

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7 September 2023 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey
Cllr D Lord
Cllr S Naylor

Cllr J Taylor
Cllr I Gilbey

Cllr J Brookes
Cllr L Young

Cllr K McInerney
Cllr C Allcock

Members Absent: Cllrs C Walker; S Harley

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 6 members of the public.

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 Cllrs C Walker; S Harley; County Cllr J Jessel; Borough Cllrs J Jones, B Ashcroft & V Gould

Presentation of Certificates of Recognition

The Chairman presented Certificates to Michael and Julie Skinner in recognition of their combined many years of service to the Scouting groups in the area. Thanks were expressed for this recognition.

A Certificate was also presented to Emily Smith for litter picking in Barton on her arrival later in the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3 August 2023.

It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
Cllr Allcock was welcomed to his first meeting since being co-opted.

4. Parishioners Forum

Two Efflinch Lane allotment plot holders were present and raised an issue of dogs on site, their owners helping themselves to fruit and also leaving dog mess behind on plots.

An area of hard standing is required due to lack of space for vehicles, work should be done in good weather.

A plot holder is aware that bee keeping has been discussed at the site which in theory is good idea but in practice does not work. Plot holders adjacent are against it.

It was requested signage is displayed to specify that access is for plot holders only and any dogs brought to site must be kept on leads and not allowed to wander onto other plots.

The issue of the security gate had been discussed; it is difficult to establish when leaving if anyone is left on site and the lock mechanism is difficult to work from the inside.

Weed control - one of the plot holders had just had an operation and will tackle the plot when recovered. Warning letters are sent if appropriate; extenuating circumstances will be considered.
It was suggested plot identifiers such as numbered stakes would be useful to raise any issues.

The plot holders then left the meeting.

5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police

Nothing further to report, stats no longer to be produced as they are available online. The Chairman offered to bring up the lack of recent engagement in any shape or form at the next neighbourhood forum. Notes of the previous forum should be distributed.
Chairman to contact C.I. Ison.

2. County Council –:

New Walton Bridge – Traffic report accompanying Countryside Properties' recent application to increase number of house builds - Cllr Jessel has concerns that Countryside Properties may try to use this evidence to prove the additional traffic has no significant impact and therefore no need for the new bridge to be built.
Awaiting update on squeeze barriers at Station Lane by entrance to Hanson's Barton Pit to prevent large vehicles going past the point of return – this is still under consideration.

3. Borough Council – Councillors Surgery on 21 September at library – Cllr Brookes and Chairman volunteered to attend.

6. Committee Reports as circulated.

1. Finance

Minutes of the meeting of 21 August were referred to. Level of reserves had been discussed and it was felt that once repairs and maintenance aspects had been addressed, this would reflect a more accurate reserves figure. All committees to feed in to the Finance Committee anticipated repair and maintenance expenditure in advance of the next scheduled Finance meeting on Mon 23 Oct.

Burial Ground – previous discussion on potential purchase of plot of land. Finance Committee concluded that it was not a feasible proposition due to size of expenditure on acquiring land, and preparing it for burials.

AGAR approved by Mazars and this along with the Notice of Conclusion to be published.

Queries from Cllr Brookes regarding Barton Village Hall contra for salaries to be addressed outside the meeting. Detailed asset register still to be provided.

CCTV contract extended for another 2 years.

WaterPlus costs dispute, Burial Ground – Cllr Lord to provide response asking them for the legal basis on charging for highways drainage.

It was **resolved** to approve the Finance Minutes and recommendations therein; Receipts and Payments Summary, bank reconciliation and scheduled payments.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey – Yew Tree House, Woodhouses which is technically outside the settlement boundary. We have asked for a track record on caring for this type of isolated accommodation. Small Meadows Lane – detailed objections submitted thanks to our Co-opted member. Neighbours have also objected. The Planning Site Notice was removed so the time to respond had been extended.

Bell Lane former Country Services – conversion to two dwellings refused. This application now includes Croft Side. We highlighted dissipation of commercial centre of village in our objection.

Co-op extension of opening hours, 6.30 a.m. Delivery times are not proposed to be changed and are still bound by original planning consent.

Walton Bridge – redesign has caused delay. We have objected to the number of house-builds due to traffic impact. Our flood risk concerns have been backed by the Environment Agency. We would like to see legal requirement for financial commitment from developer. The circa 385 more properties will generate more vehicle traffic and there are already issues at the Bailey Bridge. County may not object and provided a mechanism agreed allowing small increases conditional alongside material progress on the bridge construction. A Bond was discussed but County prefer the staged approach allowing the developer to continue work. We are still waiting for a response from the Planning Officer on face-to-face meeting. It was agreed to a three-month trial listing applications on our website and social media pages and links to our responses on the 'Planning' section of the website following ratification of responses by full Council.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Cllr Taylor – resurfacing and works at the Toddler Park will be done week commencing 25 September, site closure notice to be produced, crediting Mercers and B&D Key Trust funding.

Fishpond Sub-Committee – another Parish Councillor is required to ensure a quorum. Cllrs Allcock and Young were proposed and the majority agreed (one abstention) to the appointment of both onto the Fishpond Sub-Committee. Terms of Reference, notification of meetings and publication of agendas to be clarified at next Fishpond meeting.

Cllr Brookes referred to comments about the overgrown shrub area at the bottom of Potters Way. This is Holland Sports Club land; Cllr Taylor has liaised and will ensure this is dealt with.

Cllr Gilbey advised Playdale Inspection has been carried out today.

Emily Smith and Family arrived at the meeting – A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Emily for litter picking. Thanks were expressed for this recognition. Oak Road Park area and shops - evidence in the form of photos are being sent into the borough council and PCSO Leathers also contacted to monitor and take action on the anti-social behaviour - broken glass, and evidence of alcohol and drug use. Green Leaves had not responded regarding litter picking equipment. The Parish Council to provide litter equipment and PPE.

4. Burial Ground -
Nothing to report.

5. Human Resources –
A meeting previously due to take place needed to be rescheduled.

6. Allotments -
A quorate meeting had not yet taken place and notes from an informal meeting had been circulated.
Warning letters requested to two overgrown Plots but any extenuating circumstances will be considered. Cllr Allcock declared an interest as family members have plots. Cllr Lord to check with allotment secretary the circumstances of one of the plots holders before writing to them.

It was agreed to send a warning letter as necessary following further liaison with Allotment Secretary.

Hard standing area works – 2 quotes have been obtained. Quote 1 : £800 to level ground, lay protection layer and stone surface; there was no mention of removing arisings – it was estimated a grab lorry would only be approximately £250; Quote 2 now received but is substantially higher and not all works included. Recommend acceptance of Quote 1 with a total amount of up to £1200 to cover all works necessary. Whilst Quote 1 had expired, it was hoped the price could be held.

Cllr Brookes highlighted that a business case for the works was not obvious and whilst the Allotments budget included the parking area, he could find no record of the Parish Council having voted in favour of the parking area itself. Allotment holders have made representations for work to be done this season.

Cllr Sharkey proposed to proceed with the creation of the hard standing area and acceptance of Quote 1 with an amount of up to £1200 to be available for expenditure on this. **Resolved** - Majority agreed with one abstention.

Bees – Cllr Lord advised there were complications such as bee keeper qualifications; he recommended the Council reaffirm that bees should not be kept on the allotments. **Resolved** - All in favour.

Dog controls and security in general – this issue to be discussed further by the allotment committee.

Terms of Reference also being prepared.

7. VEC –

Cllr Taylor circulated report. A query was made as to whether the meeting was quorate and it was confirmed that as the Chairman had attended, he would be counted in the quorum and has voting rights.

7. Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed.

8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Communications – A meeting had taken place and Cllr Sharkey apologised for late distribution of notes to members. Councillors asked and forward comments or representations to Cllrs Sharkey, McInerney, Brookes & Walker. A further report with recommendations will be brought to the next meeting
2. Speedwatch – No report available.
3. Flood Risk Group – Chairman had chased County Flood Risk Officer Chris Archer re de-silting of retention ponds on St Modwens land and requested Cllr Jessel to press for action. Flooding has occurred on A38 due to tarmacking over the gullies putting properties at risk. This has been highlighted to National Highways and Cllr Jessel as currently there is no effective surface water drainage. Assurance has been received from Bellways that the existing culvert on the Full Brook nearest Mill Crescent will be replaced by a timber bridge before the end October. No update on Barton Brook.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – already discussed.
5. Quarries Liaison – no update. Next meeting 10 October.
6. Housing Needs Assessment – Cllrs Sharkey and Brookes attended a meeting with Yoxall PC, Trent & Dove Development Director and Hannah Barter a planning consultant from Urban

Vision present – there may be funding available to prepare a limited ‘single issue’ Neighbourhood Plan covering Housing Need only. Cllr Sharkey to make further enquiries. Inaugural meeting Tuesday 12 Sept to form Liaison Group for Needwood Ward Parish Councillors to raise matters jointly with Borough Councillors.

9. Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Clerk – a resident had remarked the square planter opposite War memorial was looking tired and mismatched with the bottom panels. Sean has now refreshed this. Raise the issue of weeds with the grounds maintenance contractor.
Christmas Star – Electrician advice needed for waterproof connection within the church tower. Cllr Sharkey to discuss with the Vicar and Church wardens for an electrician to investigate.
2. Cllr Young reported that Family Festival was a big success, total of monies raised not known yet. Record of scarecrow entries and medals were presented. Road closure marshals had become unavailable at last minute but replacements had been recruited.
Approached by residents for speed signs on Wales Lane. Any decision on SIDs will dependant on the outcome of the County Council traffic survey as previously advised by Cllr Julia Jessel.
3. Cllr Brookes – queried who own the field between Causer Road and Mill Lane – this is owned by Messrs Scarratts but is not being used as owner want to sell for development. Not allocated for development in the current ESBC Local Plan.
Land at very bottom of Mill Lane is still to be conveyed to Barton Parish Council, Holland Sports Club had already expressed an interest.
4. Cllr Gilbey advised the lights on the path through Collinson Park by the youth shelter needs fixing again or replacing. Clerk to contact E-on.

10. Potters Way – **it was resolved** to exclude press and members of the public due to the confidential nature of this item. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (3) & Local Government Act 1972 100A (3)(a). Following a brief discussion, **it was resolved** to contact a resident in relation to concerns about Potters Way markings and arrange a face-to-face meeting with Chairman, Clerk and Cllr McInerney in attendance.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:

Next meeting 5 October; 2 November; 7 December (preceded by Trustee Barton Village Hall meeting).

The meeting closed at 21.15 pm