

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held 2 February 2023 – 7.15 pm
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Present: -

Cllrs S van Daesdonk (Chairman)

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr S Harley

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; 1 member of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome and record of Apologies for Absence received

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs A Jones, J Jones, B Ashcroft

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None declared

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 January 2023.

Subject to a minor clarification point on the type of canisters found at Barton Turn which were Nitrous Oxide (2023 01 05 - 5.1) now amended, it was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Parishioners Forum

A resident went to the Highways Open Day regarding A38 Works. He was assured nothing is to be done in the Barton area and all works taking place at Alrewas. Residents will be escorted through roadworks to their properties. Severn Trent non return valve – the resident is still waiting on inspection and this is being chased. Cllr Sharkey to write to his contact to escalate, discuss outside of meeting.

The resident raised concerns over NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups reported to be disappearing by the end of the year and replaced by a new technology led body incorporating other authorities.

5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police

New Web Live Chat contact method discussed – Cllrs felt it was confusing for the public over repeated changes in methods of reporting. Information has been relayed on social media and Clerk to put in noticeboards. Chairman to report in Chime.

2. County Council –:

Cllr Jessel's information on road closures and gullies activity relayed.

3. Borough Council – Cllr J Jones had forwarded updates on queries from the last meeting re

Bellways site and Tree Officer. Coronation details and funding opportunity also forwarded from both Ward Cllrs. St James allotments – surveyors seen on site. No application received.

6. Casual Vacancy

The Borough Council notice of vacancy had been displayed following the resignation of Jim Weaver. Majority of Cllrs voted to not co-opt and to leave until the next election.

7. Committee Reports as annexed.

1. Finance

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

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey – Forest Thorn Farm is a second application for conversion of modern barn, under permitted development rights. Our objections were quite detailed using arguments from ESBC Local Plan which unfortunately do not apply to these rights.

We are considering writing to the Rural Services Network about permitted development rights and their disproportionate adverse impact in rural areas in the hope of obtaining support to modify their use. Only an Article 4 direction could at present restrict their impact.

Cllrs felt it was important for Barton Rural Centre to avoid converting commercial premises into residential use. Cllr Gilbey stressed that the Rural Services Network bulletins warranted circulation to full Council so nothing would be missed. Clerk to action.

Co-Op signage – Cllr Gilbey emailed the planning manager and cc'd Cllr J Jones for pressure to be applied in this case.

Bell Lane cul de sac street sign. Committee to review what signs have changed.

Cllr Lord reiterated that it was not just about the appropriateness of signage but also highlights serious concern about process being followed, and ESBC's diligence on picking up conservation issues. Wording is now 'retrospective planning application' – which ultimately means something has happened without planning consent and it is harder to get objections from planning officers when it has already happened. It was decided to await reply from Naomi Perry then consider a formal complaint. The initial application could not be validated. The matter will be discussed further at the next planning committee meeting.

The tree officer had agreed with our comment on St James Court and reduced the meterage of reduction. 1 St James Court – conservation officer passed.

3. Parks and Open Spaces

Funding application in to B&D Key for the refurbishment of the Toddler Play area is to be decided next week.

Cllr Sharkey is chasing up bollard suppliers.

The Burial Ground drainage has been discussed on site. Boultons will return to test existing drainage system.

Repairs to be made to National Forest signs.

Fishpond – contractors starting in March on funded pegs to be completed by 31/3.

Plastic wood price was deemed too expensive and more difficult to erect.

£5k was ring fenced for match funding but we had been unable to apply to the Key Trust – discretion will be applied if no other funding opportunities arise and can be ring fenced for work on the pegs.

A bucket of illegal fish had been deposited in the fishpond by a resident. Fish health may have been compromised as the breed and condition of fish unknown. Clerk to publicise risk and illegal nature, statutory controls on movement of fish to control diseases. Request if anyone knows anything to come forward so water can be tested in confidence.

4. Burial Ground

Cllr Bennett advised she had met Cllr Sharkey on site with our gravedigger prior to a recent burial. The ground was been reasonably dry after 15 mins pumping and was shored up. Discussed drainage issue in general and this is to be revisited when Boultons return. Connections for a land drain would be difficult to route and obtain fall to drainage in Collinson. Cost may be prohibitive bearing in mind longevity of burial ground interments. Clay soil holds water. Woodland behind Barton Park Farm discussed.

5. Human Resources

The vacancy for a litter picker had been advertised. Two people had expressed an interest. Clerk to appoint on a 3 month trial, 5 hrs per week, national living wage. Garden equipment – throttle cable ordered for spare mower. Servicing to be carried out in next 3-4 weeks.

6. Allotments

Cllr Hughes reported the current waiting list is at 10. One vacating end March, vacant plot to be taken unseen taking us to 9. Complaint received from resident regarding allotment holder cutting branches from screening trees in Hardy Close. Clerk replied.

7. VEC

Coronation of Charles III. Details had been circulated along with information about National Lottery funding (£300 – 10k) available for organised events, applications to be completed 12 weeks in advance of required funding. Chairman asked if BPC want to get involved with any organised activities such as the suggested Sunday Big Lunch / Monday Volunteer Day. Ideas discussed were: BYO Picnic in Park, the Square or Village Hall. Village Litter Pick, tidy up weeds in gutters etc. Tree planting October November with a longer lasting Oak. Lime trees outside St James had been inspected by Highways and deemed to be in sufficient health. The 2012 street party was organised by Mick Perkins with Parish Council representatives. Canvass public opinion and determine if money available- villagers needed to step up to organise, PC to support. A Picnic on the Square was favoured. Red Lion, Shoulder, Middle Bell, Vin X and Shoes to be approached to work with us and provide take away food. Keep village hall clear in case of rain. Red Lion to provide music – estimated cost £600. Climbing wall in Collinson suggested which comes with instructors. Candy floss machine. Steam engines. Bouncy castle A Road closure would needed. Cllr Sharkey to speak to Royal Oak. Also need to talk to Holland Sports Clubs and the Bowls Club.

Majority in favour.

Oak or Chestnut needs a big space, maybe one in the middle of the Queen's Copse.

Approximate cost: £400 - location and species to be decided at later date. All agreed.

8. Correspondence

All items noted.

9. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Speedwatch

Chairman advised 2 watches done. 1/ 267 cars. 5 out of 170 caught on second slot.

2022 - stats for Staffordshire: 11,310 first warning letters sent, 862 second letters, 126 police

visits. 402 volunteers; 91 drivers on mobile phone.

2. **Flood Risk Group**

Barton Brook – Trent Rivers Trust are talking to landowners and report awaited to EA. Initial reports indicated they are making progress on talks. Full Brook, inspected. Clearing done by Bellways team had revealed the brook needs de-silting. There are future maintenance concerns as bramble vegetation grows back, current ground rents won't cover cost when Bellways hand over to management company. Meeting to discuss next steps. Replace culverts with timber bridges. County Flood risk officer to be involved on this discussion. Current clearing may last 2 years if de-silted. Need agreement signed on future maintenance scheme.

10. Councillors Reports

1. Cllr Sharkey still has access to plenty of grit if needed at allotments. Dick Titley can provide grab lorry.
2. Chairman directed councillors to Election page of our website. Cllrs encouraged to add their input. If we want to run an event need to progress quickly before purdah. Cllr Sharkey to approach Holland Sports Club to arrange.
3. Cllr Taylor reported on a coach driving down Potters Way. The Rugby club do communicate to visiting teams not to drive down. The Rugby Club proposed erecting signs at entrance. Visiting cars also speeding. Cllr Taylor suggested fisherman be allowed to park on pegs to slow traffic down. Coach eventually parked on Efflinch Lane. Cllr Taylor suggested make a turning area on HSC land at the bottom of Gilmour Lane. We have leased it to LEA to access school and would therefore need an easement to gain access.
Banners and signage discussed – this increases street clutter.
A meeting should be arranged with HSC to discuss managing traffic. The weight limit needs checking, Cllr Gilbey recalled the speed bumps were kept low for a reason.
Cllrs discussed road markings, could we paint coaches to images. Moving the barrier to the entrance of Potters Way was also considered.
All to be discussed in a meeting. Cllr Taylor to arrange and Chairman to attend in Cllr A Jones' absence.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:

2 March, 6 April 2023,

The meeting closed at 9.15pm