

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



3 April 2025 – 7.00 pm

Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr J Taylor	Cllr S Naylor
Cllr S Bedford	Cllr I Gilbey	Cllr C Wallace

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; Cllr J Jones; PCSO Dominika Siwek; 1 member of the public

25/36 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs L Young; K McInerney; C Allcock; D Lord; J Jessel; B George; V Gould. Following the resignation received from Lucy Lucas, our Borough Council had advertised the vacancy, thanks were expressed to Lucy for all her work on the PC's behalf.

25/37 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/38 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 March 2025

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

25/39 Parishioners Forum –

A resident member of Bar Lane Action Group (BLAG) gave an update. A problem statement setting out all the issues and objectives had been sent to Highways and Julia Jessel (JJ):

Proposals include: Provision of a new Grit bin; road safety audit; improve drainage, lines, signage; anti-skid surface and traffic calming measures. A positive site meeting with JJ and Highways had resulted in new lines being painted. The anti-slip surface dressing had been discounted as it wears off so quickly. Further drains inspections were needed. A traffic survey did not catch any speeders.

The group would like a Speed Indication Device (SID) installed and for the Parish Council to consider funding. They have researched cost at circa £3k with batteries. Solar-powered is an extra £700 per panel. There would also be the cost of installing posts plus licence to dig. Mobile re-locatable SIDs are preferred. It was queried if the equipment may be eligible for WEP Community funding – Cllr Jones felt it would be more likely if they were having a solar panel SID. Tatenhill and Kings Bromley have had one recently and it would be worth asking them about costs and effectiveness. Details to be looked at and researched further to be brought to a future meeting. BLAG to approach Ward Cllrs for funding. PCSO Siwek confirmed that data can be fed directly to the police on the more sophisticated models.

25/40 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – Our PCSO Dominika Siwek was welcomed. Residents had approached her about traffic congestion with a view to investigating the possibility of double yellow lines to improve traffic flow on Station Road near the Infants School. An accident on Efflinch Lane had led to a recent build-up of traffic. Police can act if vehicles are parking on zig zags. Photographic evidence helps.

Collinson Park incident, our PCSOs will follow this up to collect CCTV images once forwarded from the investigation bureaux within Needwood Local Policing Team
In answer to a query from Cllr Naylor, PSCO Dominika relayed that it was difficult to clarify how much time is spent in Barton as it depends what jobs come up on the day. Clerk to forward Dominika's email address to Councillors.

Feedback received from the police forum – the event was well organised and attracted a reasonable turn out; people were impressed the event was held and there were some positives outcomes in PCSOs being seen more frequently since and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner committing to engage with the PC in a review in 6 months. Cllr Jones had received some further correspondence since the event about youth engagement. She also read out how East Staffordshire's funding allocation was broken down. An ASB officer will be employed for a year.

Website Live Chat is the best method of getting through to police. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme needs further thought. Advertise reporting methods on our social media.

2. County Council – Cllr Jessel had forwarded an update as circulated and this was summarised by the Chairman.
3. Borough Council – Cllr Jones reported that work on devolution was taking up a lot of ESBC focus. Reorganisation may affect management of ESBC Planning and Open Spaces which may impact the Parishes. There were concerns around remoteness of personnel after reorganisation. The drive is dictated by central government to save money. The impact on the review of the Local Plan is very much unknown. At the moment, ESBC have spare capacity in terms of housing land supply, having delivered more than committed to. Devolution consultation will be reviewed by November.
Cllr Naylor expressed thanks for getting Dunstall Road path cleaned up by the street cleaning team.
Bellways Land Transfer – Cllr Jones is chasing the Planning Officer – a final decision should be made soon. Bellways are keen to offload the land.

25/41 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance
 1. Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and resolved to be accepted.
Quotation 1 accepted for replacement of the Parish Council office door to regulations.
2. Planning
Comments and objections as circulated were referred to.
Cllrs Naylor and Bedford had asked for a briefing on the mechanisms, responsibilities of the Planning committee and how these were supported by full Council. Cllr Gilbey referred to their Terms of Reference. Stats were read out on the numbers of applications received, objections and comments. Comments such as replacement trees are put into planning decisions. It was suggested all consultation notices be circulated to full Council. If any Cllrs wished to input to any particular application they should notify and discuss with the Planning Committee Chairman in the first instance. If it were felt necessary, then the Clerk would be asked to request an extension of time to respond beyond the next full council meeting. Majority agreed with one abstention. Cllr Gilbey reiterated that all applications are on the portal for everyone to see what is live in Barton:
<https://webmapping.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/map.html>

Cllr Bedford would appreciate knowing how the planning process works. Roger Bell had offered to do a presentation on the planning process, explaining our role.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Committee Meeting to be scheduled.

Fishpond – Memorial Bench request. Subject to approval of a wood design by the Fishpond Committee and adding in costs of bench and installation it was agreed to give permission for this. A location had been sourced at the bottom of the steps near the shed.

Environment Agency recommendations – water tests had been carried out and they recommended the purchase of an Oxygen Tester circa £500. Fishpond Committee to research other models for comparison and bring back to full Council. Five trees also need to be removed. Fishpond Committee to submit an action plan with costs involved.

A Working party had been suggested to clear brambles from the water which had contributed to algae growth.

It was **resolved** to accept Adam Spurrier's offer to help with the Fishpond work on a part-time voluntary basis.

Mark Jackson has sourced some spare coir rolls suitable for the bank at Collinson Road – and these can be dropped into the pond temporarily for transfer to Collinson Park.

4. Burial Ground – A report from Cllr Allcock had been circulated - a brief had been drafted for the Gardening Guild on the Memorial Garden refurbishment, aimed at integrating the area more with the main burial ground.

5. Human Resources - No meeting.

6. Allotments - No report.

7. VEC

VE Day meeting to be scheduled.

The Lions Club will marshal John Taylor car park. Further volunteers needed.

As the Committee was a member short, Cllr Wallace was co-opted to replace Lucy.

Bollard repair – Chairman to expedite this with Julia in time for VE Day. Groundsman to fill in if no action.

8. Communications

Meeting minutes were referred to. Strategy Action Plan to be launched at the May Annual Parish meeting.

25/42 Correspondence -

1. A resident had volunteered to catalogue BPC's historical records with a view to sending to Stafford Historical Archives. It was **resolved** to allow the resident to catalogue what we have, then review whether to send items to Stafford.

25/43 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/44 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - project management and business planning was referred to. It was agreed to relay feedback HSC before the next meeting on 28 April.
2. Flood Risk Group – A pollution incident in Barton Brook had been reported to the Environment Agency. Further Comms were suggested on pollution.

3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing further to report.
4. Quarries Liaison – Cllr Naylor to attend the next meeting with Aggregate Industries for Newbold Quarry

25/45 Councillors & Clerk Reports - None received.

25/46 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 1 May: 6.15 Annual Parish Meeting – followed by AGM at 7.00pm

5 June, 3 July 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December.

Meeting closed at 21.00