

# MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 6 April 2023 – 7.15 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Present: -

Cllrs S van Daesdonk (Chairman)  
Cllr L Bennett (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr G Hughes

Cllr J Taylor  
Cllr I Gilbey  
Cllr D Lord

Cllr S Harley  
Cllr L Young  
Cllr A Jones

In attendance: -

Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 3 members of the public. Needwood Ward Cllrs B Ashcroft & J Jones

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

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Jessel and Cllr Sharkey

## 2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None declared

## 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 March 2023.

Subject to a minor amendment at item 7, to clarify the Coronation Committee being a sub committee of the VEC reported. It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

## 4. Parishioners Forum

A Walton resident highlighted concerns regarding Station Road on the Barton side of the Bailey Bridge. Poor signage of the weight limit was a factor. The Chairman has been attending new bridge meetings – funding has been withdrawn with both Derbyshire and Staffordshire County Councils concerned about flood risks. SCC were looking at narrowing the access outside Hansons Quarry but we were then told as the new bridge was imminent, the funds would not be justified and they maintain this is still the case. Whilst some repairs have been made, the resident felt the speed limit was too high and pedestrians feel unsafe; part of the barriers were also missing. Cllr Jessel has an update to bring to our next meeting. Temporary concrete blocks as used in the Chetwynd bridge would suffice. Traffic calming is also needed along Station Road further down but as the road is so narrow this would be difficult to implement.

A Resident suggested a holistic approach might be beneficial especially if other authorities such as the police were having to spend money on the problem. It was clarified that County funds only would be able to spent on remedial action.

## 5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

### 1. Police

Monthly report distributed.

### 2. County Council –:

Cllr Jessel has arranged for some minor repairs to potholes on Crowberry Lane.

She is in receipt of traffic data for Wales Lane/Main Street, Barton and will share it with Barton Parish Council in detail once reviewed. The survey was done in response to complaints by Cllr A Jones and local residents about HGVs and speeding traffic.

Matters are progressing with regards to the Walton Bridge and Cllr Jessel will update on these for the next meeting.  
Cllrs felt that Cllr Jessel should be encouraged to attend full Council meetings especially to meet new councillors in May.

3. **Borough Council** – there were no comments from our attending Needwood Ward Cllrs due to the pre-election sensitive period.

## 6. **Committee Reports as annexed.**

### 1. **Finance**

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

### 2. **Planning**

Cllr Gilbey advised we had requested more frequent reviews for Newbold Quarry. We had been invited to attend to speak to relay this but unfortunately as Cllrs could not attend this comment on the application will be discounted.

Barton Marina motel – objected.

The Housing update deals with allocation and proportion of housing style on large estates. Our detailed assessment has been noted and seems to have been taken on board. Some areas are a little vague.

Forest Thorn Barn – third application received with tweaks, to be reviewed at the next meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr Lord commented that the planning committee put lots of effort into comments which are founded in National and local planning policy. He is disgruntled that planning officers don't appear to justify their responses. In particular Cllrs would like to see why planning officers do not appear to take on board that the conservation area is about enhancing the village. Our borough councillors were asked to support these challenges. Cllr Gilbey to send copies of our comments and objections to our Borough Cllrs as routine.

Cllr J Jones has made enquiries of their legal department about the allotments land on St James Road which is owned by Trent & Dove. The recent application for housing had been withdrawn having received more objections than most. The Chairman suggested approaching Trent & Dove to see if allotment land could be gifted to the Parish Council to continue running allotments. Whilst this was not an Agenda item, Council could see no harm in expressing an interest.

Also discussed was Trent & Dove's land at Forest Road which Council had previously enquired for burial ground use – an affordable housing application had been refused. Cllr J Jones thought they may be waiting for a review of the local plan before re-submitting an application.

Bellways Maintenance Plan – Cllrs Sharkey and Lord plus the Chair had been involved and are happy with it. It had been changed to 5 year reviews and pictures were taken. It was confirmed the Parish Council will support the plan in its agreed form, provided the culvert is replaced. Maintenance will take place twice per year and mitigating flood risk has been added. All councillors to be copied in with the plan.

### 3. **Parks and Open Spaces**

Collinson Park - Cllr Taylor advised the grounds maintenance contractors had started this week in bad weather; following grass cutting at the fishpond, they had blown the cuttings into the water. Cllr Taylor also complained that they were not clearing mud off the footpath. Any concerns should be reported to Cllr Sharkey to take up with the contractors.

Quotes had been received regarding the Space Walker broken bearings, one from the original supplier to replace it for £2,500; a second quote for repair (recommended) of up to £1,075. All agreed to accept the quotation for repair.

Gilmour Lane soak away area – Cllr Sharkey would like to ask our grounds maintenance contractors to quote to clear away accumulated detritus in this area. As it only appeared to involve shovelling mud, the Chairman proposed we get our own groundsman and one of the lengthsman to tackle it. All agreed.

Potters Way – a report had been circulated advising the bank is in danger of collapsing due to vehicles driving on to it. Quotes had been received for 26 posts to prohibit this. £2414 in wood, £3664 in plastic. Cllr Taylor advised that the Bailiffs, Holland Sports Club and the fishpond committee would prefer wood and she had been assured that the quality of wood quoted should last 10 years plus. A vote was taken and the majority were in favour to accept the quote for wooden bollards.

Platform work: the training platform supports have deteriorated underneath and therefore needed replacing. Quote received for £7,945. FISH were expecting it to be safe. It was previously checked but time has passed and the platform has deteriorated quickly. Platforms replacements are guaranteed for 25 years. Due to the cost involved, 2 more quotes were required and guarantees provided in writing.

The Island in the centre of the pond was also moving and quotes will be obtained for that.

Cllr Lord remarked that the Council was regularly spending quite a lot on the Fishpond which appeared to be ad hoc. He felt the new Council would need to consider carefully an over-arching longer term plan to manage finances in a better way.

Potters Way – the issue of speeding traffic was discussed, the Chairman had suggested speed bumps. Quotes will be obtained for a future decision for the next Council. It is a private access route and height restrictions on speed bumps needed investigating. The bollards may slow people down.

Noticeboard - The Clerk had received a quote to replace the three broken panels on the Potters Way Noticeboard at £325 plus VAT. Our insurance excess would be £125 leaving a claim to the value of £200. This would affect our renewal figure but our insurers were unable to say at this point by how much. It was decided a claim was not cost effective therefore; quote to be accepted and monies to come from BPC general repairs and maintenance.

#### 4. Burial Ground

Cllr Bennett reported that the donated trough is in place and has been planted. The sign in front of the memorial about ashes needs replacing as it has deteriorated.

#### 5. Human Resources

Nothing to report.

#### 6. Allotments

Cllrs Hughes reported there were currently 12 people on the waiting list. However, two plots would shortly be available. He offered to stay on as lettings secretary as a non-councillor if

required. Appointments due to take place at the May meeting.

#### 7. VEC – Coronation Sub Committee

Coronation of Charles III. Cllr A Jones advised more Marshals were required for the Sunday event. The Chairman ran through the list of events taking place between 2pm and 9pm. All residents affected had been notified about the road closure.

Costs will total £2,639.97; It was proposed to claim £1,540 from the B&D Key Trust, with the balance being met by the Parish Council using last year's VEC budget and GPC funds. It would be necessary to vire £590 back out of reserves to cover the bouncy castles. All agreed. Logos will appear on any advertising of the event.

Local venues were planning to open, serving food and drink. Residents are encouraged to support businesses or bring their own picnic for the evening.

Medical cover – firemen can provide if they are able to attend. The Red Cross no longer offer the service and a local company used by the NMA were not available.

Holland Sports Club had shared a request for any first aiders with all clubs. If any available a donation would be offered. It was also suggested to check with Barton Family Practice.

#### 7. Correspondence

Incident of 2 April and request for removal of rocks – the area was created as an adventurous play area. The funding received was awarded by a panel which encouraged this play element – ie no soft surfaces, with the intention of giving children an opportunity to understand risk awareness and evaluate situations as they will need to do in life. The Green spaces survey received 557 responses on Collinson Park and no one mentioned any issues with the rocks. There had been 2 incidents in the park in total since the equipment was introduced, neither involved the rocks. A Playdale inspection is carried out annually and the rocks have not been identified as unsafe. Two of the rocks are part of the trail. The Council agreed therefore that no further action is necessary.

Road Closure for the Coronation event – One.Network has posted incorrect information and this has been highlighted.

#### 8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

##### 1. Speedwatch

One watch had taken place recording 8 speeding. HGVs – Cllr A Jones had written to Skippers and their negative response had been passed to Cllr Jessel.

Two residents had complained about speeding in the village and HGVs using Wales Lane, also reference to parking in Wales Lane making it difficult to exit drives. SIDS were again discussed, Cllr A Jones relayed the costs involved being £2k for the kit but support costs are high covering at least 4 – 6 sites. Battery operated SIDs are easier to move. The lifetime of each (rechargeable) battery is approximately one week. The Speedwatch group may be able to apply for funds, possibly from the police. Tatenhill are trying to replace batteries with solar powered ones. Battery operated would work better due to the need to move around, research shows the SIDS are effective in reducing speed for around a week, then need to be moved.

##### 2. Flood Risk Group

Barton Brook – The Environment Agency had provided an update that Trent River Trust are continuing to engage with local landowners and are conducting walkovers within the catchment. TRT have also been working with the Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) to identify opportunities under Countryside Stewardship and the work carried out to date has highlighted the importance of promoting good soil health and land management in benefitting both agriculture, flood risk and the water environment.

£19,000 funding has been secured and this will enable continuation of engagement on the initial phase, design and implement natural flood management measures as a pilot scheme. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Sharkey and Lord for their efforts.

## 9. Councillors Reports

1. Cllr Harley updated that he had met James regarding the sluice gate, option D. This would be carbon steel powder coated, stainless steel and would be bolted to a metal support frame. He has done similar work for Severn Trent. A detailed plan will be drawn up and quote obtained.
2. Outgoing councillors bade farewells and thanked everyone for their support, wishing good luck to the future council.
3. Cllr Young advised that there would be a teddy ride in site outside St James' church on the Coronation Help Out Monday. All volunteer groups are invited to church. A big rub down of the railings is being organised by Rev Andy.
4. Cllr Taylor advised Eon have visited to check lights between Gilmour Lane and Potters Way.
5. Cllr Gilbey expressed on behalf of the Council to our four retiring councillors for all they have achieved for the village.
6. The Chairman advised there was a Walton Bridge meeting on 24 April – Cllr Lord would check his availability to attend. The Chairman thanked everyone for their support, Cllr Hughes for his 5 years as Chair and 4 years as Finance Chairman, Cllr A Jones for all her work on the Village Enhancement Committee, Cllr Bennett for her Vice Chairmanship support and the Clerk for all her help and in keeping the Council legal and sane.

## 10. Dates of Future Meetings:

Next meeting 11 May.

The meeting closed at 21.02pm