

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

3 October 2024 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord	Cllr J Taylor
Cllr K McNerney	Cllr S Bedford	Cllr J Brookes
Cllr C Allcock	Cllr L Lucas	Cllr L Young

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 4 members of the public (to item 24/77)

24/74 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs S Naylor, I Gilbey, V Gould, J Jones

24/75 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

24/76 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 September 2024

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

24/77 Presentation of Certificate of Recognition

Gordon Payne was awarded a Certificate in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Parade Leader for the Barton Branch of the Royal British Legion. Gordon thanked the Parish Council for the award and RBL colleagues for their nomination- some lovely memories and stories were regaled.

24/78 Parishioners Forum - None present.

24/79 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – No report received. There had been a PCSO presence at the Village Hall Macmillan Coffee morning. Resources remain difficult. It was agreed Chairman to provide feedback to SPCA questionnaire on policing.
2. County Council – The Chairman had circulated his own notes from the Needwood Forum of 2 October. Severn Trent were present and have promised to attend future Barton Flood Risk Liaison Group meetings once more. Richard Rayson updated on the Branston Railway bridge which is irreparable and will need replacing. A temporary structure will be constructed, single carriageway, but a permanent replacement will be many years away.
War Memorial bollards – SCC had indicated their preference to replace timber with metal. It was pressed that HGVs need to be discouraged from coming through the village as no type of bollard will prevent further damage or accidents. Lack of signage is a problem. Haulage companies have not been approached by SCC for compensation to damage bollards due to insurance issues.
The B5017 at Shobnall is proposed to be declassified to a C road so that a weight limit can be introduced. This will almost certainly push more traffic through to Barton.
Priority gullies had been provided to SCC last year but those areas have not all been sorted. Cllr Lord reported no further progress from Chris Archer on flooding issue on Efflinch Lane. It was agreed Chairman to write highlighting our concerns formally and asking for a meeting with our County Councillor and Richard Rayson.

3. Borough Council – no report received
Cllr J Jones had attended the SCC Needwood forum and has been supportive on flooding issues.

24/80 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance –
Finance reports as circulated were accepted. Up to £350 already been allocated in the P&OS budget for Autumn planting will be spent this month.
2. Planning
Planning comments and objections were reviewed as circulated.
Two Pigs – a review prepared by Cllr Gilbey showed the alteration to licencing hours is not out of line with other premises. The planning application involved an extractor vent for the kitchen and it was agreed to ask the licensee directly the intended hours for kitchen use. **Resolved** All in favour of Chairman contacting the licensee. The premises is still classed as a pub with food offering so no change of use. Chairman will also check licensed live music hours and recorded music hours.
3. Parks & Open Spaces
Land Drainage - A Pre-start meeting had taken place with notes issued setting out agreement. Approximately 2 weeks work for the project is scheduled to commence 21 October. Weather is being monitored and ground depth dry. If the job should need to be deferred to drier weather, we may have to pay for materials purchased. Communications required in advance of the work starting.
Fishpond – the aerator is damaged. Replacement parts have been ordered, circa £200. Water has been tested and monitored by the Environment Agency and no problems apparent. The cause of the death of some 21 carp is currently unknown. The pump from the brook has malfunctioned and this is being investigated. Finance to review this unplanned expenditure as appropriate. The Fishpond has been closed. Any major electrical repair would be done by a certified contractor. Cllrs recalled that fish had been introduced to the pond illegally from someone’s garden some time ago, which might be a pathway for disease affecting the pond stock. The Website page needs reviewing to give an update on the situation.
4. Burial Ground -
Meeting to be scheduled. Cllr Allcock offered to Chair the committee. The enhancement of the memorial garden is being looked at. There was still an outstanding issue with WaterPlus charges still unresolved. It was resolved to write to the CEO of Severn Trent, copying in our MP.
5. Human Resources –
Circulated Minutes Referred to – Cllr Bedford had been appointed Chair.
General Risk Assessment – this had been reviewed and was now adopted, with a majority in favour, one abstention.
Policy Working Group Notes referred to as circulated and now accepted. A priorities list had been updated with items in red to be worked on first. It was requested that the link to the Dropbox folder containing policies to be shared to all. This would be organised into sub-folders by committee. GAP analysis to be picked up in next meeting.
6. Allotments -

No report. The amended County Council Lease had been forwarded for signature and all agreed could now be signed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

7. VEC –

Cllr Taylor had circulated Minutes of 2 October. New advance warning road closure signs have been ordered. Parade route will be as usual this year but a reduced route is under discussion by the RBL going forward. Cllr McInerney is working on a risk assessment for the event.

8. Communications -

Strategy Workshop notes referred to. An Action Plan is being developed.

The Housing Needs Survey is to be developed over the next two years to feed into ESBC's Local Plan.

Cllr Bedford outlined the circulated Communication Minutes.

Cllr Lucas had attended a recent WI event and had also been researching clubs and societies updating contact details.

Chime article – input required from Cllrs by 4 October.

Shop fronts to be encouraged to decorate over the festive period. The mini tree holder mounts would need to be safety checked if there were to be used again.

24/81 Correspondence - All Correspondence noted.

24/82 Outstanding Action Points
List referred to and updated.

24/83 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Solicitors instructed.
2. Flood Risk Group – A Barton Brook Working Party is set for 19 October (water level dependent) or 26 October as a back-up date - communications to go on website along with letter to riparian owners.
Cllr Lord to attend site meeting for the gauge scheduled mid-October.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – The chicane on Station Lane is to be installed as soon as possible.
4. Quarries Liaison – nothing to report.

24/84 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Brookes noticed that vegetation from the uncut hedge was over hanging the road to Tatenhill (possibly adjacent Dunstall Hall land). This was noted as being in Dunstall Parish but should be reported to SCC to make the highway safe. Collapsed gates on the Radhurst belonging to Dunstall Estate also needed reporting.
2. Cllr Young reported that £5,500 had been raised by the Teddy Festival, funds going to the Pathway Project and St James Church. The tea tent had raised a record amount. A letter of thanks had been sent to the Parish Council for their support.
3. Cllr Lucas had investigated fundraising through Severn Trent which included labour from them – however they were looking for a legacy project so criteria was not met.

24/85 Dates of Future Meetings:

2024 : 7 November, 5 December; 2025: 9 January, 6 February, 6 March
An informal Christmas gathering was suggested for 12 or 19 December.

The meeting closed at 21.21