

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



5 June 2025 – 7.00 pm; Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman) Cllr S Bedford Cllr L Young
Cllr C Wallace Cllr C Allcock

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

25/62 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllrs S Naylor, H Frend, D Lord, J Jones, B George, V Gould
Cllr Brown, Needwood County Councillor was introduced to the meeting. Cllr Young was welcomed back following a period of absence due to ill health.

25/63 Notice of Casual Vacancy – following the resignation of Kevin McInerney, ESBC had issued the Notice of Vacancy and had now confirmed that no call for a by-election had been made. Candidates may be considered for Co-option at the next meeting.

Two further resignations dated 5/6/25 were acknowledged from Jeanette Taylor and Ian Gilbey; this would be notified to the Elections office.

25/64 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/65 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 May 2025

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

25/66 Parishioners Forum –

A representative of Holland Sports Club updated the meeting on the village fete to be held on 21 June. Building on from last year, activities included a children's fun run around the Marina at 10am; adults run 11am; 11.30am variety of around 30 stalls; petting zoo; army recruitment; main arena stage with 2 gazebos and brass band. At 5.30pm – 6.30pm all stands would be leaving and there would be a transition to a music festival in the evening; singalong with Rev Andy; 3 large bands rotating through evening with music ending at 10pm. A notification leaflet to residents will be distributed. All risk assessments are complete. St Johns Ambulance will cover during the day with costs covered by the Key Trust along with the cost of medals. Entry will be £3 for a wrist band. Cllr Brown asked for a flyer to be shared to other parishes. Parking overspill at John Taylor open 8am-10pm, marshalls covering.

Additionally, Jason will be running 120 miles in 3 days which is 80 laps of a village route; people were encouraged to join in and support with this fundraising for the clubhouse. Bunting to be put up and signs in windows.

Jason kindly offered help with future village events and with any flood alleviation measures.

25/67 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. County Council – it was Cllr Brown's intention to visit all parish councils but she has been busy with training, meetings and correspondence. A speed restriction of 40 mph from Little India to 5 lane ends will be introduced. Cllr Brown attended the VE Day celebration in the village and asked to be advised of any other events taking place.

The Community Fund has reopened with up to £1500 may be applied for. Reform are looking

at costs savings but it is hoped this funding will not be removed – training has been delayed. Cllr Sharkey asked for a copy of a Highways issues/action list for Barton which Cllr Brown's predecessor had compiled and agreed with County Highways.

Cllr Brown had been involved with the drainage investigations at The Green and also parking issues on Main Street opposite the Co-op; signage is too small and markings obscured. It was suggested a traffic warden would be useful.

Timber bollards by the war memorial – following a series of road traffic collisions Cllr Sharkey had written to Richard Rayson SCC months ago requesting meeting to discuss BPC's , preference for replacement hard wood matching bollards and had so far not had a reply. It was requested Cllr Brown contact Mr Rayson to facilitate a meeting.

Quarry liaison - awaiting response about new northern extension to Newbold Quarry which is due 05/06/25.

Cllr Bedford referred to BPC's survey / action plan and the restoration of the quarry into a country park idea. Cllr Brown is also keen to push forward plans for the restoration. Cllr Brown opted to stay for the rest of the meeting.

2. Borough Council – A meeting was being arranged on 18/06/25 with Parish Councils' chairmen, Needwood Ward County Councillor and ESBC Ward Councillors regarding recent outline housing planning applications across the ward and ESBC's likely response to them.

25/68 Appointment of members to Committees.

Cllr Young queried the need for any changes. Cllr Allcock reiterated that some former committees did not warrant a whole business committee meeting and it made sense to group these together. He added that the combined committees would improve accountability and simplification of reporting. It was resolved by a majority with one abstention to adopt the amended structure. Councillor appointments were discussed and agreed as attached, this to be modified and added to once new councillors had been co-opted.

- 25/67.1 PCSO Dominka Siwek arrived at the meeting – she reported that drop-in sessions at the library were arranged for 7 June and 28 June. PCSO Tim Leathers is back on the patch. The query about having their cars marked in some way to be more visible was mentioned. There are only a limited number of marked vehicles. PCSOs are more liable to being pulled into more serious incidents elsewhere when in marked cars. Cllr Wallace asked how often they are on the patch which was difficult to specify but generally 2/3 days per week.

25/69 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance
 - 1.1.1. Minutes of the Committee meeting of 8 May 2025 referred to and accepted. **It was resolved** to adopt the new Financial Regulations as circulated.
 - 1.1.2. Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year 1 April 2024– 31 March 2025:
 - 1.1.2.1. Summary of Assets noted and approved.
 - 1.1.2.2. Explanation of Significant Variances noted and approved.
 - 1.1.2.3. Year-end Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments account noted and approved
 - 1.1.2.4. Breakdown of reserves noted and approved
 - 1.1.2.5. Annual Internal Audit Report 2024-2025 (page 3 of the AGAR) noted and approved
 - 1.1.2.6. Response to the Annual Governance Statement (page 4 AGAR) reviewed and agreed.
 - 1.1.2.7. Accounting Statements (page 5 of the AGAR) reviewed and agreed.
 - 1.1.2.8. Notice of Appointment of the Date for the Exercise of Public Rights noted and approved.
 - 1.1.3. Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments all accepted.

2. Planning
Comments and objections in the Planning Committee report were referred to.
Cllr Sharkey advised detailed objections to the Malverna site which was contrary to policy and in an unsuitable location.
The response to the Providence Land consultation was accepted and details would be refined once any planning application was received. Members of the BLAG group would need to respond individually rather than as a group response. The site is not in ESBC's Local Plan. Cllr Brown stressed a highways report will be required. BPC members suggested traffic surveys and assessments needed to be more realistic about the impacts of development on the road network. Report accepted.
3. Community Assets – Parks Open Spaces, Burial Ground, Fishpond, Allotments
A site visit was needed at the Allotments, to check on reported overgrown plots and further discussion around a solution for dog fouling to be found. Security of neighbouring boundaries are an issue.
Burial Ground memorial garden, a final proposal from the Gardening Guild is expected. The Clerk had circulated an update about the meter replacement at the fishpond.
4. Human Resources, Remuneration, Events and Communications
A Chime article was due and Cllrs were asked for any input.

25/70 Correspondence - Staffordshire County devolution was discussed following a briefing by SPCA. Cllr Brown expressed concerns on how the process was being handled.

25/71 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/72 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Cllrs were still awaiting sight of a business plan.
2. Flood Risk Group – St Modwens were not responding to our MP's enquiry. Following recent rainfall calibration of the flood gauge could now start to take place.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – work has started on the Staffordshire side of the bridge route and a Liaison Group meeting to be arranged. BPC rep to try to find out why the approved width restriction on Station Lane has not yet been implemented.
4. Quarries Liaison – Meeting at Heidelberg's Barton Pit deferred to September.

25/73 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Young – Teddy Festival dates were reported - Aug 30 and 31st. A new ride has been developed involved a train. The Barton Belle will return and will take place at the Marina. A Road closure has been requested for Main Street from Crowberry Lane to the Gower House. Residents' letters will be distributed. They would like to borrow signage for the event. A Donation from BPC will be requested of £120 towards prizes.
2. Cllr Wallace pressed that we need Business Plan for Holland Sports Club. He had received a resident enquiry about building materials outside 104 Main Street. The frontage appeared to be fairly clear at present but any further obstruction should be reported to County Highways.

25/74 Dates of Future Meetings

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

Meeting closed at 21.10