

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



1 May 2025 – 7.00 pm; Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord	Cllr J Taylor	Cllr S Bedford	Cllr I Gilbey
Cllr C Wallace	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr C Allcock	Cllr D Lord	Cllr H Frend (from item 25/49)

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 3 members of the public

25/47 Appointment of Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Sharkey was nominated for Chairman by Cllr Bedford and seconded by Cllr Lord – there being no other nominations, and all in favour it was **resolved** that Cllr Sharkey was appointed Chairman and the Declaration of Acceptance signed by Cllr Sharkey.

Appointment of Vice Chairman

Cllr Lord was nominated for Vice Chairman by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Naylor – there being no other nominations, and all in favour, it was **resolved** that Cllr Lord was appointed Vice Chairman.

25/48 Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllr McInerney.

25/49 Co-option of Councillor – two candidates were present and were asked to say a few words in support of their application.

Hugh Frend added to his application, offering that he would bring common sense, empathy, good communication and a keenness to find best solutions to any issues. A former business owner, he had moved into the area for the schools and settled here. Cllr Wallace noted he had lived here for many years but questioned why now? Hugh advised he had already fulfilled some retirement wishes including a house build/renovation and now had the time to give back to the community. Hugh was very willing to join committees as a non-councillor co-optee if unsuccessful in order to help his community.

Neil Crawley advised he was new to the village from Kings Bromley where he had served their Parish Council for 5 years including chairing the planning committee. He has experience as a construction estimator and quantity surveyor. Following a grant from HS2, he was instrumental in handling refurbishments at Kings Bromley village hall. He also indicated a willingness to be co-opted onto committees as a non-councillor member.

The candidates then left the room whilst a vote took place.

Following a brief discussion, by a majority of votes, it was **resolved** to co-opt Hugh Frend to fill the casual vacancy. Both candidates returned to the meeting and Hugh was asked to join the Council. Cllr Frend duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

25/50 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

Cllr Bedford indicated that she had recently re-submitted her Register of Interests adding that she had been appointed Chair of St Giles Hospice.

25/51 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3 April 2025

Subject to a minor change in the attendance record (Cllr Lord absent due to illness), it was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

25/52 Parishioners Forum –

A resident commented on flooding matters on Lichfield Road. A report via our MP to Severn Trent, referred to various inconsistencies on Severn Trent statements. Our MP caseworker is chasing St Modwens for action. Cllr Taylor reported that there had been issues at the Barton Turns pub with sewerage in the garden.

25/53 Police, County and Borough Council Reports – nothing to report

1. Police – PCSO Tim Leathers had recently replaced PCSO Chris Edwards. PCSO Dominika Bond-Siwiek has interviewed local residents regarding an incident in Collinson Park and the matter is back with the investigations team to action. Chairman to chase Insp. Jones for action.
2. County Council – following the results of the Election, it was agreed to press the new Councillor on highways issues.
3. Borough Council – Cllr Bedford appreciated the recent attendance at meetings of our Ward Councillors.

25/54 Appointment of members to Committees. Cllr Naylor had circulated an organisation chart for review and outlined his proposal idea around more efficient use of councillor time and flexibility within budgets. Cllr Allcock was supportive of the proposal but commented there was a lot under Community Assets but prioritisation of issues could work. Cllr Gilbey queried what issue this new structure was resolving and felt it was working as it is. Cllr Lord suggested the areas under Community & Assets could be set up as sub-groups but report back to the main focus standing committee. It was acknowledged that Holland Sports Club and Barton Village Hall representatives should fall under Special Responsibilities. Cllr Bedford felt there was a heavy workload under HR and would like further thought as to how to incorporate VEC. The split between members was discussed and Cllr Sharkey stressed that this demonstrated we need more co-optees to assist with the workload.

Cllr Lord felt there was a general consensus that a 4 x standing committee structure could work in principle but needed further discussion amongst the existing committee members and a resolution to be deferred until next month. Our Standing Orders were suspended to enable committee members to meet and bring proposals to the next meeting. The Clerk advised that members of Finance and Planning should be appointed due to pending necessary meetings scheduled before June.

Finance and Planning Committees therefore were appointed to remain, i.e.

Finance: Cllrs Naylor, Lord, Taylor, Wallace. Cllr Frend was invited to join this committee having relevant and useful experience in accounting.

Planning: Cllrs Gilbey, Lord, Taylor, Young; plus, Co-optee: R. Bell

Outside Bodies were confirmed as follows:

Barton & Dunstall Key Trust: Cllr Sharkey

Quarries Liaison: Cllrs Sharkey and Naylor

Village Hall: Cllrs Naylor, Taylor and Sharkey

Holland Sports Club: Cllrs Taylor, Gilbey plus Clerk

Special Responsibilities were confirmed as follows:

Internal Auditor: Kim Squires

Flood Risk Group: Cllrs Lord, Naylor, Sharkey
Walton By-Pass: Cllr Lord
Family Festival: Cllr Young
Flagpole: Gerry Taylor, Rev Simpson

25/55 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

A brief overview of the year-end figures was summarised by Cllr Naylor. Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and resolved to be accepted. Following internal audit, the AGAR will be brought to the June meeting for review.

2. Planning

Comments and objections as circulated were referred to.

Brankley Farm approval – there had been very little change from the first application which was refused. Comments and clarification had been sought on this.

Naomi Perry had asked for dates to attend a meeting; dates to be proposed.

Roger Bell had offered to do an evening presentation on the planning process- date/time to be confirmed.

Roslyn Farm application – residents have asked for it to be called into committee rather than delegated to an officer. BPC have objected to the application. It was proposed to write saying we maintain our objection; we note residents' suggestion to call into committee and would like to press for decision. Majority agreed with one abstention.

3. Parks & Open Spaces

Land drainage report referred to. Maintenance issues may arise due to non-germination of grass seed due to current drought. Retention of around £1k held back to pay for grass. The project cost was more, primarily due to an increase in pipe length which was necessary.

It was noted that our grounds maintenance contractor had not cut back vegetation overhanging the zip wire. A site walk around was suggested.

4. Burial Ground – The memorial garden proposal will be finalised.

5. Human Resources - No meeting. The Job Description for our groundsman had been revised and the member of staff will be appraised this week by the Clerk.

6. Allotments – Circulated and noted.

7. VEC - VE Day - Meeting notes circulated. Cllr Taylor advised that 22 marshals were on hand and more welcome to attend.

8. Communications - No report. The Strategy Action Plan is on display in the village hall and will move locations.

25/56 Policy Review.

The following were now reviewed and resolved to be adopted:

Code of Conduct;

Standing Orders – these had been revised by NALC and incorporated amendments as highlighted were agreed to be adopted.

Financial Regulations would be reviewed by the Finance Committee next week and brought to the

June meeting for adoption.

A Policies and Procedures Acknowledgement form was circulated; all Councillors to sign.

25/57 Correspondence -

1. CPRE – it was agreed to invite a representative of CPRE to our July or August meeting to hear more about the benefits of membership.
2. Hedgehog Highway initiative, request for support from Barton Library. Members were supportive and it was agreed by a majority to purchase a kit to be distributed via the library at a cost of £150.
3. Climate Action Working Group, ESBC – Cllrs McNerney and Lord to be sent a copy of the invitation and Cllr Lord would bring up issues around flooding.

25/58 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/59 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - The Club were seeking confirmation of any covenants or restrictions to a new Lease, this to be discussed at the next working group meeting. Member agreed to Co-opt Neil Crawley on to the group and invite to next meeting.
2. Flood Risk Group – notes circulated.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – nothing further to report, next meeting scheduled for June.
4. Quarries Liaison – Cllr Naylor attended a meeting with Aggregate Industries for Newbold Quarry; a meeting with Hansons is scheduled for later in May.

25/60 Councillors & Clerk Reports - None received.

Cllr Allcock – concerns raised around light pollution for the new pitch at JTHS.

Cllr Gilbey enquired about the independent investigation - still ongoing.

25/61 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December.

Meeting closed at 21.04