

# DRAFT MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



6 March 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
Cllr S Naylor	Cllr K McInerney		

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; Cllr B George, 4 members of the public

## 25/25 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs L Young, J Jessel and J Jones.

## 25/26 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – For transparency purposes, the Clerk declared an interest in the planning application P/2025/00019 - a neighbouring property.

## 25/27 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 February 2025

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

## 25/28 Parishioners Forum –

A resident of Lichfield Road expressed thanks to Cllr Lord for assistance in working towards flood resilience measures at his property. Flood Consultants would be attending to see what protection options would be suitable.

The RBL Secretary outlined further details of the plans for VE Day.

4<sup>th</sup> May Event - The order of the day would be:

1pm-5pm - majority free Family Entertainment;

5.30-6.30pm - outdoor ecumenical Church service;

7-9pm - Prom in Churchyard with live band.

Local businesses are getting involved; there would be a display of artefacts in St James Church; All encouraged to dress up in 1940 style.

The risk assessment prepared can be updated to ensure PL insurance compliance.

Road closures from 1pm-9pm; Draft comms had been prepared for the houses affected by the road closure.

A professional first aid company to be present from 12.30pm-5pm, then church team members would be covering first aid.

A banner from the Coronation event would be re-cycled. Marshalls needed.

Weather contingencies: events would be moved to Barton Village Hall, St James church and the church hall. Clerk to arrange red bins from ESBC.

Volunteers to be briefed on lost children and reporting of any suspicions in line with– SCAN (covering Martyn's Law). Further comms needed for the day - social media posts had been created for the run-up to the event with QR codes to the main flyer. Bunting is being worked on and flags will be provided. Clerk to notify neighbouring parishes of Dunstall, Tatenhill & Rangemore, advising of the road closure and advising parishioners welcome to attend.

8 May: Wreath laying at the war memorial to take place at 9pm; Beacon to be lit at 9.30pm followed by the Proclamation and 'Vow to Thee My Country' song.  
Two members of the public left the meeting.

25/29 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – No report received.
2. County Council – notes from the Needwood Forum were expected.  
Cllr Lord and Cllr McInerney attended and updated on the Government reorganisation plans. Staffordshire County Council were not in favour of a single unitary authority. Populations are a factor. Stoke on Trent had indicated a preference to be a separate strategic authority and want to include Staffs Moorlands to ensure the required population criteria is met. For the remainder of the county, SCC have expressed no great desire to remove Borough and District tiers. Potentially Parish Councils would be asked to take on more responsibilities, such as parks and open spaces; some parishes will be unwilling and some areas have no parish council formed.  
It was clarified that we have had no Severn Trent representatives appointed for the Flood Risk forum – Cllr Jessel to chase Joel Hancock for a name. Attendance at the upcoming Police forum was encouraged.  
Cllr Sharkey relayed other brief updates he had received from Cllr Jessel on Branston Bridge and Walton By-pass.  
Cllr Jessel's retirement was referred to. Cllr Sharkey initiated a discussion around recognition of this; however, no resolution was reached.
3. Borough Council – Cllr George advised a briefing was due regarding devolution proposals for Staffordshire. She relayed some concerns at the Borough about a North/South divide for the County and boundaries may alter due to population requirements for Strategic and Unitary Authorities. There would be no public consultation and central government were suggesting monetary savings could be made. However, Cllr George felt that any savings would be swallowed up by redundancy payments.  
ESBC's delivery of housing is ahead of targets so there is currently no pressure to allocate housing developments. New housing is concentrated in Burton and Uttoxeter. A copy of the recent housing report will be passed to BPC.

25/30 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance
  1. Minutes of the committee meeting were referred to and accepted. Q4 budget had been reviewed showing a modest surplus predicted for the year end. Earmarked Reserves were carefully considered and the revised list totals £67,240 to be carried forward. Crowberry Lane car park re-surfacing will need to be requested. Collinson Park project drainage costs and expenditure for the fishpond had been reviewed. The Terms of Reference wording has been altered regarding financial risks. The accounting package trial was discussed and it was agreed to revert back to Excel with some revamping of spreadsheets required and that outside expert advice on that could be taken if necessary. Cllr Wallace had been appointed to the committee.
  2. Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and resolved to be accepted.
  3. In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, it was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of a council procedures item due to the confidential nature of the business. The item was moved to the end of the meeting for this purpose.

## 2. Planning

Detailed Planning comments and objections were reviewed as circulated.

A lengthy report on Barton Marina lodges had been submitted. Reasons for our objections were around the proximity to the sewerage plant, flooding issues. The supporting documents did not show evidence that the development was needed nor evidence provided to support the potential for new jobs, attracting visitors and increasing the local economy. The development is also outside settlement boundary. Following a lengthy discussion, Cllrs Naylor and Bedford asked for a greater understanding on how planning decisions are reached by the committee - Cllr Lord suggested putting this on Agenda for next meeting.

The full report would be circulated to full council. The consultation date had been extended due to some local residents not receiving the required notice. Due to the number of local objections, Cllr Jones has asked for it to be called in to the Planning Committee.

Charcon Concrete is part of the operations at Newbold Quarry – tree works have a 14 day consultation period.

Holland Sports Club had updated their application to include changes to internal detail and we will repeat our former 'no comments' stance due to BPC interest in the site.

## 3. Parks & Open Spaces

No meeting, to be scheduled.

Collinson Park – Cllr Lord and the contractors are monitoring ground conditions.

Restoration should commence at the weekend with remaining works to take just over a week. The ground will be rolled and compacted in time for our grounds maintenance contractor to commence grass cutting in April.

Grounds maintenance contractor had been reminded to ensure cut grass is blown off the toddler park as this will damage safety surfaces if allowed to accumulate. Fishpond pegs also to be kept clear of grass cuttings.

Landscape contractor has suggested not all winters tasks are able to be carried out in the given hours for winter work. Cllr Taylor has asked the contractor to let the clerk know what else needs doing.

Smart Gates – they are ready to be installed and a meeting will be arranged to discuss further. Information on the manufacturer and type of gate to be forwarded to Cllr Taylor, the specification was for ones similar to those at HSC Toddlers Play Area.

Fishpond – The new noticeboard installation will be completed tomorrow.

The Clerk had received a Land Access Request from an environmental company asking to view the site to see if suitable environment for the great crested newt. If suitable, request would be made for additional surveys. All agreed access to be granted.

Local fishermen are prepared to dispose of the old island and will tidy up fishing pegs, this will be voluntary work.

## 4. Burial Ground – Cllr Allcock referred to the Committee minutes circulated and now

accepted. A plan for the Gardening Guild to tackle the Memorial Garden will be brought to a future meeting. Plaque costs for the wall will increase by 5% from 1 April. Budget and reserved amount to be retained. The Terms of Reference were revised.

Dog fouling has not been raised as an issue again. PSPO orders to be reconfirmed with the Burial Ground included.

## 5. Human Resources

Cllr Bedford referred to the circulated Minutes and proposals with the following

Policies/procedures recommended to be adopted:

Equality & Diversity: **resolved** all agreed to adoption

Record Retention and Disposal with Appendix: **resolved** all agreed to adoption Annual Policy Acceptance form: **resolved** procedural form adopted.

VE Day Risk Assessment to be reviewed in more detail and will be passed to our insurers for final review.

6. Allotments

Cllr Lord reported on a complaint about bonfires. This had been investigated and no particular evidence of a problem found. Clear guidance is displayed on the noticeboard and the permission process needs reviewing.

7. VEC

VE Day Celebration update received. Next meeting to be scheduled.

8. Communications

Meeting minutes were referred to.

Police Forum: flyers were presented which will go out with Local Links. The notice will be going into the John Taylor newsletter and our County Councillor is promoting within the Needwood parishes. Cllr George to receive a digital copy for Borough communications.

Comms also circulated to the NFU as rural crime is an issue. Cllrs Sharkey, Muclnerney and Wallace to visit JTHS to check venue against risk assessment and review PA/IT equipment requirements.

Strategy Action Plan to be launched. This will be brought to the Annual Open meeting.

Cllrs were asked for any input into the Chime.

25/31 Correspondence - All Correspondence detailed and noted.

1. A review of Public Space Protection Orders was underway and locations had been circulated – Cllr Naylor had questioned why public money is spent on the enforcement of the PSPO at Barton Marina which is private land. Resident complaints had been received about dogs off leads and it was therefore felt a PSPO is justified as there are Public Rights Of Way through the site and 3 wooded areas having open access to the public.
2. JTHS awards evening – Cllrs felt there should be an award in the name of Barton Parish Council. Cllr Sharkey to take up with Mr Blanchenot. Cllrs Allcock and McInerney were available to attend the presentation evening.
3. Complaint received about missing lock at the fishpond – the original lock had been replaced with a combination lock and Cllr Taylor needed to turn the aerator on to safeguard fish health. Cllr Sharkey expressed surprise that there would have any issue with oxygen levels at this time of year. Following a brief discussion, it was **resolved** by a majority to reimburse the cost of lock.
4. Canal Towpath improvements, Cllrs McInerney and Lord agreed to make contact with Adrian Wedgwood to offer support to this project.

25/32 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/33 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 reported that our MP has become involved in the situation with St Modwens and background information has been supplied. Environment Agency to copy him in with their letter. The Gauge installation is progressing.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing further to report.
4. Quarries Liaison – next meeting scheduled in May.

#### 25/34 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Naylor asked if it would be possible to spruce up the war memorial in advance of VE Day – he was informed that we had been advised in the past not to clean it without specialist advice as the stone can be easily damaged by chemicals or aggressive brushing. It had been treated by a specialist company some years ago.
2. Cllr Wallace had managed to acquire coir rolls free of charge for the duck raft island - 2 x 3m lengths, pre-planted, they should be available next week.

Deferred closed session for item 25/30.1.3 & 25/33.1 now took place, separately minuted.

#### 25/35 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December. Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 1 May 2025 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.46