

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1 August 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 S Naylor	Cllr C Allcock
Cllr S Bedford	Cllr J Brookes	Cllr L Young

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 1 member of the public.

24/50 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr K McInerney, Cllr Jessel

24/51 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

24/52 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 July 2024

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

24/53 Parishioners Forum

A resident commented on parking issues in Crowberry Lane. Clerk to approach Clear Streets re patrols to act as deterrent.

24/54 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police –

Cllr Sharkey had received no further contact from other parishes. The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner will be invited to a public forum in Barton and will be sent a copy of our survey results. There had been reports on social media of properties being filmed.

2. County Council –

Cllrs reminded of Members fund and Climate Change funding potentially still available to fund projects in the Parish. Some replacement trees at the fishpond may be an option following soil testing.

The next Needwood Forum to be scheduled for September/October – date TBA. Chairman had queried recent road repairs and work output during road closures. Walton Bridge - Councillors would like to see the road narrowing and speed restriction measures along Station Lane to be put in place as soon as possible.

3. Borough Council – no report received. Cllr Jones had expedited a response to Cllr McInerney's queries on EV charging sites. The absence of Cllr Gould at any meetings since elected was noted; it was agreed to obtain clarity on whether the Needwood area has been split between the 3 Councillors. Cllr Young to invite her to the Barton family festival.

24/55 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance – Cllr Naylor summarised his previously circulated minutes. Net funds currently forecasted at £37,542 to the end of the year are much lower than previous years. Monies from reserves had been put back in to community projects. For the next financial year, it was

recommended to plan expenditure close to our income levels and therefore significantly lower spend than this financial year. External funding would need to be sourced. P&OS projects discussed. A new savings account had been opened at Unity to ensure all funds protected by FSCS; thanks to Cllr Brookes for highlighting this risk. Our online accounting package will be up and running fully by next financial year.

It was proposed to adopt the Investment strategy recommended by the Finance Committee. **Resolved** all in favour. Level in bank accounts to be reviewed each quarter. It was suggested moving money from NS&I into Unity, this to form part of the next review once second half of precept received.

General Risk assessment, finance section amendments had been circulated. All members and committees urged to review remaining sections for the September meeting.

Four companies had been invited to tender for Land Drainage works at Collinson Park. It was suggested the deadline for response should be extended to 19 August. It was proposed to leave the tender period response time as 12 August. **Resolved** - Majority in favour with 3 against and one abstention.

2. Planning

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

Councillors were in favour of the narrowing along Station Lane before the Walton Bridge and speed limit.

The committee had sought clarification on the approval of the sunroom at rear of 10-12 Main Street. Naomi Perry to be chased to answer queries on this and other decisions made contrary to ESBC's own local plan. Enlist help of borough councillors. Cllr Bedford expressed an interest in coming along to the meeting with Naomi. It was proposed that if no meeting forthcoming to answer queries by end of October, then Planning Committee to draft formal complaint to Chief Executive. **Resolved** - All in favour.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

A walk-about to be arranged and price for tending to Queens Copse to be established. It was agreed to ask the BPC Groundsman to visit again for another trim. Future proposal for transfer of ownership to be considered with grounds maintenance contractor cost v. groundsman time cost.

Fishpond – photo shoot taken place for RBL bench. Installation will be early September.

Price for safety ring £388.76 – this item to be placed on hold.

NMA had offered another bench for the school to paint – possibly 2025 VE Day theme, looking for location: may replace one that was at Radhurst Rise.

4. Burial Ground - No meeting. Groundsman received request regarding allowing height of beech hedge to be raised – to be discussed more fully at next Committee meeting

5. Human Resources – Nothing to report.

6. Allotments - No formal report, meeting dates to be arranged. Response to proposed lease and minor amendments forwarded to SCC.

7. VEC – Minutes of the last meeting circulated. A road closure will be requested for VE Day from 1-9pm. Cllr Sharkey asked if VEC could provide more detail to next PC meeting on what events were being planned and what roles and responsibilities the different community organisations were taking on.

Remembrance Day – Road Closure from Efflinch Lane to Post Office. A plan to be made to

assist safety of marshals, extra signage to be sourced. Risk Assessment on Road Closures to be reviewed. 6 hi viz suits already purchased.

Volunteers sought for Christmas tree erection and marshalling on 30 November. Road closure will be requested from Efflinch Lane to Post Office, 5pm-8pm.

The Parade leader, G. Payne, is stepping down from parade duties. It was proposed to award a Certificate of Recognition inviting him to our October meeting. **Resolved** - All in favour.

8. Communications -

Minutes of the last meeting summarised.

EV Charging points – ESBC are now engaged. Crowberry Lane is a priority site which ESBC are suggesting to SCC for funding. Cllr McInerney is attempting to obtain options and costs.

Charging points are currently being put in the new car park at Barton Marina- completion due end of September

Proposal considered for amendments to sharing of councillors’ contact details – it was suggested having emails only as contact. The proposal was amended to make this optional, some Cllrs preferring to have their personal addresses and telephone numbers available.

Resolved - All in favour. It was also proposed to redact signatures from ROIs. **Resolved** - majority in favour.

Cllr Bedford to contact Barton Live contacts for feedback. Workshop date still to be arranged.

An informative guide is to be prepared on who does what and containing a guide to the planning process.

24/56 Correspondence - All Correspondence noted.

24/57 Outstanding Action Points
List referred to and updated.

24/58 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club – recent meeting date cancelled. A Fun Day is planned for 21/6/25; Representative to attend next meeting with a funding request. Cllr Sharkey enquired about status of any proposals to replace existing HSC buildings.
2. Speedwatch – no report.
3. Flood Risk Group – no report, issues continue with Severn Trent, forum now put back to October. The EA and SCC are writing to St Modwens ref. the maintenance of the ponds on the Barton Business Park Site which affects drainage of the Barton and Full Brooks. Gauge - awaiting final agreement from the EA. Supplier confirmed quote still stands subject to possible adjustment following site visit. Land ownership around the site has been confirmed.
4. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing to report.
5. Quarries Liaison – Cllr Sharkey advised existing quarry running down last 2 years of processing. Northern extension still not determined. Cllr Jessel supports final land use as country park. Wildlife Trust may take over the management. Next meeting due next Spring.

24/59 Councillors & Clerk Reports - No reports.

24/60 Dates of Future Meetings:
2024 : 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December

The meeting closed at 21.12