

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL held 11 May 2023 – 7.15 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey	Cllr J Taylor	Cllr S Harley
Cllr I Gilbey	Cllr L Young	Cllr C Walker
Cllr D Lord	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr J Brookes

Cllr S van Daesdonk (retiring Chairman)

In attendance: -

Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 2 members of the public. County Cllr J Jessel
Meeting recorded to assist in the minutes (announced)

- ### Retiring Chairman's Welcome and appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr E Sharkey was nominated for Chairman by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr Taylor – **Resolved** all agreed and Declaration of Acceptance signed by Cllr Sharkey. Cllr Sharkey took the Chair.
Cllr Lord was nominated for Vice Chairman by Cllr Gilbey and seconded by Cllr Harley – **Resolved** all agreed and position accepted by Cllr Lord.
- ### Record of Apologies for Absence received

Apologies were accepted from Ward Cllrs B Ashcroft, J Jones, V Gould
- ### Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None declared
- ### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 April 2023.

Subject to an amendment at 6.3 Cllr Lord comment, noted, it was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- ### Redeclaration of the General Power of Competence.

With the Council's eligibility reconfirmed following the uncontested election, General Power of Competence remains in place. All Councillors had been forwarded the Local Government Association's Guidance on uses.
The Chairman welcomed our new Cllrs and commended the leadership of the outgoing Chairman, Sue van Daesdonk.
The Chairman outlined his views of the direction of the Council carrying on in same effective style as previously. A Local Plan Review is due. Barton is tier 1 status but this may be questioned with the loss of amenities. Additionally, there remains a lot of interest in land from property developers and an up-to-date housing needs survey would assist us should any development proposals be brought forward. There was also the future of Newbold Quarry to consider and trying to get its status as a country park allocated in the Local Plan will require a lot of work with support from County and Borough Cllrs. Flood prevention work is still ongoing though the Barton Flood Risk Group. The Burial Ground is running out of space. Highways issues continue to be problematic.

6. Parishioners Forum

A resident introduced himself and had already offered his volunteer services with Community Speedwatch and Green Leaves.

7. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police

There were no comments on the Monthly report distributed. Cllr Lord stressed a need to publicise reporting each and every issue to drive up stats on the system and allocate resources that we pay for to the area. The live chat method needs better communicating to the public and where they go to find information. Communications team to liaise and find better way of publicising information. Anti-social type behaviour was mentioned and also that large groups of youths congregating with nowhere else to go can appear intimidating.

2. County Council –:

Cllr Jessel offered her welcome to the new council and also commended Sue van Daesdonk on being a tremendous chairman, dealing with many difficult issues during her term; Cllr Jessel has enjoyed working with all of the outgoing Cllrs. She added that Barton Parish Council is one for the more forward looking and proactive within the County.

Cllr Jessel, the Cabinet member for Health and Care, then gave an outline of County spending. They provide other services such as social care, spending £400m per year on supporting the vulnerable. £100m is spent on school repairs. We are currently seeing 98% of pupils at their 1st choice of school. £40m is spent on public health schemes including alcohol support, diabetes, obesity schemes, no smoking schemes. Efficiencies on spend are constantly reviewed.

Highways spend has increased by £30m across 2 years, plus an extra £2m from central government. Amey is the contract partner for SCC. They carry out large highways projects and provide design engineers, grass cutting and highways maintenance. The maintenance however has not been done satisfactorily. They employed their own inspectors to categorise and prioritise. Inspections have now been brought back ‘in house’ and inspectors are being retrained on a new system. Local divisional highways teams will have greater influence on priorities. Self-repairs do not work and are not the answer.

Cllr Lord referred to gully emptying – this Council had asked for the numbering system to identify gullies but this had not been supplied. Reports had been produced and their system updated. Cllr Jessel encouraged to continue to report defects on the system. Some jetting had been done.

Cllr Jessel continued that new enterprises were supported along with helping companies to expand. People claiming Benefits are lower than the regional average with 2.7% on benefits compared to National 3.7%. Apprenticeships scheme are encouraged.

At the last Divisional Forum, we were briefed on the boundary review. Needwood Division is 20% too large due to growth in population. Barton itself is not impacted. Cllrs were urged to make representations when the Boundary Commission send out for review.

National Highways also presented on the A38 works - diversion routes seem to have worked. The Police Chief Inspector will be invited to the next meeting.

HGV restrictions are being monitored.

Gullies at the bottom of Gilmore Lane - Cllr Sharkey reiterated that the LEA have responsibility for maintenance. A Gully cleaner costs £1k per day. There are other blocked gullies in the area so it may be worth considering getting a gully cleaner in for day in Barton. It was apparent that the supposed standard SCC Gully Maintenance cycles are not being followed.

Cllr Jessel may be able to cover a day’s work within the divisional highways budget. BPC to consider making a small financial contribution from the Parish for Gilmore Lane. It was advised to aggregate reports of all blocked gullies

Walton Bridge – the background of the Drakelow site conditions were given for the benefit of new Cllrs. Countryside Properties are the developers. Conditions were changed to alter the trigger point for the bridge built of 100 homes being occupied to 400 homes. They will be at that limit by the end of this year. £7m funding was lost from the local enterprise partnership due to not starting work on time. Staffordshire County Council and Barton Parish Council were unhappy with the design of bridge which is unfit for purpose. In crossing the flood plain, the position of the culverts would be underground and incapable of dealing with flood water. The Environment Agency then deemed that level and frequency of flooding would cause water to destabilise the bridge. Ultimately, the Bridge needs to be built higher. The existing Station Road would need to be realigned nearer the railway bridge to provide an effective tie-in. This was no issue with overhead power cables as the developers had claimed. Negotiations were needed regarding additional land by Tucklesholme to enable the realignment.

Countryside Properties may try to increase the no. of house occupied to 600 or 650. Cllr Naylor asked what action might be taken against the developer if the bridge was not built. Cllr Jessel advised SDDC are the legal authority responsible for enforcing planning conditions. Station Lane – repairs to the pavements have been done. Money has not been spent in the past pending the new bridge. Safety barriers and other damage has also been reported. Containers are to be introduced to form a chicane by the quarry entrance to stop HGVs progressing too far along the road.

Cllr Walker recalled that residents were also concerned about speeding along Station Lane and that they felt unsafe along the pavement. There is not a lot can be done about this, it is a narrow road and pavement and cars have become larger and therefore intimidating. There has also been an increase in traffic. The railings which have fallen away have been reported as they are a safety issue.

Any other schemes are compromised as there is no budgeted funding for any spend as it was anticipated the bridge would be built.

Cllr Brookes suggested putting something on the noticeboards about the reporting of potholes etc. Communications to review.

Cllr Sharkey commented that drainage and surface water run-off is becoming a problem in areas, particularly on Efflinch Lane. Liaison with Severn Trent’s sewer manager through the Barton Flood Risk Group had ground to a halt. He asked for support from Cllr Jessel to reignite this. Landowners can be held to account with clearing ditches. Copy Cllr Jessel in with any serious potholes if they are not dealt with. Cllr Jessel was thanked upon leaving the meeting.

3. Borough Council – no report available

8. Appointment of members to Committees, Outside Bodies and Special Responsibilities

1. The Chairman reminded those present of the need for stability and continuity for the council. He suggested those committees which are full, remain as they are for at least this first year. Cllr Brookes objected to this principle as he would not learn about other committees if he could not be allocated to the full ones. The majority agreed however to retain Planning and P&OS Committees as existing. Committees to appoint Chairman and review Terms of Reference. It was **resolved** to approve all allocations as per the attached schedule.

9. Committee Reports as circulated.

1. Finance
Receipts and Payments Summary, bank reconciliation and scheduled payments all reviewed. It was **resolved** to approve the circulated financial reports and committee recommendations. The Clerk had received further contact from SSE regarding replacing the Fishpond meter which is a 1980 radio tele switch using a signal to change from day to night tariff. It would have to be replaced with a Smart meter as the signal is being turned off in March 2024 which would mean

the tariff will be stuck on one or the other or not work at all so all bills would be estimated. All agreed replacement to be arranged.

Our Internal Auditors had remarked on our high reserves. It was therefore prudent to talk about projects to bring forward for costing to spend next year.

Cllr Naylor asked if monies may be taken away. Clerk advised only issue would be auditors would look more closely as our accounts although we do have ring fenced amounts. Cllr Walker felt it may be worth reaching out to other groups who may need support. Cllr Brookes queried village hall buildings insurance; Clerk confirmed it is insured separately by the Village Hall Charity.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the application for 7 Main Street and the design of the modern flat roof extension; the planning officer had evidently listened to our comments regarding the inappropriateness in a conservation area and had negotiated a more suitable design. Interestingly the same objections raised regarding 10 Main Street which were visible from the road had been approved.

We await replies to previous letters asking for explanations of decision inconsistencies and interpretation of planning policy.

Clerk advised Yoxall Parish Council are keen to be involved in a joined-up approach in terms of Borough Councillor representation and planning is an area we can utilise this approach.

3. Parks and Open Spaces

Grounds maintenance contract is up and running although had been problematic in the current wet weather. They are having to mow twice per visit.

Collinson Park - the space walker repair is in hand with spare part arriving and bearings to be replaced.

Toddler play area - works to be actioned this year.

Fishpond – the platforms installation is complete bar the training platform. Cllr Taylor is monitoring it weekly and some remedial works have been carried out. The posts are all in on Potters Way and reflectors will be fitted. The Chairman highly applauded the efforts of Cllrs Taylor and Gilbey in seeing this project through and the contractor for a job well done.

The fishermen feel safer and the bankside is protected from damage.

Cllr Brookes queried on closure for spawning; Cllr Taylor confirmed this would be for up to a month. Cllr Brookes asked if there was a need for business case for loss of income due to closure. Cllr Gilbey believed fish would die if not closed during this time which Cllr Brookes disputed. Cllr Naylor referred to our strong reserves position so felt this was welfare issue rather than monetary concern; Cllr Taylor advised Season tickets have been paid for and we would only lose day tickets. Cllr Sharkey added the amount lost would be a few hundred pounds set against what is generally believed to be good angling practice. Cllr Taylor added that the closure and re-open are well publicised on the website and social media.

4. Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

5. Human Resources

Nothing to report.

6. Allotments

Any vacancies being filled as and when. Cllr Sharkey advised the land is leased from SCC and

was mindful that County Council have already proposed the land for a housing site in the ESBC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The Clerk is still to contact Trent & Dove Housing Association regarding the possibility of transferring St James Road Allotments to the Parish Council.

7. VEC –

Coronation of Charles III village celebration had gone extremely well and lots of positive feedback had been received, all organisers were highly praised. The Shoulder of Mutton had expressed disappointment at the organisation of the traction engine obscuring the view of their music act. Barton PC will review any ‘lessons learned’ for any future similar event
The next event will be Remembrance Day parade.
Cllr Young advised that the Family Festival plan to concentrate around St James churchyard.
Donations for will be sought for scarecrow prizes.

10. Annual Policies Review

Resolved to adopt the previously circulated Finance Regulations and Standing Orders as presented.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence was duly noted.

Dirt bike track, we are awaiting response from our Borough Councillor who was investigating planning permission. On Agenda for next meeting as was 51 Short Lane.

Bus shelter, Captains Lane – the resident’s suggestion will be looked into to determine if feasible. Safety issue.

Cllrs Sharkey and Brookes would attend the John Taylor High School awards evening and normal contribution agreed.

SCC rent review due for allotments.

Modifications were suggested to the ESBC press release – Clerk to approach Ward Cllrs.

12. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Communications – nothing to report
2. Speedwatch – nothing to report
3. Flood Risk Group - nothing to report
4. New Bridge – update already covered by Cllr Jessel
5. Quarries Liaison – the May meeting had not taken place and would likely be June. The 24 hr plant working application had been approved despite this council asking for a 3 year review. Cllrs are keen to see the restored site designated as a public open space/ country park which would improve tourism in the Borough and provide a green buffer between Branston and Barton.

13. Councillors Reports

1. Cllr Sharkey had notice weeds forming in gutters, due to tarmac erosion. He will liaise with Cllr Jessel as a spraying programme is needed.

Coronation Events: Collinson Road residents had a good street party organised by Kay Hickinbottom, a letter of thanks will be sent.

Village Party Main Street: Along with other Cllrs, Lorraine Brant did a lot of organisation for the party and it was resolved that she would be invited to receive a Certificate of Recognition.

2. Cllr Lord would like an Agenda item regarding the need for signage at Barton Turn by the Marina entrance, he had seen many near misses with motorists not looking. Cllr Lord will bring a formal proposal to next the meeting.
3. Cllr Young reported that Collinson Road residents had been clearing weeds in the road gutters – Thanks were recorded in appreciation.
4. Cllr Brookes flagged up that vehicles parking in Wales Lane opposite the junction with Brookside Road making negotiating the junction difficult for motorists – he suggested double yellow lines be suggested to County. A formal proposal will be brought to the next meeting.

14. **Dates of Future Meetings:**

Next meeting 1 June (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting); 6 July; 3 August; 7 September (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting); 5 October; 2 November; 7 December (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting).

The meeting closed at 21.41pm

Barton under Needwood Parish Council -Appointment of Officers to Committees
(Chairman a member of all Committees)

Committee	Officers Elected 2023-2024
Finance	D Lord; L Young; J Taylor; S Naylor; J Brookes Meet quarterly
Planning	I Gilbey; D Lord; J Taylor; L Young Co-option: R. Bell Meet fortnightly Mondays 5pm – Committee has delegated responsibilities to comment on applications due to time scales.
Sub Committee -Strategic Planning	1 + other Cllrs called as required when needed dependant on issue Co-option: R. Bell
Rural Services Network	1 + Co-option R. Bell
Human Resources including Health & Safety & Emergency Planning	D Lord, S Naylor, C. Walker + Clerk Meet as required
Safeguarding Officer	1 (to be appointed at first HR meeting) + Clerk
Allotments	D Lord, S Harley, J Brookes G Hughes to remain as allotment secretary; Meet on site as required
Burial Ground	I Gilbey, C Walker, S Naylor + Clerk Meet as required
Parks and Open Spaces: Collinson Park, Ash Tree Pocket Park, Gilmour Lane, Potters Way, Fishpond, St James Garden	I Gilbey, J Taylor, L Young, S Harley Meet as required Other volunteers for projects as and when needed
Village Enhancement	L Young, C Walker, S Naylor Meet as required Co-option: volunteers for special projects as and when needed.
Outside Bodies Representatives:	
Holland Sports Club	J Taylor, I Gilbey + Clerk Cllr attendance required once every 3 months
Quarries Liaison	E Sharkey
Barton & Dunstall Key Trust	E Sharkey
School Governors	Thomas Russell Juniors: any vacancies as and when notified by school
Village Hall	J Taylor, E Sharkey, S Naylor
Special Responsibilities:	
Communications inc website, Chime and social media	Housing Needs Survey: J Brookes; R Bell; E Sharkey Green Spaces Survey analysis: J Brookes + Clerk Meet as required
Fishpond	I Gilbey, J Taylor Meet as required
Speedwatch	Alison Jones to file report.
Flagpole	Co-option: G Taylor, Rev A Simpson
Cheque Signatories	6 : inc Clerk + E Sharkey; J Taylor; D Lord; S Naylor; C Walker
Internal Auditor	Alan Toplis Associates
Flood Risk Group	D Lord; E Sharkey
Family Festival	L Young
Walton By Pass Bridge	D Lord