

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

Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr J Brookes

Cllr D Lord

Cllr I Gilbey

Cllr C Walker

Cllr S Naylor

Cllr K McInerney

Cllr L Young

Absent: -

Cllr C Allcock

In attendance: -

Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 4 members of the public.

Meeting recorded to assist in the minutes

1. Chairman's Welcome and Record of Apologies for Absence

Cllr E Sharkey welcomed all to the meeting and asked for due consideration to be given to new Councillors still finding their feet.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harley; Ward Cllrs J Jones, B Ashcroft; County Cllr J Jessel

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 June 2023.

Cllr Lord queried a point of clarity in the Finance section, 1.10, but it was agreed that an amendment was not deemed necessary.

Cllr Walker referred to the recording of apologies and felt they should not be accepted at every meeting but noted. It was suggested that if absent for 6 months, then a vote should be taken as to whether to accept them or face automatic disqualification from the Council. Clerk to check this with a higher authority.

J Brookes reiterated an additional comment regarding authorisation of a Facebook communication but this was not upheld.

It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Parishioners Forum

A resident chose to observe the meeting but had no issues to bring forward.

Other residents reported anti-social behaviour related to the Middle Bell. They agreed however, that with the recent change of licensee, it would be best to review to see how the new management handled such behaviour. Licence application to be changed to new tenants, licensing officer can provide timings of their licence and should be referred to in any future breaches.

The residents had noticed an increase in hot hatches racing up and down Main Street and Station Road at speed as well as parking on the zig zags. Cllr Sharkey advised to record incidents with registration numbers and report to the police, he will supply reporting pads detailing all relevant information required.

Residents bought up the need for EV charge points. The Waterfront's recent planning permission has reference to charging points being introduced. Cllrs can revisit the possibility of putting them in the Crowberry Lane car park. Residents happy to liaise with Cllrs on this outside of the meeting

Reference was made to local licensees' business encroaching on to the pavement. Cllr Gilbey advised pavement licences were relaxed during Covid – special temporary legislation was introduced provided seating was 2m away from the carriageway. Any activity including furniture and signage felt to be in breach of the rules should be referred to ESBC licensing. Another resident had heard new tenants at the Middle Bell may be looking at a nightclub themed approach.

The resident had contacted Chris Archer for an update at St Modwens.

Cllrs had received results of investigations into the 2020 flooding issues.

The resident queried the Parish Council level of reserves; he felt if any issues arose, B&D Key Trust could be approached for financial assistance. The Chairman confirmed grants had been issued by them following which, we cannot apply to them for a 2 year' period. Cllrs are giving active consideration for new projects to spend. The Parish Council as Trustee have ultimate responsibility for the fabric of the village hall building and a flooding issue has arisen there which may be costly. Cllr Naylor advised money will be spent for the good of the community with a cautious balanced approach. Cllr Walker also advised our auditors had recommended burial ground reserves need to be built up as income reduces; new ground may still be sought which would be costly and the current ground will still incur maintenance costs even when full.

5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police

PCSO Tim Leathers' incident list and report for the patch including Barton had been circulated to all councillors.

Wildlife Crime officer, Lucy Hadfield is to be approached for an update on the loose dog behaviour. Cllr Taylor reported that the dog was being re-homed.

Wales Lane/Brookside Road Junction -

Cllr Sharkey had raised the issue of parking on junctions with Tim Leathers and hoped to invite Dan Ison to a meeting for a specific discussion. This will be followed up. Cllr Brookes proposal to be deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Brookes referred to broken bottles and damage to tyre planters on Brookside Road. PCSO Leathers should be aware if the incident had been reported.

2. County Council –:

Cllr Julia Jessel had met with the Speedwatch Coordinator, Alison Jones and an interested resident to discuss speeding in the village. A traffic survey is to be undertaken to collect detailed data on the type, frequency and speed of traffic in Main Street/Station Road. This data can then be shared with the Parish Council and any action if appropriate, will be discussed.

Julia intends to attend the next meeting of Walton Bridge Liaison Group on 17 July.

Our Speedwatch were asking for a traffic survey on Captains Lane but as a priority the focus will be on Main Street and Station Road.

Julia had attended Newbold Quarry Liaison meeting to be reported later.

3. Borough Council – no report.

6. Committee Reports as circulated.

1. Finance

The year end R&P account for 2022/23 contained the wrong figures for the previous year

2021/22, correction circulated for acceptance. The document did not affect the year-end figures under examination and is not presented for the external audit.

Cllr Brookes asked for a detailed Asset Register to be created with condition of items, Cllr Harley to assist on P&OS items.

It was **resolved** to approve all items, Receipts and Payments Summary, bank reconciliation and scheduled payments as reviewed.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the Forest Barn application and a detailed objection report prepared by R Bell and D Lord. Neighbours were also making detailed objections, picking up similar issues. Permission had been given for holiday lodges but at the initial construction, the building structures looked more permanent. These breaches were enforced, structures to be removed and a new application has been put forward.

Forest Thorn Barn – several attempts had been made at conversion of an agricultural shed to a dwelling. It has passed on the third application. ESBC Planning decisions and comments are contrary to previous statements from them and our planning committee will question the decision to approve. The planning committee will pursue for answers on this and 5 other letters written.

Co-op signage had been largely approved. We had queried the Noticeboard but ESBC have deemed no planning permission needed despite the building being in a conservation area. Committee to request meeting with senior planner and cabinet member responsible.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Midterm review due next month with grounds maintenance contractor with some items to be addressed.

Toddler Play area refurbishment safety surfacing, and repainting of equipment – Cllr Harley has obtained quotations with a view to carrying out work after the summer holidays.

RBL Remembrance Bench for Fishpond area: approach circulated and discussed regarding a project involving Junior School children – a wooden bench with back is proposed to be introduced, painted by children. Parish Council to purchase with RBL donation towards it. After much debate, Cllr Taylor proposed acceptance of the remembrance bench with back and for it to be decorated by TRJS children. The bench to be located where a previous bench was situated at the fishpond, seconded by Cllr Lord. Majority in favour with one against and one abstention, motion carried. Clerk to accept offer of bench.

Green space strategy and asset register to be looked at including life expectancies, maintenance and replacement requirements.

Sluice gate – Cllr Harley had reported via email that the sluice gate has now been fitted, sealed and working. The gate is encased in a valve body making it more practical to operate from the bank with a long key instead of climbing into the brook to operate as in the original design. A perforated steel mesh grid has been added. Bailiffs understand the operation and that it should stay closed other than when pumping required.

The oil interceptor was considered overkill and very expensive if the sluice gate alone is effective.

Cllr Lord proposed that the Council formally recognise the fixed method of working that is to be

applied and, on the basis that it is applied, there is no longer any requirement for an oil interceptor or other pollution measures. **Resolved** - All in favour.

Cllr Brookes queried methods and timings required for the sluice to be open. Bailiffs operate whilst on site and will check for any contamination prior to opening and monitor whilst open for up to 2 hours at a time.

Cllr Brookes had reported previously that the trip rail at the bottom of Gilmour Lane had fallen over – The Chairman confirmed will be removed in due course as it no longer serves any purpose.

Cllr Brookes queried reported issues at Ash Tree pocket park – bin issue to be looked at by Cllrs Sharkey and Harley, this should be repairable or will be replaced. Holes near benches to be looked at.

Cllr Brookes queried why benches in Collinson Park were to be plastic rather than wood – he was advised this had already been approved and the recycled material is more sustainable and requires less maintenance.

Cllr Brookes queried signage on Potters Way – reference had been made to street clutter yet there were two 'no coaches' signs – it was offered that coaches often don't see one sign and it was important to alert them at the entrance. A compromise has been reached and the situation has improved since bollards introduced.

4. Burial Ground -

Minutes of recent meeting and Terms of Reference had been circulated.

Cllr Sharkey had made contact with Bagshaws; a detailed report will be provided but he concluded that it will be very expensive to find additional land for a burial ground and finding a suitable site is very difficult. The issue of new burial ground land had also been raised at the Quarry liaison meeting.

Our Groundsman has been spending an hour a day tidying up the memorial garden.

Cllr Brookes queried if a new burial ground project was realistic given the 4-5 year' lifespan of the current ground. Cllr Sharkey felt a feasibility study would tell you how long you need.

Residents may therefore find a gap in what can be offered if anything and would have to carry out burials in Stapenhill. Investigations will soon tell if it is practical to source a new ground. Cllr Gilbey advised this has been looked at on and off over the last 10 years. Council had previously tried to look for potential land and obtain costings, there was no land available. As we get closer to full capacity, the pressure is greater to find an alternative. Cllr Gilbey reminded those present that whilst it is desirable, the Parish Council are under no statutory obligation to provide a Burial Ground.

Resolved Minutes and Terms of Reference accepted.

5. Human Resources –

Minutes of recent meeting and Terms of Reference circulated.

Resolved accepted.

6. Allotments -

There had been no meeting and there were no urgent issues. A site meeting was not possible at present. A brief summary of position was circulated. The allotments secretary, Graham Hughes had reported that there were no vacancies after all rent payments were made in April/ May. Currently there are eleven on the waiting list and the average wait for an allotment is now in excess of one year.

The last applicant wishes to position honey bees on his plot.

Cllrs were informed that the Council had previously not been in support of this use and Graham had asked if the current council still endorsed this stance.

Cllr Lord suggested further investigation as to the reasoning should be looked at. Guidance suggests that provided controls are in place and beehive keepers know what they are doing, it is not a problem. This will be discussed further when an on-site meeting is arranged.

7. VEC –

Meeting to be arranged for the following Tuesday – apologies given from Cllr Walker. Matters to be handed-over from Cllr Taylor and Alison Jones. Members to discuss events coming up and bring ideas forward.

7. Correspondence

Correspondence was duly noted and responses agreed.

All agreed to award a Certificate of Recognition to a volunteer litterpicker as suggested by a resident and to put her in touch with Green Leaves for equipment.

8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. **Communications** – nothing to report, meeting to be scheduled beginning of August. Cllr Brookes had drafted and circulated terms of reference to be reviewed.
2. **Speedwatch** – report from Alison Jones circulated. Cllr Sharkey referred to the suggestion of introducing Speed Indicator Devices questioning their effectiveness and raising the issues of street clutter. A traffic survey will determine if they are needed. Cllr Lord offered that evidence showed they were effective for limited periods but should be moveable.
3. **Flood Risk Group** – Cllr Sharkey is chasing the Environment Agency for a meeting about Barton Brook, bridge to replace culvert on Full Brook. Report from SCC Flood Risk officer, draft report on the major flood event which occurred and will be reviewed for accuracy to be brought back to next meeting.
4. **New Bridge** – a meeting was scheduled for 17 July. Both County Councils and the EA had agreed the original design was not up to scratch and this is being revisited. Mechanisms will ensure there is no flood risk upstream which would affect the Barton Brook. The build is scheduled for 2025.
5. **Quarries Liaison** – meeting attended by Chairman and report to be issued in due course. Phase 5 is being worked on and restoration plans now evolving on rapidly. No dust is being generated locally. Water quality monitor is showing clear. AI have a legal traffic routing agreement which can be enforced. AI can be held to account if Skippers found to be in breach of agreement.
Overall restoration plan is for wetland, woodland and farm restoration, all to be encompassed in a country park setting to prevent industrial encroachment; this to be embedded in the local plan. Potential for the provision of a burial ground had been mentioned.
The Hanson site is opening up new reserve between the railway and A38.

9. Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Young - The Teddies Festival committee had a meeting on Tuesday night and would appreciate it very much if the Parish Council could kindly consider making the usual donation to the event - in the past this has been £120 towards the Scarecrow competition prizes. All in favour. They have decided to go for the road closure, which has been confirmed, and requested to borrow the council's 'Road Closure' signs for the Festival weekend of 2nd/ 3rd September. All

agreed.

2. Cllr Taylor – suggested Cllr Brookes attend the next County Council Neighbourhood Forum on 19 September along with the Chairman.
3. Cllr Naylor asked if meetings could start earlier. A 7pm start time was agreed by all.
4. Cllr Brookes followed up on the meeting with the PCC - a point had been raised about keyless entry cars using faraday pouches. Cllr Brookes asked about a holistic and joined up approach in tackling traffic issues in general. Minutes should be produced.

5. Clerk

Certificate of Recognition update on previous proposal – It was proposed that along with Julie Skinner agreed last month, Michael Skinner should also be jointly recognised for services to the Barton Scout Troup. They are unavailable in August so would attend September meeting. All agreed.

– Our groundsman has indicated an equipment problem, when his Mountfield lawnmower is not working, he is not happy with the 'spare' kept at the Fishpond by the Bailiffs which he claims is not adequate to do his job. His Mountfield mower currently has no drive and awaiting Cllr Harley's inspection on return from holiday. All agreed a spend of up to £800 was authorised for the purchase of new commercial mower, with the Mountfield then to be kept as the spare.

Clerk has received no feedback on blocked gullies to relay to our County Councillor. Cllrs were encouraged to report on all areas and feedback to the Chairman to update our plan.

Report from resident received today that the brook is very overgrown along its length from Park Road green space, past Brookside and on through to Collinson Road. Chairman and Cllr Lord to investigate.

10. [Dates of Future Meetings:](#)

Next meetings - note all full Council meeting times changed to 7pm : 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 21.28:pm