

# DRAFT MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9 January 2024 – 7.00 pm, Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

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

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 28 members of the public

- 25/01 Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies  
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs I Gilbey, B Ashcroft, V Gould, J Jessel.
- 25/02 There were no applications for Co-option to be considered.
- 25/03 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.
- 25/04 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 December 2024  
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 25/05 Parishioners Forum –  
Members of Kids Village gave an update on the progress of the project. The Chairman, CEO and Fundraiser had all been appointed. Phase 1 begun with discharged of conditions, a 19-space carpark will be built along with a base for management accommodation lodge and an operational base to be completed by the end of January. The first visitor lodge will then follow. An access road from Dogshead Lane to Wychnor Lane will be built in 2026 before the site is open. Construction traffic to be directed through Blakenhall farm. There will be a total of 10 units (4 bed bungalows) to accommodate free holidays for critically ill children.

Bar Lane/The Green residents were in attendance and highlighted their concerns about traffic incidents. CCTV images had identified issues. The volume and variation of traffic has increased at the junction with Dogshead Lane. However, maintenance of road verges, ditches and drains have declined. There are no passing places and vehicles mount verges to avoid each other. This has resulted in the ditches become even more blocked. Vehicles do not reduce their speed following exit from A38 and signage is ignored. There has been damage to properties and cars have been damaged or written off. Road repairs have only been temporary. Surface water freezes causing a skid path.

Residents would like to see traffic calming on Dogshead/Bar Lane. A grit bin is needed. Drains and verges need repair and regular cleaning. Emails and reports have been logged. Inspection of the drains revealed a broken section underground, but cameras will identify further detail. The drain by the pond is solidly blocked. Blakenhall Farm have offered to assist, such as installing a grip in the verge on Dogshead to take surface water onto their land. There is a drainage pipe on the opposite side by the stile which needs clearing. The culvert is blocked and Mercers will rod it. They are in communication with the owners of Ashton House Farm. The residents are all proud of their locality and asked for support from Councillors to assist them in resolving the issues. The formation of an Action Group was suggested to promote core communication with County and to

find strategies, meeting to be arranged. BPC have asked for a grit box. Cllr Lord confirmed BPC have been working with the highway authority to campaign for maintenance but the resources are too limited to allow maintenance at previous standards. Residents were encouraged to keep bombarding SCC to raise the profile of the area and force them to investigate fully and take action. A site meeting between SCC and the Action Group would be beneficial.

25/06 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – No report received.
2. County Council – Devolution of power and unitary authorities was referred to and the May elections may be deferred. Housebuilding in the Midlands and East Staffs is over and above their targets. Efflinch Lane – crews have been out clearing drains and Cllr Lord is trying to confirm what works had been completed.
3. Borough Council – No report received.

25/07 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance  
Cllr Naylor referred to the final budget proposal figures and precept request which keeps our parish rate frozen. Figures were summarised. Reserves were itemised. **Resolved** All in favour of the final 25-26 budget and precept request as presented.  
Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and accepted. Cllr Taylor suggested a small token be gifted to Vernon for his help with the Christmas tree erection. Chairman to establish what he might like.
2. Planning  
Detailed Planning comments and objections were reviewed as circulated. The Holland Sports Club application has been validated by ESBC. The Monitoring Officer had advised it may be a conflict of interest for us to provide consultee comments and suggested a statement incorporated into the application. It was therefore **resolved** that no consultee comments will be made but any residents comments can be noted. Regular meeting dates with HSC should be set up.
3. Parks & Open Spaces  
Meeting to be scheduled. We are awaiting a date for Collinson Park land drainage works to be made good and final figures of monies due.
4. Burial Ground - Meeting to be scheduled.
5. Human Resources  
Cllr Bedford referred to the circulated Minutes and roles and actions recommended. An appraisal policy had been circulated and was now **resolved** to be adopted.
6. Allotments  
It was reported that the lock had again been taken. The renewed Lease needs to be registered at the Land Registry.
7. VEC  
Christmas events had gone well, thanks to everyone involved. Arrangements for the VE Celebration were now well under way and will be briefed in more detail at the next meeting

8. Communications

A meeting is to be scheduled to go through outstanding actions. The Strategy Action plan is being completed. Dates for the public meeting with Ben Adams would likely be 19 or 20 March. Cllr Sharkey to draft the Chime article.

25/08 Correspondence - All Correspondence noted.

Cllrs Lord and Sharkey to assess the car park trip hazard reported by the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillors were supportive of residents on Bar Lane and keen to assist with their plight.

Chairman to contact residents to outline what the next steps should be i.e. formation of a focus group, site meeting and strategy.

The Environment Agency are trying to establish the correct personnel to contact at St Modwens regarding their responsibilities for flood alleviation.

25/09 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

EV charging points – an NDA agreement was discussed as the company could not quote without it; Cllrs felt it was inappropriate. Cllr McNerney will continue to pursue. He is still progressing enquiries with the Co-op. County policy has changed to a focus on grant support for provision for on-street parking rather than off-street parking.

25/10 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Monthly meeting dates need to be arranged, mid-month.
2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord is chasing up what alleviation works have been carried out in Effinch Lane. The gauge is likely to be installed in February subject to EA approval. Monday's flooding was largely at Barton Turn and HSC due to the volume of flow in the Barton Brook rather than the canal culvert inlet being blocked. A culvert at the west end of Bar Lane has been replaced. Dogshead Lane issues to be resolved. Knoll Brook - some flooding from the fields but no properties affected. A meeting is to be arranged with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – SDDC have missed an approval which may jeopardise commencement of works.
4. Quarries Liaison – residents are querying the landscape restoration; Cllr Sharkey to raise with AI Estates Manager and response made to resident via the PC office.

25/11 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr McNerney reported that the WI are arranging a leaflet drop mapping out where all defibrillator units are in the village. 10 had been identified, some are not registered.
2. Cllr Lucas indicated she can attend the Breakthrough course on recruiting councillors. She also noted the communication about free tree packs. Cllr Taylor to apply for these. All those on the Contacts list are to be approached this month for permission to include on publicly accessible Parish Contacts List.
3. Clerk to confirm with groundsman that the Remembrance Wreaths can now be removed.

25/12 Dates of Future Meetings 2025 :

6 February, 6 March, 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December. Annual Parish Meeting to be arranged.

All members present agreed the meeting had been conducted in accordance with Standing Orders and Code of Conduct with no issues raised. Meeting closed at 21.17