

# MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5 September 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 K McNerney	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr J Brookes	Cllr C Allcock	Cllr L Lucas (joined following item 24/64)

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 1 member of the public (item 24/64).

24/61 Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies  
Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs S Naylor, L Young, J Jessell, J Jones, B George, V Gould

24/62 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

24/63 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 August 2024  
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

24/64 Co-option of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy and appointment to committees.  
A previously circulated application from Lucy Lucas was considered and the applicant was given an opportunity to speak in support. Lucy spoke of bringing a fresh perspective along with extensive experience in fundraising, marketing, communications and an interest in nature and environment matters. She clarified that she has experience of local authority governance in her work with Asthma UK and Diabetes UK.  
Following a vote, where the applicant briefly vacated the room, it was resolved that Lucy Lucas was duly appointed to the Parish Council and Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed. Committees - it was agreed to co-opt Cllr Lucas on to the VEC, Comms, HR Committees & Policy Working Group and for her to visit and observe other committee meetings as part of her induction process.

24/65 Parishioners Forum  
None present.

24/66 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – No report received Vehicle thefts continue to be a concern.
2. County Council – Forum arranged for 2 October.
3. Borough Council – no report received

24/67 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance –  
Finance reports as circulated were accepted. Cllrs noted the successfully audited AGAR and this together with the Notice of Conclusion to be published.  
The electricity supply contract for the fishpond pump needs further investigation and the Fishpond committee to consider and agree provider.
2. Planning  
Cllr Gilbey referred to the planning comments and objections as circulated.  
Objections consistent with previous comments were submitted for the building to the South of Needwood Rise Farm, 91 Main Street and the Waterfront orangery.

Parking concerns were raised at 60/60a Main Street.  
Barton Turns Marina – the design of the motel units was not in keeping with Barton setting.

We had again written to the Planning Manager referring to previous pleas for consistent application of ESBC policies, especially within the Conservation Area and had asked her to respond to our queries. She had also been invited to a planning meeting.

Bellways Development - Cllr Lord updated that although a flood maintenance works programme had been confirmed and it is still awaiting adoption of agreement to these commitments from ESBC.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Committee Report referred to.

Land Drainage - The Committee recommended acceptance of tender 2. Cllr Lord to project manage. The Finance Committee had agreed with this proposal following review of the budget and agreed virement of P&OS funds from other P&OS projects. Playdale had advised some equipment needs attention but P&OS running budget should cover this.

Cllr Brookes raised concerns that he had very little time to read the paperwork for this significant spend on land drainage. He asked if the decision could be made at the October meeting. Work was paramount to be scheduled in and completed at speed as the project is dry weather dependent. Cllr Lord summarised that all funds are from P&OS budgeted funds, the tender procedure had been correctly evaluated. The project has been known about for some 5 years but it has been difficult to find a contractor. P&OS have prioritised this project over other items which will go into next year's budget. Funding may also be available for the benches.

**Resolved** by a majority in favour, one abstention - Tender 2 to be accepted and Cllr Lord to project manage.

Fishpond – infrastructure document prepared by Cllr Brookes. Cllr Taylor suggested a walkaround with Cllr Brookes to discuss in detail.

Park Road ESBC Copse – our grounds maintenance contractor had provided costs of adding the copse into their visits should the land be transferred to the Parish Council. Cllr Taylor felt it was better to ask our gardener to strim as and when required until the ownership status of the land had been established and a formal decision could be made.

4. Burial Ground -

Meeting to be scheduled when required.

5. Human Resources –

Meeting to be scheduled.

Policy Working Group Meeting to be scheduled.

6. Allotments -

Committee Report referred to as circulated. Terms of Reference was recommended to be amended to allow delegated authority to the committee to send warning letters. Termination letters would still need to be agreed by full council. The ToR was also amended to state the committee would meet 4 times per year. **Resolved** - All in favour.

Following amendments it was **resolved** to accept the Staffordshire County Council Lease.

7. VEC –  
Cllr Taylor will attend a scheduled RBL meeting for the final arrangements for Remembrance events. A VEC meeting will follow. The village Christmas Tree is arriving on 23 November, with lights switch on 30 November. Cllr McInerney offered to look at repairs to the star.
8. Communications -  
Meeting to be scheduled. Cllr Bedford noted that the Village Hall Management Committee had asked for help with advertising facilities on our website.  
Topics to include in the next Chime were suggested: the RBL Bench will be installed Friday at 11am; Barton Brook Working Parties are suggested for the end of October/early November; a Strategy Workshop will be held to prioritise issues and relay information; notice of the land drainage project and necessity to close the park.

24/68 Correspondence  
All Correspondence noted.

24/69 Outstanding Action Points  
List referred to and updated.

24/70 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club –an item of commercial sensitivity was deferred to the end of the meeting.
2. Flood Risk Group – all agreed to the proposal to sign the Flood Warning Service agreement. Statement to go on website. Dates for the Barton Brook Working Party were towards the end October early November. It was agreed to pay a contractor to the value of £300 to remove arisings. All in favour.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing new to report.
4. Quarries Liaison – application for northern extension of Newbold Quarry will likely be passed.

24/71 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Lord is assisting with the Holland Sport Club flood water control design. A survey will be done on 18/9. Ward councillors have been helpful in liaising with planners. It was hoped the project will project HSC land along with the buildings. Tim Bowen is looking into funding. Cllr Lord declared an interest as he was offering professional advice to HSC.
2. National Memorial Arboretum had offered a second bench to the RBL to site within the village. Junior school to paint. It was agreed Barton Parish Council would pay £50 transportation costs to D. Boulter - all agreed.
3. Cllr Allcock reminded councillors of John Jays funeral arrangements.
4. Cllr McInerney to provide a report on investigations into EV charging points.
5. Cllr Lucas, thanks to all for warm welcome. Police incident on Station Road – car stolen. Cllrs were asked to think about a wish list for any items requiring fund-raising.

24/72 Dates of Future Meetings:  
2024 : 3 October, 7 November, 5 December; 2025: 9 January, 6 February, 6 March

24/73 There followed a closed in camera session on a Holland Sports Club matter.

The meeting closed at 21.25