Cllr Bedford co-opted and appointed Chair. The Committee would work closely with the VEC.

Social Media training had been identified at £40 per person and Comms members will attend.

**Resolved** all in favour

8. Correspondence

All Correspondence noted.

Cllr discussed licensing matters which had been raised with ESBC. All licence conditions should be adhered to and it was suggested exact conditions could be clarified, i.e drinking up times.

Policing was another issue and our PCSO could be alerted to hot spots in terms of illegal parking such as at the chemist on the zig zags and around the high school. Our County Cllr could be approached for more street enforcement.

Cllr Jones had revisited her request to the Chairman to look into adding cameras for Oak Road shops and play area to the Parish Council system. Cllr Sharkey may have offered to look at costs from Mitmark which ESBC could install on their land. GDPR issues were discussed as well as having the manpower to view footage. Cllrs had reservations around the legality of surveillance of non-Parish Council land. The shops could also press the landlord for cameras on their building. Cllrs were of the opinion it is not up to the Parish Council to administer CCTV for this area.

Cllrs concluded that the better solution would be for ESBC to approach the shops' landlord and shop tenants regarding CCTV on those buildings if ESBC are not prepared to install and monitor on their own land.

9. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

- 1. Speedwatch – surveys done on Wales Lane/The Green – the results had found that SIDS were unwarranted. Data to be circulated.
- 2. Flood Risk Group –  
Chairman and Cllr Naylor had walked the river level gauge site with the Environment Agency as well as where water comes off the sports field into the marina; the canal; A38 and the silted-up ponds through which Barton Brook flows.  
We are awaiting more detail for a flood report following recent storms.
- 3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing further to report.
- 4. Quarries Liaison – meeting due.

10. Councillors & Clerk Reports

- 1. Cllr Taylor reported dog fouling on the increase – she was advised to get in touch with ESBC enforcement to blitz known hotspots.
- 2. Cllr Brookes had been approached about parking outside the former Liquor & Allsorts. Restrictions were put in place when it was a shop. Defer to next meeting with agenda item.
- 3. Clerk reported that Water Plus were querying the presence of a sub-meter, to be picked up with Cllr Lord.  
Resident issue regarding hedge boundary with Bellways land at the end of Mill Lane - Clerk contacted the land management agents but they say it is the developer’s responsibility. Contact Tom Harrison, Bellways Engineer  
Midlands Co-op Solicitors had asked for a better copy of the plan to the Deed of Easement of July 2011, they hadn’t registered their interest at the land registry and lost the original deed. Clerk retrieved originals from our solicitors at the time and forwarded clear copies.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:

2024 : 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September

The meeting closed at 21.15