

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



3 July 2025 – 7.00 pm; Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall

Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman) Cllr S Bedford Cllr S Naylor
Cllr H Frend Cllr D Lord (Cllrs N Crawley, M Hassall & J Sellers from item 25/76)

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 12 members of the public, Cllr Jacqui Jones

25/75 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllrs L Young, C Wallace

25/76 Council members

1. Casual Vacancies – Three Candidates were considered for co-option to fill the vacant positions. No additional comments to applications were made. Joanne Sellers arrived at the meeting at this point. It was **resolved** at all 3 candidates be duly co-opted as Councillors.
2. Co-option to non-councillor roles: It was **resolved** that Simon Jones and Daniel Boulter be formally co-opted onto the Community Assets & Environment Committee and Susie Miller co-opted on to Events, Policies & Communications.
Jeannette Taylor's position as a Bailiff was deferred to later in the meeting.
3. Confirmation of Committee list appointments. All committee members verified and updated list to be circulated.

25/77 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/78 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 June 2025

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

25/79 Parishioners Forum –

A Captains Lane resident raised concerns about excessive speeding on the lane, following the death of their family cat. Reports from neighbours indicate over 40 pet deaths in recent years. Poor pavement conditions are forcing pedestrians into the road. Cllr Brown had been approached and confirmed that Highways had provided £300 for a speed survey. The resident is campaigning for better signage. Other residents present confirmed concerns about high speeds.

The lane is currently a diversion route, and the resident claimed 90% of vehicles are speeding, with a maximum recorded speed of 80mph.

Speedwatch can only operate in specific locations and it was noted that their presence may reduce speeds temporarily. Current Speedwatch data showed approx. 10% of vehicles exceeding the limit on Captains Lane which does not warrant traffic restrictions.

Cllr Hassall referenced successful traffic calming in Anslow.

Cllr Crawley noted that SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) had been used in Kings Bromley, but they are difficult to acquire and require significant effort.

The BLAG group is researching SIDs and were awaiting a traffic survey; funding will be needed.

Cllr Jones advised the Key Trust may support funding applications, but County Council approval is needed for SIDs.

Cllr Sharkey suggested a separate meeting with Captains Lane residents, BLAG, Speedwatch Coordinator (Alison Jones), and relevant councillors to discuss next steps.

The Green Development -

Cllr Jones, who had declared an interest, reported that many objections had been submitted, mainly over accidents in the location and infrastructure strain.

BPC and neighbouring PCs are calling for proper impact assessments for developments. Access to the proposed development site is a key concern. BPC is drafting a formal objection, citing: Conflict with the ESBC Local Plan; inadequate sewerage capacity and costly upgrades required; no planned improvements to the sewer system; sufficient housing land supply; this development is undeliverable and unsustainable.

Residents expressed concerns that awareness of the application is low. A public survey had been shared, and residents were urged to submit individual objections.

Cllr Sellers asked if BPC's detailed objection could be shared publicly.

A resident highlighted the existing 7.5-ton HGV restriction on Wales Lane and Dogshead Lane, it was noted that construction traffic must be managed.

The developer has indicated a willingness to attend a public Q&A session.

Most residents left the meeting, with two remaining.

25/80 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police – PCSO Leather's report had been circulated. Cllr Frend would like to see more data which could detect a pattern. Cllr Sellers referred to a fake speed camera in place during the scarecrow festival which did slow people down. Speed camera boxes are restricted to police funds. The SID had a positive impact in Kings Bromley. It was queried that the costly Branston interchange, whilst funded by levelling up funds, why a few thousand cannot be spent on tackling speeding. Cllr Crawley offered to put the groups in touch with Kings Bromley.
2. County Council – Cllr Brown's report had been circulated. The Community fund is open for applications. Richard Rayson is being chased on replacement war memorial bollards, a meeting awaited. Cllr Frend queried if Bar Lane should be added to the traffic survey. Cllr Lord referred to the Barton Green drainage works, County had still not advised on what works had been carried out. Efflinch Lane – County had been reminded of a commitment to tackling the culvert and Cllr Lord continues to chase.
3. Borough Council – Cllr Jones advised the local authority reorganisation topic is still in the background. There are the two contentious planning applications; Children's Home at Malverna, Sich Lane and the outline application for The Green which interestingly doesn't include access details. Cllr Lord had measured the road and confirmed it will not have mandated visibility splays; this will be included in BPC's response. The deadline had been extended beyond 12 July for two weeks as more notices had gone up.

25/81 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Minutes of the Committee meeting of 8 May 2025 referred to and accepted. A first Quarter Budget Review had been carried out. Circa £70k in net reserves. Planning for next financial year to begin.

Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments all accepted. Cllr Lord explained the disputed fees on Collinson Park projects and that he would respond to the contractor. Pond test kits - agreed spend up to £300 for the meters. Further quote for legal fees for HSC work to be obtained. All in favour.

2. Planning

Comments and objections in the Planning Committee report were referred to.

More information on the Green development is being gathered to incorporate into BPC's response; schools and surgery to be approached regarding capacity for sustainability.

Consortium of PCs to press for a meeting with ESBC and Senior Planning Officer to resolve how best to defend confirmed 5 year housing land supply. Cllr Hassall mentioned The Green site is not suitable for walking to school.

A single property on Dunstall Road was refused as being outside the settlement boundary so how can 70 be approved.

Sign at new Barbers – illumination not in keeping with area. An objection has been lodged with the enforcement officer. Chairman has advised owner to contact the planning department. Signage at Cycle shop has been of the same size historically.

3. Community Assets – Parks Open Spaces, Burial Ground, Fishpond, Allotments

A meeting had taken place; notes had not been circulated. Cllr Sharkey summarised the notes. Cllr Crawley had been elected Chairman.

Co-opted volunteers: Dan Boulter would act as Clerk of Works for the grounds maintenance contractor and would also be carrying out regular inspections of the play equipment. He is also on board with the fishpond working group, a site walk-around had taken place. Dan had been fixing items such as our groundman's mower and the fishpond noticeboard.

Simon Jones had taken an interest in maintenance and in formulating a green space strategy. Grounds Maintenance Contract to be re-tendered this year under a closed tender process.

Fishpond: meeting to be set up with EA Fisheries officer to discuss fish health, site management and bailiffing.

There followed a discussion regarding the current Fishpond Bailiff team. Cllr Bedford raised the question of whether Bailiffs should hold relevant qualifications and suggested investing in training for both new and returning volunteers. It was agreed that efforts should be made to re-establish a qualified and cohesive team.

The Council acknowledged that Mrs Taylor, a former councillor, had expressed an interest in continuing as a Fishpond Bailiff Volunteer. After some discussion, it was resolved that Cllrs Sharkey, Crawley and Bedford would meet with Mrs Taylor to discuss her retiring from bailiffing duties.

4. Burial Ground memorial garden, al proposal from the Gardening Guild to be circulated including tree work.

Allotments – ongoing issue with dog fouling. Site meeting to take place. DL suggested highlight that dog mess should be cleaned up; ES felt dogs should be tethered. Not all plot holders dogs. Entrances from adjacent properties with plots in the past.

Non maintenance of plots also needs to be addressed in a site visit.

PSPOs – this public phase of the consultation had elicited some parishioner representations, the Marina site being contentious. Cllr Naylor was opposed to PSPO orders here and felt it had been aggressively policed and he queried why tax payers' money should be spent on private land. A detailed representation had been received from a resident and Cllrs felt this argument had merit. It was agreed to send this to ESBC asking for these comments to be taken into consideration. All agreed.

5. Events and Communications

Cllr Bedford advised that a meeting would be arranged to elect a Chair.

25/82 Correspondence - Cllr Sharkey referred to the recent Co-op correspondence regarding EV chargers. He will share an update received that the project will not work as their assessment is that the footfall for the car park does not warrant spend on rapid chargers. The project was also complicated by the sub-letting of the land from the ESBC section of the car park.

It was noted that Staffordshire is looking to become a strategic authority with South Staffs

incorporated in one area.

25/83 Outstanding Action Points - List referred to and updated.

25/84 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - The working group notes had been circulated.
2. Flood Risk Group – the water gauge would be tested with the next rainfall.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – meeting pending. Whilst the build was progressing Councillors felt it would be a longer completion date than the promised 'end of this year' projection. A chicane is still awaited on Station Lane.
4. Quarries Liaison – report next meeting.

25/85 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Sellers – reported late night cannabis smell from the new barbers.
2. Cllr Bedford – offered that a meeting of the HR & Remuneration Committee would be scheduled to elect a chair and compile Terms of Reference. Cllr Sellers mentioned subscribing to an outside company to deal with HR; however, it was felt there were not enough staff/issues to warrant the monthly fee.
Palmer's Court – the footpath adjacent John Taylor – the beech hedge is overgrown making the path practically inaccessible. Cllr Sharkey offered to approach the School and if no resolution, photos would be taken and reported.

25/86 Dates of Future Meetings

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

Meeting closed at 21.23