

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5 June 2024 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)

Cllr D Lord

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr I Gilbey

Cllr C Walker

Cllr J Brookes

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 0 members of the public.

24/26 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs S Bedford, C Allcock, S Naylor, K McInerney, L Young
County Cllr Jessel and Needwood Ward Cllrs Jones, Ashcroft and Gould

Chairman reminded all Councillors to abide by Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

24/27 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation –

Cllr Walker declared an interest in her neighbour's property – Planning Application no.
P/2024/00378.

24/28 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 May 2024

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

24/29 Parishioners Forum

None present

24/30 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police – Cllr McInerney had sent in a report about 3 incidents targeting Arden Road: a break in, a stolen car and a house being marked. The police are aware. Cllr Taylor witnessed 3 people walking around filming. Reporting incidents to the police is key. Clerk to ask our PCSO for advice on how communities can support themselves, eg. Neighbourhood Watch type scheme, signing up to Smart Alert – comms to be put out including how to contact police. Cllr Sharkey offered to contact other parishes about a public meeting – PFCC and Chief Inspector to be invited.

2. County Council – Cllr Jessel had provided an update on flooding and contact with Severn Trent. It was hoped Severn Trent would attend the Needwood Forum, but this has been put back to Autumn due to the election. Cllrs felt we should pursue a site meeting with the Severn Trent contact.

There were frustrations around the Efflinch Lane potholes at the junction with Short Lane with only 1 of 3 deep holes being filled in.

A re-installed bollard near the War Memorial is sub-standard to the existing bollards. It was agreed to defer this to a future meeting - Cllr Sharkey to circulate a report prior to the meeting on concerns and possible solutions.

3. Borough Council –

Park Road Queen's Copse – Although ESBC land, it was felt the Borough are unlikely to maintain this to any standard. Cllr Jones had indicated the land could be transferred to BPC to look after

but there had been no indication of what funding would be available. Cllr Taylor to investigate cost for adding into BPC grounds maintenance contract. Options were for BPC to maintain Borough land (not favoured); acquire by transfer and thereby have control to maintain the land or ask local residents to take it on voluntarily. Comms to carry out leaflet drop in the vicinity to establish any interest in this. Issues of what liabilities BPC might be taking on in acquiring the land. Defer any decision to a future meeting. It was agreed to ask our groundsman to tidy up as a one off in the meantime. All in favour.

24/31 Public Survey / Strategy update – EGM to be called to develop strategy further following analysis of survey, include any BPC projects in future budget. Councillors to advise Clerk of available dates in August. Comms - Better Barton Live stall-holders to be approached for formal feedback on the May event for future reference.

24/32 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year 1 April 2023– 31 March 2024:

1.1.1. To note and approve the updated Summary of Assets

1.1.2. To note and approve the Explanation of Significant Variances

1.1.3. To note and approve the year end Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments account

1.1.4. To note and accept the Annual Internal Audit Report 2023-2024 (page 3 of the AGAR) and the accompanying Internal Auditors report letter;

1.1.5. To consider and approve the Council’s response to the Annual Governance Statement (page 4 of the AGAR)

1.1.6. To consider and approve the Accounting Statements (page 5 of the AGAR)

1.1.7. To note the publication of the Notice of Appointment of the Date for the Exercise of Public Rights.

1.1.8. To note and approve Monthly Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments

1.1.9. Quotes for a finance accounting package were considered and the recommendation for Quote 2 as detailed in the RFO’s report was unanimously approved.

Resolved – all finance reports reviewed and accepted.

2. Planning

Cllr Gilbey referred to the planning comments and objections as circulated.

17 Church Lane, BPC observations had been listened to about the height.

The Red Lion is in the conservation area but it is not listed. Owner to be contacted by Chair to see what the intentions are for the building and query if relevant planning permission/advice obtained.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Cllr Taylor had been appointed Chairman. Terms of Reference are unchanged as of last year.

CCTV maintenance/renewal is their priority over and above the replacement of benches. 2

new supplier quotes had been received in addition to current providers’ costs already

established, better quality night vision is preferred. It was agreed to accept Quote no. 466, vire

monies from funds reserved for benches. Clerk to arrange and check how robust the router

box would be. **Resolved** – it was agreed to spend up to a figure of £2000 on the CCTV system

with accepted supplier.

4. Burial Ground -

Tree works in adjacent Wales Lane property had been carried out successfully without incident.

5. Human Resources –

Nothing to report. Meeting to be called.

6. Allotments -
Cllr Lord referred to his circulated report accepted. Draft Lease response to be done by DL.
7. VEC –
D-Day event planned. Minutes to be circulated.
8. Communications -
Chime article – Chair requested help with drafting and input as he is away.

24/33 Correspondence

All Correspondence noted.

An older lifebuoy being is be repeatedly thrown in pond. The other newer style ones are more enclosed. Cllr Taylor to get costings for replacement with the newer style.

Cllr Sharkey referred to a resident report of a possible blocked culvert under St James Road. Upon investigating, the culvert is clear. Gravel washed out by recent high flows had formed a partial barrier which is now in the process of being cleared.

Cllr Sharkey advised a Meadow Rise resident had reported slipping on the smooth red painted section of the footpath between the Junior School and Potters Way. As the Parish Council would be at risk of a claim it was suggested a clear resin grit layer could be applied as an anti-slip measure.

Cllr Taylor to investigate.

24/34 Outstanding Action Points

List referred to.

24/35 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club – A reminder of the Fun Day on 9/6. They have recently had the Tug of War event and beer festival.
2. Speedwatch – no report.
3. Flood Risk Group – report circulated. Cllr Sharkey is trying to contact Sam Griffiths following the recent SCC Highways gully cleaning run along Main Street and Station Road. The Contractor was witnessed in an ineffectual attempt to lift a gully grid near the Meadow Rise crossing where there is a blocked gully that floods the road. Concern that the contractor is not being properly supervised and that necessary maintenance work to prevent flooding is not being done.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing to report.
5. Quarries Liaison – Meeting scheduled 16 July. The Estates manager said a firm has now been commissioned by SCC to work with the landowners to look at end land use for the Newbold site at Cllr Julia Jessel’s request. Cllr Sharkey had asked for a meeting to input into this process to promote the PC’s proposal for the establishment of a Country Park on the site.

24/36 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Taylor, fishpond – in answer to a query, if fishermen break the pond rules, their permits can be taken away. A problem had resurfaced with a drunk and disorderly fisherman. All agreed this should be reported as a police matter if any further occurrence – ASB - D&D in a public place. Cllrs are not to put themselves at risk in confronting ASB.
2. Clerk reminded all to return their completed Register of Interests. Cllr Walker asked about redacted signatures which can be allowed but addresses should be on there. Comms to agree if

Cllr contact details can be taken off the website.

24/37 Dates of Future Meetings:

2024 : 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December

Advise clerk of any holidays. Committee dates for next 6 months to be set and notified to the Clerk as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 21.19