

# DRAFT MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



6 February 2025 – 7.00 pm

Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)

Cllr D Lord

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr C Allcock

Cllr S Bedford

Cllr I Gilbey

Cllr L Lucas

Cllr C Wallace (appointed item 25/14)

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 2 members of the public

## 25/13 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs S Naylor, L Young and K McInerney, J Jessel, B George

25/14 Co-option. An application had been circulated and the applicant introduced himself. Having no particular agenda, he indicated a willingness to get involved, grow and improve upon what we have in a positive way. The applicant stepped out of the room whilst opinions were taken around the table. It was **resolved** unanimously to appoint Charles Wallace to the vacant Councillor position and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. An induction would take place. The Chairman proposed and it was **resolved** that Cllr Wallace be appointed to the Finance Committee given his experience in this field.

25/15 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

## 25/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9 January 2025

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

## 25/17 Parishioners Forum –

2 Members of the Bar Lane Action Group (BLAG) were present. They reported that BLAG had received great support from Cllr Allcock and Sharkey. The group, consisting of 30 residents, aims to improve traffic issues and safety for pedestrians and property at their location. The group has bought a salt bin to install and use as and when needed. Road Safety Audit – they have seen the Community Speedwatch figures for 2024. They are interested in comparison of stats before and after the traffic calming at other locations to support their request for traffic calming at Bar Lane. The County Councillor may have figures of the video surveillance at the ghost island. Cllr Lord offered that County will focus on high incident/accident rates. Residents will try to attend the Community Speedwatch library event. CCTV survey shows drains are misaligned. Signage needs improving and they have suggested an anti-skid surface, along with bollards in front of the wall and replacement of the kerb. It was stressed that reporting of issues was key as well as involving the local MP and media if necessary. 17 vehicles had lost control on 2 January, 3 of which ran into the wall. A resident had carried out their own survey on 17 January and recorded 1000 vehicles in 6 hours. They will submit a statement to present to Highways and hoping for an on-site visit to discuss the issues and suggestions. Cllr Lord advised that drain defects and replacement surfaces will take time, but suggested prioritising getting the grit bin in place. BPC will chase up drain inspection and results. If drainage is resolved, there may not be a need for an anti-skid surface.

Our County Councillor has actively been taking up the issues with various departments. The residents left the meeting.

25/18 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – **No report received.**
2. County Council – A report previously circulated was referred to. Cllr Lord confirmed his availability to attend the Needwood Forum. Cllr Lord is still awaiting detail on Efflinch Lane works and it was reported County Highways have revisited the area this week. A tracker of Highways agreed actions following defects reports will be made available to the PC before our current County Cllr's retirement.
3. Borough Council – No report received. We still await a response from the Planning Officer on a meeting which had been requested. Planning Committee to chase up Naomi Perry, copying in our Ward Cllrs and Chief Executive and asking who can deal with our queries if Naomi is not the appropriate person.

25/19 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance  
Meeting scheduled for Monday evening.  
Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and resolved to be accepted.
2. Planning  
Detailed Planning comments and objections were reviewed as circulated.  
Barton Marina holiday lodges, a lengthy response is still being put together. Residents have been consulted as part of the National Forest. Concerns were raised at the loss of the woodland and we would expect appropriate replacement planting. A resident had reported that some coppicing had already been done.
3. Parks & Open Spaces  
Meeting notes had been circulated. Cllr Taylor advised that the land drainage contractor had submitted his final costs. Ground conditions still not ready to work on but are being monitored. Cllr Lord to check the final figures which would not be paid in full until all works completed. Residents had been querying what the delay is on social media. A statement is needed. It was confirmed that the site had been fully assessed to be safe. Some undercutting at the brook edge could be deemed to be a minimal risk. This will be trimmed back to a slope. Orange mesh was suggested for any problem areas to be discussed further outside of this meeting. Comms to be drafted in liaison with Cllr Lord.  
New benches - costings across 3 sites were referred to. Cllr Taylor is awaiting firm quotations. It was confirmed this project would need funding from the B&D Key Trust in the region of £9k.  
A build-up of reserves for Collinson Park equipment fund was referred to. The Annual report has not indicated deterioration.  
St James Garden – Cllr Allcock indicated that the Gardening Guild would like to reinstate landscaping at St James' Garden. It was proposed to support the initiative in principle, with the Gardening Guild to present detailed plans to a future meeting for further consideration. Amendments made to the Terms of Reference for Parks & Open Spaces and the Fishpond sub-committee were now ratified.

4. Burial Ground – Cllr Chris Allcock was appointed Chairman and a Committee meeting will be scheduled to ratify this decision.
5. Human Resources  
Cllr Bedford referred to the circulated Minutes and highlighted the following:  
VEC committee to take on board Martyn’s Law anti-terrorism checklist for events with over 250 people present. VE Day is being organised by RBL in conjunction with St James and BPC so the checklist needs to be done. Policies recommended to be adopted:  
Complaints Policy & Vexatious Complaints: **resolved** all agreed to adoption  
Disciplinary Policy: **resolved** all agreed to adoption  
Grievance Policy: **resolved** all agreed to adoption  
Dignity at Work Policy: **resolved** all agreed to adoption  
Civility & Respect Pledge & Protocol: **resolved** all agreed to adoption and sign up to the Pledge; - majority agreed for training to be arranged despite being met with some disinclination from 2 members.  
The GDPR Gap analysis check list had been prioritised for action.
6. Allotments  
Cllr Lord had circulated a brief report. Access by non-plot holders will be looked at further.
7. VEC  
VE Day Celebration – pictures of vehicles attending and examples of weekly rations were on display. The RBL had requested Comms to organise a letter drop those affected by the road closure. Comms to draft wording. BPC’s insurance is to cover the event and therefore any risk assessment needs to be signed off by BPC. Cllr Lucas suggested a HR member be present at their next meeting. RBL are funding printing.
8. Communications  
Meeting minutes were referred to. The strategy document had been circulated with no more substantial changes received. It was proposed this is launched following minor tweaks. Document to be published on the website and a link on social media, display in foyer and sports club; expressly ask for volunteers to come forward. All were in favour of publishing.  
Police Forum details had been circulated to other Needwood & Bagots parishes.  
Contact List – digital version: GDPR consent has been slow to return.  
Website – this had been reviewed.

25/20 Correspondence - All Correspondence detailed and noted.

25/21 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/22 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, it was resolved that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from this item of the meeting and the item was moved to the end of the meeting for this purpose.
2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord referred to his circulated report. St Modwens have been written to. The flood gauge is awaiting a permit from the EA.

3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – Cllr Jessel had provided an update on the bridge. They are waiting for the developers to put money into an escrow account. Walton side works will be done first. Chairman had suggested that BPC continue to attend a local forum with the Developer, Contractor, and Walton PC to discuss any ongoing issues; Cllr Lord would be happy to represent BPC.
4. Quarries Liaison – next meeting scheduled in May. Cllr Jessel still wants to be involved in the development plans for the Newbold site after her retirement.

#### 25/23 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Lucas mentioned the Covid 19 day of reflection 9 March. Cllrs were not aware of anything planned in the village.

Deferred closed session now took place, separately minuted.

#### 25/24 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 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.

Meeting closed at 21.38