

# MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## 5 October 2023 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

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

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 3 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Record of Apologies for Absence  
Cllr E Sharkey welcomed all to the meeting.  
Apologies were noted from Borough Cllr J Jones and County J Jessel
2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda  
None
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7 September 2023.  
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
4. Parishioners Forum  
A resident referred to the self-build application at Small Meadows Lane, the decision had been extended to 31 October due to a large volume of documentation. There had been visual impact concerns. The claim from the applicants that ESBC had passed an insufficient quota of self-builds was inaccurate and would not sway the decision. There are strong grounds for refusal.  
A resident reported motorbikes speeding on the newly resurfaced section of A38.  
A resident of Lichfield Road would like the watercourses of the Full Brook and Barton Brook inspected where they pass through St Modwens owned land. Chris Archer would be pressed for action and approach to St Modwens regarding their maintenance of the retention lagoon.  
The Chairman of Fradley Parish Council introduced himself as an observer to the meeting.
5. Police, County and Borough Council Reports
  1. Police  
PCSO Tim Leathers had met with the Chairman at the junction of Westmead Road and Brookside and his feedback had been circulated.  
Cllr Brookes asked to delay voting on his proposal for consideration of support for implementing a TRO at Wales Lane/Brookside Road junction.  
Cllr Lord proposed Cllr Brookes set out in writing the points of clarification he would like following the police feedback and submit these before the next meeting. Councillors would then consider whether to continue a line of enquiry with police.  
**Resolved** - All in favour. The Chairman felt the situation was similar at the junction of Arden Road and Efflinch Lane and it would be useful to have any stats on that junction.
  2. County Council – Nothing to report.

3. Borough Council – The Chairman attended a trial surgery with Cllr J Jones at the library which was not well attended. It was agreed to advertise on noticeboards as well as social media. Following the collision outside St James Church, communication had taken place with County, Borough and the HGV company. It was proposed to contact Argos to highlight the need to follow proper routing plans and possibly provision of better signage.  
**Resolved** - All in favour to write to Argos.

6. Committee Reports as circulated.

1. Finance

Cllr Naylor reminded Cllrs regarding budgeting costings and maintenance items due to be put forward to the Finance committee.

A minor imbalance of 0.01p in the bank reconciliation was agreed to be written off.

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

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the planning comments made including various tree applications.

We were still awaiting responses to the various letters sent to the planning manager.

**Resolved** all planning comments ratified.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Toddler Park – Cllrs received an update on progress of the toddler park works.

Fishpond Sub-Committee –

Cllrs heard of an issue with a cormorant at the pond, taking fish and damaging larger fish, affecting health of stock.

Proposal :- Fishpond Committee to approach Defra for licence to dispose of the cormorant.

Vote was split with the Chairman using a casting vote against, motion not carried.

Second proposal :- Cllrs Naylor and Walker to research advice from Angling Trust and RSPB on alternative approaches to deal with this problem. Fishpond committee to look further at guidance from Defra. **Resolved** - Majority in favour.

The Smart meter installation had not been carried out due to unsuitability of the site - in metal box.

4. Burial Ground -

Nothing to report.

5. Human Resources –

A meeting had taken place on 27 September.

Proposal : to adopt Draft Meeting Attendance Policy - **Resolved** all in favour

Proposal: to adopt draft Code of Conduct for Volunteers - **Resolved** adopted with some amendments as noted. The Code of Conduct will form part of any Risk Assessment where volunteers are involved.

Policies in general to be reviewed under a Working Party consisting of PC Chairman, HR Chairman and interested Cllrs - Cllr Brookes volunteered to participate - all policies to go through HR Committee for recommendations/ proposals.

6. Allotments -

A meeting had taken place and report submitted.

Cllr Brookes proposed to delay a decision on accepting the extended Lease to ascertain if the allotment land could be used for a burial ground. No seconder, motion not carried.

Proposal: to agree to extend the Lease, in principle, to the terms offered.

**Resolved** - All in favour.

Proposal : to approve draft Terms of Reference circulated.

**Resolved** : Allotment Terms of Reference adopted with minor amendments noted.

7. VEC –

A meeting had taken place and report submitted. Marshals are required for both Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Lights. It was agreed to promote this on the website and social media.

Christmas Lights -

Proposal: Electricity costs contribution for Shoulder of Mutton to be increased to £100; and for St James Church increase to £50.

**Resolved** all agreed to increases.

Proposal: to accept the contents of the report and arrangements contained therein.

**Resolved:** report accepted.

Chairman advised the RBL invitation extended to all Cllrs to join in with Parade, meet 10am  
John Taylor High School

7. Correspondence

Correspondence noted. The planning committee had distributed a statement regarding the Bellways 'allotment land' clarifying the situation.

8. Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Communications – Notes from the previous meeting had been circulated and were still up for discussion.
2. Speedwatch – A brief report on activities had been circulated and noted.
3. Flood Risk Group – issues still be pressed.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – no further update.
5. Quarries Liaison – meeting scheduled.
6. Bagots & Needwood Forum – notes circulated.

9. Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Harley reported on drug activity in Collinson Park.  
Cllr Harley's resignation letter was accepted at the meeting and he went on to thank Councillors for all their help and support. He would continue to offer support with local community projects. The Chairman thanked Cllr Harley for all his efforts.
2. Cllr Young reported that £5k had been raised by the Family Festival for various charities.
3. Cllr McInerney reported that ESBC are looking into feasibility on a car park EV charging station.
4. Cllr Brookes – reported the footpath between JTHS and Holland Park was overgrown.

5. Cllr Walker – CCTV – there are problems accessing and viewing footage. A decision on providing suitable equipment was deferred to a future meeting.
6. Clerk – donation of an indoor defibrillator received from Thomas Russell Junior School. It was agreed to approach the Village Hall Management Committee with a view to transferring to them for installation on the village hall premises, along with associated on costs.
7. Chairman – vermin activity, no requirement to notify insurers at this stage. Statement drafted and modifications discussed and approved.
8. Potters Way Complaint – the complainant had now declined the offer of face-to-face meeting preferring further written response. Cllrs felt we had already replied fully and that further comments were a matter of his personal opinion. Agreed to respond to reflect the above and that the matter is now closed with no further communication to be entered into.

10. Dates of Future Meetings:

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

The meeting closed at 21.30