

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

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord (Vice Chairman)	Cllr J Taylor
Cllr S Bedford	Cllr L Young	Cllr C Walker
Cllr I Gilbey	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr J Brookes
Cllr C Allcock	Cllr K McInerney	

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 County Cllr J Jessel, Needwood Ward Cllrs V Gould, B Ashcroft, J Jones
2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda  
None declared
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7 February 2024  
With one minor amendment made to item 7.5, 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  
Cllr Bedford reported that Comms Committee agreed a PCSO surgery would be a good idea. It would be useful to gather some topic questions and a message on clarification of responsibilities before the event. Any approaches made to Councillors from residents could be discussed with our PCSO separately at a time to suit him.
  2. County Council –  
We still await the gully cleaning date.  
Chairman and Vice Chair met with Cllr Jessel to discuss flooding issues.  
Cllrs considered Cllr Brookes proposal regarding the parking restrictions outside the former Liquor n Allsorts. Whilst this location is being enforced by Clear Streets Cllrs had concerns re no enforcement on Dunstall Road.  
Cllr Taylor referred to the area being double yellow lines but the bays were given for the shop. Cllr Lord expressed concerns that we do not know other residents' views. The suggestion of a permit scheme means charges for those residents. If a review is asked for, residents would be consulted by Highways.  
Proposal wording changed.  
Cllr Lord proposed to defer the item as we are shortly going into public consultation and could asked for opinions then. Majority against, motion not carried.  
Cllrs Brookes original proposal was amended slightly – to ask County Highways to review the appropriateness and timings of parking restrictions on Main Street between Dunstall Road and

Barton Lodge in the light of the former Liquor n Allsorts change of use to residential.  
Cllrs **resolved** to accept Cllr Brookes amended proposal – majority in favour - motion carried.  
Contact to be made with County Highways.

3. Borough Council –

Nothing to report. Cllr Taylor had asked Ward Cllr Jacqui Jones to reposition the Borough’s waste bin back to its original location on Efflinch Lane – ESBC to be reminded.

Ward Enhancement Funding – Cllr Brookes asked if any application was being made by the Parish Council as the deadline is approaching. Cllr Naylor had reminded all committees. The Fishpond Sub-Committee are looking at options.

6. Development of Strategic Plan

The Strategy meeting had taken place and a report received, this to be digested and deferred to April. A Survey has been drafted by Comms. It was suggested adding a question about re-opening the Barton & Walton train station, it was noted this had been previously investigated some years ago.

Comms and VEC now need to communicate the public meeting on 8 May at Holland Sports Club and invite community groups to join in with ‘Barton Live’ event.

7. Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

**Resolved** – all finance reports accepted.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the planning comments and objections circulated.

Land at Dunstall Road, Small Meadows Lane – we have requested an extension due to significant changes to the application and no notice of these being given. More amendments are due and no decision will be made on its due date. Committee report to be finalised.

Drainage issues have also been raised.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Cllr McInerney advised there had been no committee meeting. The three National Forest signs are finally down and under-going renovation hopefully soon be back in situ. Woodwork to be cleaned up.

Quotes for benches are still awaiting more detail and a meeting is planned before the end of March with a contractor.

Coppicing will be done when weather allows.

It was agreed to  **earmark** the remaining P&OS budget to provide for the new benches and National Forest Signs if not spent in this financial year.

Uprights to benches will be in recycled plastic. Cllr Walker was reassured about the sustainability of the green oak being used and suggested this could be communicated positively if more detail given.

Fishpond – Cllr Taylor to reschedule recent cancelled meetings.

4. Burial Ground -

Burial Ground charges were amended due to increase in charges for additional inscriptions.

**Resolved** - minor amendment to charges accepted.

Site visits had taken place at the memorial garden - a bin has been moved off the footpath. Cllr

Young reported there was a problem with the lid staying open. This to be resolved.  
P&OS members were asked for assistance with a few landscaping, tree work and quoting issues.

Request for memorial bench near the Bell Lane entrance. The suggested location was problematic as very close to graves. The bench could be moved if necessary. It was **resolved** by a majority to delegate this decision to the Burial Ground Committee.

5. Human Resources –

General Risk Assessment Review - it was **resolved** to be adopted with ongoing review quarterly. Cllr Allcock remarked there were gaps in the risk levels. The model of assessing risk levels to be sent to all committees. Responsibilities also need completing.

Next review to be brought to the June full council meeting.

It was queried with a Health & Safety Officer is required. Cllrs stated this was not necessary risk assessments in place and provision made.

It may be necessary to pay someone to assist with work on policy reviews. HR to review.

It was **resolved** to accept the previously circulated Clerk's Appraisal dated 30 November 2023.

The interviewing process for our litter picker was complete and it was proposed to formally appoint Andrew Davis on a 3 month' probation period. **Resolved** – Appointment agreed.

6. Allotments -

Plot issues were in hand. A committee meeting is still needed. Access road issues to be discussed.

7. VEC –

Meeting notes were referred to. The new Middle Bell licensees were keen to be involved in village activities. The low wall to their car park on Bell Lane needs to be addressed as it is falling over.

Barton Live invitees to be contacted.

8. Communications -

Meeting notes were referred. The flyer advertising Barton Live and the Annual Open meeting is to be distributed.

Website - committee chairs to look at website content for any updates on topic areas.

Templates for Agendas and Minutes to be standardised. It was agreed to adopt consecutive numbering method for minutes from 1 April.

Contact details for Councillors were discussed – the Chairman asked for a detailed proposal to come to the next meeting.

**Resolved** meeting notes and circulated Terms of Reference accepted.

8. Correspondence

All Correspondence noted.

The licensing issue was referred to but with only one complaint received and no evidence that there is a problem being perceived by a group of residents, **it was resolved** not to progress this topic further with the Police & Crime Commissioner at this time.

9. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Cllr Taylor advised a new 2 storey building on the carpark including demolishing the current clubhouse had been discussed. This was deemed too costly so mobile pre-fab units were being looked at. Planning permission will be needed and notification will be

made to the Parish Council as owners of the current clubhouse. A Gym was also being looked at. Cllr Lord remarked that Potters café is on stilts due to flooding issues and the car park is even more susceptible to flooding. All suggestions noted.

2. Speedwatch – report circulated. The recent survey was carried out in the wrong place.
3. Flood Risk Group –  
Chairman and Vice Chair met with the Environment Agency. The bid is going ahead for the new Brook level gauge which looks likely to be approved. Rainfall data to be gathered from Byrkley Park and Sue van Daesdonk. Cllr Brookes to analyse for consistency. The gauge is to be positioned in Park Road and it was hoped the Efflinch gauge would be staying. Good correlation between the new Brook Level gauge and rainfall data allows the possibility of a Flood Alert service for the Barton Brook. Cllrs were pushing for the multi-agency Flood Liaison Group to be reinstated.  
St Modwens – Cllr Jessel given them a month to response to questions. Cllr Sharkey had visited Simon Clarke who has contact with St Modwen’s Chief Exec and may be able to press for action. The retaining ponds east of the A38 are not draining.  
Dogshead Lane flooding – simple solutions had been suggested, i.e. grips (opening in verge) could be redone. There is no funding from County to solve this but they indicated they were happy for others to dig them out so could be a local volunteer project. News release to follow.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing further to report. Some increase in house building has been allowed but with various planning conditions including for substantial monies to be put in a bond against bridge construction.
5. Quarries Liaison – meeting due April or May. Cllr Sharkey to pick up FP17 diversion with Aggregate Industry Estates Manager.

#### 10. Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Brookes reported issues along the footpath between Park Road and Westmead – overgrown trees are the landowner’s responsibility; any surfacing issues were down to ESBC.
2. Cllr McNerney is looking at proposals for EV charging points in the car park.
3. Clerk Report:  
Village Hall fencing adjacent exit lane of the car park– damage caused by a collision had been repaired through the driver’s insurance.  
Village Hall Car Park behind Methodist Church - Our lengthsman had noticed the fence at the top car park extension adjacent Dunstall Estate is falling over. Cllrs will view and budget for remedial/replacement works.  
Dunstall Road – a fingerpost had been damaged blocking access to the public right of way no 22 – this had now been removed but the sign (and therefore the dog waste bin) has not been replaced – Clerk to press Public Rights of Way team for a replacement post stressing that we need the bin back and can supply a post if necessary.

#### 11. Dates of Future Meetings:

2024 : 4 April, 2 May (Annual Meeting), 8 May (Annual Open Parish Meeting) 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September

The meeting closed at 21.11