

# Barton under Needwood Parish Council



## Annual Parish Meeting

7 April 2022

Siobhan Rumsby, Clerk to the Council

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## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

### **Susanne van Daesdonk – Barton Parish Council 2021-22**

The Annual Meeting in May 2021 was the last Parish Council Meeting to be held via Zoom before Coronavirus Bill ceased and the law reverted to the traditional face to face meetings. We resumed such meetings in August.

#### **Key Projects**

##### **David Sherratt**

David Sherratt was a Parish Councillor for 20 years and his various roles included those of Chairman and Vice Chairman. He was respected by his fellow Councillors, and he helped us to maintain overall good governance and financial probity with dry humour, in his role as chair of the Finance Committee. He was generous with his support and advice which was always measured and helpful. We missed him when he stepped down in 2019 and we were deeply saddened to learn of his death on 25th June. Working with David, the Parish Council had put a bench by the War Memorial to mark the 75th Anniversary of the local branch and were pleased to support a plaque being added in his memory.

##### **Parks and Open Spaces**

As you are probably aware, the Parish Council looks after the Fish Pond, Collinson Park, Ash Tree Pocket Park, and St James Garden on your behalf. These green spaces had been used during the Pandemic by more residents in the village than ever before during the various periods of Lockdown and the need to 'Stay Local' for exercise and general wellbeing. In light of this, we thought it would be good to get the views of the whole community on the Green Spaces we manage to aid our development of a 3-5 year strategy for these areas and budget accordingly. So, we launched a Green Spaces survey. The Parish Council were delighted to receive 559 responses and estimate this represents about 10% of the parish population and may represent a quarter of households. The responses were, on the whole, very positive. Several ideas and themes have emerged.

The Fish Pond looked particularly good last summer, and it was a tragedy when the Pond suffered pollution from engine oil that had been poured down a drain. The Parish Council were very grateful to the bailiff, whose prompt action in switching off the pump limited the damage, and to all the support received from Parishioners.

##### **Village Enhancement**

We held Barton Live during the Teddy Festival weekend. Many people came to see what clubs and societies the village has to offer. People who have moved to the village over the last couple of years were surprised by how many activities are on offer.

Working with the RBL, the November remembrance events took place as normal with an act of remembrance on 11th November and the usual parade and service on Remembrance Sunday, November 14th.

The Christmas tree lights were switched on by Father Christmas on November 28th.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Copse has been planted. It is located between Westmead Road and Park Road. Her Majesty is keen to have forests planted for future generations and our green spaces survey found that the community would also like more green spaces and room for wildlife. Thirty trees have been donated by the Woodland Trust and chosen as suitable for a small urban woodland giving all year round colour and supplying flowers, fruit and shelter for birds and insects. Wild flower seeds will be sown around the trees. There will be Rowan for winter berries, Silver Birch for their bark and dappled shade and Wild Cherry for their blossom in spring. All are native UK species which have been grown in Britain.

## **Benches**

The Parish Council, supported by a number of local volunteers, installed four new benches on Main Street between the lime trees as the existing benches needed replacing.

## **Traffic Matters**

The Parish Council supported the Church and residents of St James Court by working with Staffordshire County Council to get bollards fitted to improve access to the Church and visibility for residents exiting St James Court.

A 7.5tonne weight limit has been put on Forest Road (the C18) together with a reduced speed limit. Whilst the Parish Council continues to work with County Highways on the issue with HGVs using the village, we believe these measures have made a difference. We still email the owners of any HGVs who pass through the village to indicate they should not be doing that.

## **Lengthsman**

Following the resignation of the last Lengthsman, the Parish Council reviewed the position and given the size of the Parish decided to recruit two Lengthsmen. For information, the village Lengthsman is a traditional role which today is responsible for recording and reporting to County Highways faulty street lights, potholes, broken footpaths, overgrown hedges, grass verges etc. together with light maintenance duties such as keeping gullies clear, cutting back undergrowth on footpaths and cleaning highways signage as required.

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2021-2022

### – Siobhan Rumsby RFO / Graham Hughes Finance Chairman

The Receipts and Payments account statement for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been drafted and will be subject to internal and external audit.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2022 the Council received a total income of £128,311. This included a precept of £63,875. Additional income totalled £64,436: The burial ground generated £11,366 and the council received grants and donations of £18,365. Rent income totalled £6,105 which included the allotments, fishing permits and Holland Sports Club rent.

Expenditure in the year totalled £141,291. The year started with the bank revetment project, the cost of circa £19k was kindly funded by Barton & Dunstall Key Trust, Simon Clarke, Staffordshire County Council Climate Fund and Transforming the Trent Valley, with Barton Parish Council contributing £2K.

The Parish Council contributed £8,819 to the Staffordshire County Council's traffic calming scheme on Station Road. The Council also facilitated the installation of the bollards on Main Street by the entrance to St James' Church, this was fully funded by the County Council and residents of St James Court.

Capital expenditure of circa £7k has been on new noticeboard covers which needed replacing, 4 new curved benches on Main Street and a replacement laptop.

An unforeseen expense was the £4k cost of clearing the oil contamination at the fishpond. The Council has gratefully received residents' fund raising of some £800 to be spent on preventative measures against this happening again.

The Parish Council has ended the year with funds in hand of £119.5k.

Regular bank reconciliations are carried out and a monthly summary of the accounts is presented to the full Parish Council. The Finance Committee meet quarterly to check the accounts, review the budget and make appropriate recommendations to full Council.

Following an end of year internal audit, a finance meeting will be scheduled towards the end of May to review the final year end statements. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return will then be subject to an External Audit and will be available for public inspection on request for a period in July.

### **New Financial Year**

At its meeting in January 2022 full Council approved the new financial year's precept with an 18% rise to £76k. The Parish Council Tax Rate for the average band D property has therefore increased by £5.93 per annum to £38.81.

<b>Barton under Needwood Parish Council</b>		<b>Receipts and Payments Account</b>	
S. Rumsby, RFO - 31 March 2022			
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>
Local Authority Precept		£ 63,875.98	£ 64,893.28
Local Authority Other		£ 2,421.00	£ 1,865.00
Burial Ground		£ 11,366.00	£ 11,531.00
Rents - Allotments, Fishing & Holland Sports		£ 6,105.06	£ 3,263.50
Investment Income (Interest)		£ 13.54	£ 406.88
VAT Reimbursement		£ 8,246.65	£ 6,039.80
Other + Grants & Donations		£ 18,365.50	£ 18,494.46
Car Park		£ 8,682.00	£ 8,503.43
Village Hall Salary contra		£ 9,235.38	£ 7,428.40
Credits not on statement		£ -	£ -
		<b>£128,311.11</b>	<b>£122,425.75</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Salary / Wages		£ 50,684.51	£ 48,283.27
Administration		£ 9,176.60	£ 8,953.44
Burial Ground		£ 1,915.75	£ 2,326.88
Allotments		£ 1,879.77	£ 1,016.06
Fishpond		£ 3,441.00	£ 2,839.34
Donations & S.137 payments		£ 668.70	£ 433.10
Capital Expenditure		£ 7,174.51	£ 23,563.48
General Payments inc Maintenance & Repairs		£ 5,886.39	£ 2,010.82
P & OS Grasscutting/Grounds Maintenance		£ 12,657.22	£ 7,884.53
Special Projects		£ 27,914.40	£ 1,573.20
Lengthsman		£ 1,818.96	£ 835.96
Car Park		£ 1,383.95	£ 2,697.30
VAT Payable		£ 9,497.59	£ 8,246.13
Village Hall Salary contra		£ 7,008.76	£ 5,734.48
Vec		£ 183.63	
Unpresented cheques		£ -	£ -
		<b>£141,291.74</b>	<b>£116,397.99</b>
Net Income for the Year to date		-£ 12,980.63	£ 6,027.76
Add Cash Balances B/Fwd 1st April		£132,532.45	£126,504.69
		<b>£119,551.82</b>	<b>£132,532.45</b>
<b>Represented By Cash Balances</b>			
Current Account		£ 2,001.00	£ 2,001.00
High Interest A/C (Closed)			
Deposit Accounts		£ 43,546.83	£ 56,534.85
Petty Cash		£ 150.00	£ 150.00
National Savings Account		£ 73,853.99	£ 73,846.60
<b>Total Cash Balances</b>		<b>£119,551.82</b>	<b>£132,532.45</b>
	Reconciliation	£ 0.00	

## General Power of Competence

As an eligible Council, the General Power of Competence (Part 1, Localism Act 2011) has been applied to the following payments for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. Payments made:

Royal British Legion	83.00
Barton Fire Brigade – Christmas star	100.00
Holland Sports Club in lieu of rent	300.00
St Giles Hospice	30.00
Green Leaves	35.70
Barton Festival	<u>120.00</u>

**Total** **£668.70**

## COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES

Councillors may claim for reimbursement of goods and services purchased on behalf of the Parish Council and occasional travel expenses. Councillors are entitled to one ream of A4 paper per year.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining village assets including the Burial Ground, Collinson Park, Ash Tree Pocket Park, the Fishpond, the War Memorial, Allotments off Efflinch Lane, various planters around the village and are the Sole Trustee of the Village Hall.

The Parish Council are not responsible for the following:

Maintenance of roads and footpaths, jetting of gullies – *Staffordshire County Council Highways*  
The canal / brook / surface water flooding – *Environmental Agency/SCC and water authorities plus riparian owners (adjacent properties)*  
Fly-tipping, illegal advertisements, noise complaints, dog fouling – *East Staffordshire Borough Council*  
Speeding, anti-social behaviour - *the police 101 number or via their Facebook pages*  
Illegal parking– *Clear Streets, Staffordshire County Council*  
Parking causing an obstruction- *the police 101 number or via their Facebook pages*

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Susanne van Daesdonk, Chairman	Lynn Bennett, Vice Chairman
Alison Jones	Ed Sharkey
Jeannette Taylor	Graham Hughes
Ian Gilbey	Lindy Young
Derek Lord	Sean Severn
Jim Weaver	

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors have attended all monthly Parish Council meetings with the exception of the following where apologies were accepted:

June 2021	Cllr S Severn
July 2021	Meeting cancelled due to Covid 19
August 2021	Cllrs G Hughes, S Severn, E Sharkey, D Lord
September 2021	Cllrs D Lord, J Weaver
October 2021	Cllrs S Severn, D Lord
November 2021	Cllrs S Severn, J, Weaver
December 2021	Cllrs G Hughes, J Weaver
January 2022	Cllrs G Hughes, S. Severn, D Lord, L Bennett
February 2022	Cllr S Severn
March 2022	Cllr S Severn, J Weaver

Borough Councillors: Needwood Ward Councillors Bev Ashcroft and Jacqui Jones have each attended 1 meeting this year.

County Councillor: Cllr Julia Jessel has attended 2 meetings

Police representatives: 5 meetings attended.

Parish Council meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every month, commencing at 7.15 pm in the Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall, Crowberry Lane, Barton under Needwood. At the start of the meeting, there is a Parishioners Forum where 15 minutes is allocated for Parishioners to bring up any matters for discussion.

## Contact Details

The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Siobhan Rumsby and the office opening hours by appointment are 10am until 12pm Mondays; and 1pm until 3pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tel: 01283 716059

Barton under Needwood Parish Council  
Village Hall  
Crowberry Lane  
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Email: [clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk)

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## Holland Sports Club – Dick Titley Chairman

### Report for year ending April 2022

The Holland Sports club reopened in April 2021. We had managed to survive the lockdown through the furlough of our staff and by obtaining grants which enabled us to keep our heads above water.

Fortunately, the weather was extremely kind to us in early Spring and this meant that families were keen to enjoy our outside sports facilities, the bar and its patio areas and we steadily began to rebuild our finances. Our main income for the club is through our bar. Gradually the sports returned to our well-manicured grounds which had been untouched for a whole season. Covid guidelines were initially introduced but gradually the sports returned back to almost normal by September. The lockdown did result in the deterioration of some of our facilities and we would like to pass on our thanks to the Clarke Family Charitable Foundation who helped us re-roof the cricket pavilion which had suffered damage over that period of time.

The lock down also enabled us to plan for the installation of our new function room, thanks to the generosity of the Dunstall Key Trust and fund raising from our members. The function room was a much-needed facility, required to cater for the hundreds of children and parents who pass through the club at weekends and up to now crowded into the bar area after events. The new modular building from 'LCS Containers' included a commercial kitchen which has allowed us to cater for our guests as well as provide a larger venue for meetings, dinners, parties, weddings and other events.

The new facility has been a steady project gradually built up over the winter months, and eventually we opened the "Potters Yard Café" which now provides breakfasts and drinks, including fresh coffee during weekends when our sports parents are supporting their children. The café is also open to the public and we are keen to attract our community into our facilities. We are very grateful to the generosity of Rob and Sally Mercer and Harlaston Packington who have helped us kit out our catering supplies.

Towards the end of the summer season, we were sad to see Tracy Cole our club manager leave us and take a much deserved rest from the many hours of dedication to the club. We were extremely fortunate to find a replacement who has now settled into his new role and is bringing new business and ideas into the club. Craig Kenny is a local lad who has worked as assistant manager at the Waterfront as well as other larger catering venues including hospitality in Queensland Australia. He is now settled in the village with his young family and making huge changes to the club.

Craig has appointed local staff to assist him and has been joined by Karen Blount who has been appointed as his catering manager. Karen is an experienced events manager who has been in catering for many years and is relishing the opportunity of drawing customers into the club and café. Her innovative menus for the club include provisions shared amongst local butchers as well as eggs from Packington Free Range. Our new range of drinks include those supplied by the Roebuck Brewery in Draycott in the Clay, the Blythe brewery in Hamstall Ridware and gins from the local Staffordshire Distillery. Our crisps are also supplied by 'Just Crisps' from the same village. Craig and Karen are keen to hear from other local producers who may wish to supply our club.

Sport remains our main core business and we are very fortunate to have a wide range of clubs using our facilities. This year we have been joined by Dunstall Cricket Club who have amalgamated with Barton Cricket Club and are making the most of being able to spill over onto our expansive fields. The rugby and football clubs continue to steadily outgrow us. The Football have attracted a thriving young girls section to add to their numbers and for the first time in their history, the rugby club now have a ladies section. All of these have added a very welcome burden to the club and both are now looking for local land to install pitches to ensure that they can provide sport for all.

This summer will see the installation of new floodlights around the rugby pitch and training areas, following a huge fund raising campaign by the rugby clubs members. The tennis club have benefited from the desire to play outside sports during Covid restrictions and are making the most of our floodlit courts. Our oldest member club is of course the Tug of war section who continue to attract new members and are forever present throughout the year training around the fields and competing nationwide.



Holland Sports Club will always rely on the generosity of others to enable us to survive, and we are currently responding to a demand to provide better facilities for our disabled visitors. We are currently looking to raise around £70k to provide access into our function room, new disabled toilets and also paths to enable disabled access to the sports fields and courts for our many visitors who are unable to access the pitches during poor weather conditions. This will also allow our tennis club to host wheelchair tennis which is currently restricted due to the access. We are obviously keen to hear from anyone who would like to help fund this project.

The continued support of Jeanette and Alison from the Parish Council is always appreciated, bringing their wise thoughts and experience to our meetings. We continue to be very grateful and proud to be working throughout the year with the Parish Council.

Dick Titley

Chairman of Holland Sports Club

[dick@titleys.com](mailto:dick@titleys.com)

Mobile: 07958022499

Craig and Karen can be contacted on our new email address [hollandsportsclubbarton@gmail.com](mailto:hollandsportsclubbarton@gmail.com).



## **Barton Village Hall – For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Chairman, Pam Jepson & Treasurer, Joe Moody**

### **Chair's Annual Report**

The year 2021 started off with the Government introducing Tier 4 lockdown COVID rules in England and only The Little Stars (the Nursery Group) were allowed to function in the Hall.

The Hall continued to be cleaned everyday to keep it as COVID safe as possible along with the One Way System and the Wearing of Masks.

The Heating and Water etc.were tested everyday .

All the servicing contracts and maintenance were also carried out.

Fortunately, our Treasurer claimed for various grants which were available to local organisations and was successful in obtaining them. These have helped with the extra expenses incurred and loss of hire fees due to closure of the Hall for long periods because of COVID.

In April there was a change in Government rules which meant that all children's activities could return but with no mixing of households.

May /June / July. Indoor events with rule of 6 did return but with a restricted number of people attending.

August. We had the new entry system to the hall updated to cover all rooms independently. This provides better security for the Hall and for the hirers and is working well.

In September we purchased a Lincat water boiler which is energy saving and far more efficient than the kettles and the urn previously used.

We also purchased an outside waterproof display cabinet for all hirers to advertise their various classes etc.

In October we carried out a Drone Survey of the Hall Roof area and it was found to be in good repair.

In December we had an electric smart meter fitted by our supplier.

We carried out our committee meetings throughout the year on Zoom so that we were able to keep everyone informed about the latest Government COVID Guide Lines which were discussed and implemented to keep everyone safe.

I would like to thank our Building Manager Chris Panter for looking after the Hall during this difficult year also Alan Greenaway who worked the weekends as Chris wanted less hours. Unfortunately Chris is going to leave us at the end of March 2022 so we have appointed Steve Murray as his replacement from January 2022.

My thanks go to Joe Moody our Treasurer who looks after our finances and keeps us well informed.

Also my thanks go to Siobhan Rumsby who is the booking clerk and looks after the hirers and all enquires. Thanks also go to the Committee for their time and input to keep the Hall functioning during the year.

A big thank you goes to the Hirers who have supported us and it's so good to see them all back with their people and enjoying what they love doing

Let's hope that 2022 will prove to be a really good year.

### **Treasurer's Annual Report**

This has been another difficult year for the Village Hall due to the COVID pandemic as explained in the Chair's report. The increased hire fees of £27,713, compared to the prior year of £18,395 were only due to less COVID restrictions in the year compared to 2020. The Hall has still a long way to go to get back to pre-pandemic hire fee income.

Whilst the fee income is distorted due to the pandemic it should be noted that CDA represented 34% of the fees and Little Stars represented 29%. The Hall is very much dependent on these two hirers.

Government Grants relating to COVID amounting to £27,000 (2020 £25,000) were received in the year.

Property maintenance and repairs incurred during the year to keep the Hall up to standard and comply with regulations amounted to £5,893 (2020 £4,267). The major cost incurred being £1,305 in respect of the lift.

Capital and equipment spend mentioned in the Chair's report refers to two items which were acquired in the year but not paid for until after the year end. These were the Lincat water boiler and display cabinet.

Salaries and wages amounted to £13,714 (2020 £16,886), however 2020 included redundancy costs of £3,516.

The surplus for the year amounted to £16,662 (2020 deficit £4,531), which resulted in the bank balance at 31.12.21 being £72,500 (2020 £55,838)

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD BRANCH

Barton under Needwood branch currently has 29 members affiliated to the branch.

Please note that to be a member of the RBL it isn't a requirement to be a serving member or veteran of HM Forces. The RBL is a charity that provides lifelong support to serving and ex serving personnel and their families. Membership builds relationships and we are a group of likeminded people who wish to provide support to the Armed services community.

This last year has been a turbulent year, as for everyone, Covid and social distancing has hampered meetings and events and we as a branch had very the sad news that our chair, David Sherratt terminally ill. At the AGM in 2020 a branch re- shuffle was decided, and Sean Severn became the chair whilst David stepped up to be the president. Long standing member Gordon Payne remained as vice chair. However, sadly David passed away peacefully with his family by his side in June 2021. David was a stalwart supporter of the RBL and a very highly regarded prominent figure within the village and is deeply missed. To commemorate his achievements the 100-100 bench was dedicated to his memory overlooking the memorial at which he would always be found leading the remembrance services held in the village. RIP David.

A further reorganisation of the branch was required, and Gordon Payne was elected and stepped up to be president whilst EX Guardsman Gerry Taylor was elected as Vice Chair. Rev Andy Simpson joined as our branch chaplain and the branch went about preparations for the RBL 100<sup>th</sup> year and our branch 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our President, Gordon Payne went on Camera and relived some of his experiences in the Korean War as part of 41 Commando, he was one of the chosen few. Gordon is one of the very few who returned home and continues to keep the remembrance of the Korean war at the forefront of the RBL. It was fitting and just that he was asked to carry out the opening address to the Staff's RBL County conference which took place in Barton Village Hall as its location and also opened the Annual Standard bearer's competition that was again held in Barton Village Hall. This highlights the importance and availability of the facilities in Barton under Needwood for use by the RBL County Committee.

As the Poppy appeal was launched, the Branch was frustrated with the Covid restrictions and a lack of stock, but new ways were employed on how to collect on behalf of the RBL. The branch came up with some novel ideas which saw an electronic contactless card machine employed as door-to-door collections were stopped. The outstanding efforts by the volunteers, businesses, schools, and local people saw our total collection reach £6000. Thank you to all who gave their time and money.

As is customary, the RBL led the parade from JTHS around the village to the church. Despite Covid safe distancing we managed to be joined by contingent of the Royal Signals from Beacon Barracks Stafford and many of the village youth and adult organisations were represented as Rev Andy Simpson conducted his first remembrance service. There was a fantastic turn out and following on from that event some local engagement from our Std Bearer and Gordon, as they went into a local school to discuss the act of remembrance and the std. The Branch would like to thank all at Barton Parish Council and the volunteers who work hard to ensure the Parade takes place each year and for their continued efforts in maintaining the memorial square and the benches.

Despite Covid 19 our standard bearer Malcolm, as always, has been extremely busy attending services and events on behalf of the branch. Malcom's dedication to his duties is highly commendable and has been praised at County HQ.

Christmas approached and finally the branch managed to meet up in person and have a Christmas meal together, it was decided to try and have more social events. Meetings were moved away from the Bowls club to HSC, and we approached the HSC Café to have a breakfast club event. It is planned for the 9 April where Barton Branch members and other local RBL branches will come together in friendship and share a common bond. This is an idea we wish to develop and look to expand. Thank you to The Shoulder of Mutton and HSC for your continued support.

Barton has a long-standing history associated with the military which started with it having had its own Yeoman Ward centuries ago. We have lost many throughout battles and still to this day have several residents who are currently serving in HM Forces both at home and abroad.

If you feel you want to join the RBL and Barton branch, membership can be done online or by calling 0800 307 7773. Membership starts from £18 per year and Barton Branch does not charge any membership fee. Remember you don't have to be part of the Armed Forces community to join, everyone is welcome.

If anyone knows or can play the cornet or bugle please do get in touch, we are desperately seeking one for our remembrance service.

[bartonrbl@gmail.com](mailto:bartonrbl@gmail.com)