

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 3 August 2023 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members 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 S Harley
Cllr L Young		

Members Absent: Cllr C Allcock

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 1 members of the public. Cllr J Jones

Meeting recorded for assistance with the Minutes

1. Chairman's Welcome and Record of Apologies for Absence
Cllr E Sharkey welcomed all to the meeting.
Apologies were noted from Cllr C Allcock, Borough Cllrs B Ashcroft, V Gould
2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda
None
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 July 2023.
Cllr Lord raised an amendment to delete a sentence at item 6.3. Subject to this minor amendment, it was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
4. Parishioners Forum
A resident was still struggling to get a reply from Chris Archer in order to rectify problems on the St Modwen's site before the winter. The Chairman suggested Barton Parish Council contact Cllr Jessel following repeated concerns expressed to our meetings by local residents affected by the flooding and requesting her to push Chris Archer to reply to enquiries and provide BPC with update. All happy to contact Cllr Jessel.
Cllr Lord explained that after major a flooding event affecting large numbers of property, County Council required to investigate causes and make recommendations, known as Section 19 report. This has been prepared and copy sent to Barton Parish Council. Cllr Lord has reviewed it and made comments; Chairman to review before returning to consider our comments and amendments. One aspect is that we will ask for more specific details on issues at Lichfield Road. It was agreed that the final report when published by Staffordshire County Council would be made available on Barton Parish Council website.
The resident remarked that his neighbour has a small holding and is having trial biking and cannot understand complaints received. ESBC enforcement are currently investigating change of land use and noise disturbance complaints.
5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports
 1. Police
PCSO Tim Leathers' report not available. Chairman referred to CI Ison's profile of being open to meet Parish Councils and suggested inviting him to a meeting. All agreed, Chairman to draft

invitation.

2. County Council –:

Cllr J Jessel had escalated reports on blocked gullies outside nos. 105, 108, 110 and 118 Efflinch Lane. These will be cleared and jetted. (110 was not on their system and has now been plotted).

Julia has also tried to escalate the damaged bollard on junction of Efflinch and Gilmour Lane repaired.

Cllrs to send details on other gullies at top of Captains Lane towards The Green and Dunstall Road.

Cllr Brookes suggested putting a list together and communicating to public and ask for any others to be reported.

Cllr Brookes had received parishioners concerns about the loading bay and restrictions on Crowberry Lane, better signage required and Clear Streets parking enforcement. Cllr J Jones had also received some complaints and Cllr Jessel has asked Clear Streets to attend. Cllr Lord queried how far up Crowberry Lane the restriction extends - this can be clarified on investigation. The pot hole near the Methodists church had been reported.

3. Borough Council – Cllr J Jones advised the new council are setting priorities and formulating corporate plan. There was circa £750,000 in a village enhancement fund. This has now changed and will no longer be for village enhancement but it was understood the pot had been increased to £1.5m but would now be available to all wards for regeneration projects. Details to be forwarded when available. The Tourism fund of £3K is for projects that attract tourists. They are continuing with Council regeneration funds of up to £16,000 available for community projects.

Cllr Jones will be attending a surgery at the library on their late-night (third) Thursday opening for a trial period to the end of the year, 5.30pm-6.30pm. Cllr Brookes suggested a Parish Councillor could attend. Police representatives do go but not at fixed times.

BPC is talking to other Parish Councils in the ward about joint approaches as well as supporting smaller councils.

Nothing further to report on Cllr Brookes' proposal for the junction of Wales Lane and Brookside.

6. Committee Reports as circulated.

1. Finance

The next meeting was scheduled for 21 August.

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

Bank Mandate – the online instructions had still not been processed by the bank and their clearing system had returned a large cheque unpaid due to signature recognition. We have had some compensation for the difficulties experienced.

Asset Register – Cllr Brookes is investigating the borough council system to adapt for ours.

Reserves – projects ideas were requested for the next financial year. It was suggested to promote an open parishioners' surgery and bring ideas to that. Cllr Walker suggested setting parameters or provide examples of what might be considered. Cllr Naylor suggested funding small bursaries and help with uniforms and school supplies was discussed. Cllr Jones had experienced with the Key Trust that it was difficult to find people due to pride in applying for help. The Key Trust fund school trips but these are few and far between.

It was suggested most people would like to see a public realm project or celebration event.

Communications group to discuss further at their meetings. Powers to spend were clarified.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey – Extensive comments made on 101 Main Street and the tree application in Causer Road.

Forest Barn housing has been refused with lengthy officer's reports. 10 neighbours also objected. They do have permission for holiday lodges.

Cllr Jones reported that the lodge application is out of date if not commenced work. It will depend on the enforcement officer's view whether the groundworks made are deemed to be part of the lodges. The Chairman reported the foundations built so far did not fit the layout for the lodges but matched the layout of the current bungalow application, which it was apparent had been the applicant's objective all along. Cllr Gilbey reported that ESBC have an 8 and half year housing land supply but the applicant might still appeal the refusal.

The Committee are still chasing for non-response to letters to ESBC on planning matters. The Planning officer had offered to come to a meeting but the Planning Committee would like a written response and notes taken of any subsequent meeting.

Committee members are expecting applications for the corner of Dunstall Road and Small Meadows and for the old Country Services property.

Home Farm, Dunstall had still not gone to planning committee. Awaiting further information.

Local plan review – Cllr Jones advised no indication on timetable from new leadership as yet.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Cllr Harley referred to his circulated report which was approved. Toddler Park refurbishment – the chosen contractor will be appointed pending confirmation of compliance with British Standards quality and safety checks. Details of materials being used have now been provided. Committee recommended proceed with chosen contractor subject to finer detail.

Cllr Brookes asked about a business case for the refurbishment and the specification. The project is grant funded backed up by £5k allocated from the Parish Council reserves. The Parish Council need to keep the playground open and safety surface needs to be replaced as a priority. Repairs had previously been made over its circa 20-year life. Options are to close, replace or refurbish. Refurbishment had been decided by the previous council with funding in place and the only proposal now is for acceptance of the recommended contractor's quotation. **Resolved**, - majority in favour of acceptance of recommended quotation for resurfacing and painting of Toddler Park with one abstention.

Cllr McInerney felt that a business case should form a part of future proposals of any spend if needed once research work had been carried out at committee level.

Cllr Brookes asked for clarification on who owns and makes decisions on Parish noticeboards, how many there were and if they were on the asset register – there are currently 6 boards and a full council decision would be made on refurbishment/replacement requirements.

The bench on Potters Way had been repaired.

Cllr Brookes asked about bollards cracking and maintenance of these in Potters Way – these are timber and pressure treated with preservatives which give a 20 year life.

Cllr Brookes asked about Fishpond benches, noticeboard and the duck island – he was asked to make suggestions to the fishpond sub-committee and he then sought clarification on the membership of the Fishpond sub-committee.

Cllr Brookes sought more clarification for the asset register.

Cllr Brookes asked if there were speed signs on exit from Holland Sports Club – Cllr Taylor confirmed there were but they often get damaged, removed and they will be replaced.

Fishpond – Cllr Taylor reported they are looking for finance for the training platform to be replaced next year, circa £7,945 which will likely have risen.

Bank project – information board still outstanding to recognise contributors and have photos of wildlife and fish in the area. Prices prior to lockdown were £2k to 2.5K.

Road marking Potters Way - Complaint received regarding the new markings – elements of arrows and no coaches sign. Consultation had taken place with Holland Sports Club, the Bailiffs and the school due to traffic issues, signage was agreed. Points to include in a formal response to the complainant were discussed and agreed by all together with the offer of a face-to-face meeting. The impact of the measures taken on resolving traffic issues will be reviewed after new term starts and sporting activities resume.

4. Burial Ground -
Nothing to report.

5. Human Resources –
Meeting scheduled for 23 August.

6. Allotments -
A site meeting had taken place. Cllr Harley reported on a few concerns raised. Car parking budget previously agreed of £800 to increase size of current car park. Following a site inspection some plots had been identified which may need warning letters due to weeds and non-cultivation. The current rent is £25 per year, Allotment Secretary recommends increase for next year. Formal meeting to be arranged with quorum and recommendations to be brought to full council at the next meeting.

7. VEC –
Cllr Taylor had circulated a report which was approved. Terms of Refence to be circulated. Committee recommended a separate Barton Live project rather than a stand at the festival. Notes accepted.

7. Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed.

Skippers were suspected to be breaching the Newbold Quarry traffic routing agreement. Any photos of lorries routing through the village to be sent in to the Clerk as evidence.

Cllr Brookes queried comments on wildlife handling at the Fishpond. Cllr Taylor expanded on the saga of an orphan duck who was at risk and had human intervention in surviving – it was relayed to FiSH that photos of duck handling should not be encouraged on social media.

The request to tackle speeding on Wales Lane had been responded to.

Windows above Fat Cat had been reported to Highways and should also be flagged up to ESBC Building Control.

Brook clearing on Fallowfield/Brookside – Clerk reported that the Borough Council had cleared the brook but left some arisings which should be removed or chipped.

Graffiti on Collinson Park equipment – this had been cleaned up by our lengthsman but regular inspections should ensure there are no other offensive markings; Cllr Sharkey suggested treating with household wax polish to resist application of marker pens.

Cllr Brookes mentioned that the road marking plan for Potters Way was not obvious from the documentation provided. Cllr Sharkey advised this had already been discussed and lessons can be learnt in having a marked-up plan in future.

Sports Facilities survey – Cllr Sharkey will look at it with a view to response.

8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Communications – meeting to be scheduled next week. Terms of Reference to be reviewed at the meeting. Cllrs to respond on circulated document in advance of the Communications meeting.
2. Speedwatch – Community Speedwatch report had been circulated, no feedback.
3. Flood Risk Group – trying to meet with the Environment Agency on Barton brook issues.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – Cllr Lord attending the liaison meeting on 17 July along with Cllr Jessel and other Parish Council representatives, SDDC and the Planning officer. Everyone working together on the modified design which meets current requirements. The two County Councils and the EA are reviewing their proposal to ensure they are suitable. The start date has been put back considerably and currently estimated to be 2025. An application to vary the number of house builds by the Developer is likely. Evidence of Finance needs to be secure before accept any variation in house building.
5. Quarries Liaison – no update

9. Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Young reported that some festival banners had been removed by Staffordshire County Highways. This has been highlighted to Cllr Jessel.
2. Cllr McInerney – has been liaising with residents and researching EV charge points. An ESBC review on these is due in November.
3. Cllr Brookes – reported the path between Church Lane and Collinson Park is overgrown with branches – this was the responsibility of St James Church and should be highlighted to them.

10. Dates of Future Meetings:

Next meeting 7 September (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting 6.30pm) apologies received Cllr Walker; 5 October; 2 November; 7 December (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting).

The meeting closed at 21.06 pm