

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 4 September 2025 – 7.00 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman) Cllr D Lord Cllr S Naylor Cllr J Sellers
Cllr L Young Cllr H Frend Cllr M Hassall Cllr N Crawley
Cllr C Davis

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 0 members of the public

25/99 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllrs S Bedford, J Jones. Absence of Cllr Wallace noted.

25/100 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/101 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7 August 2025

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

25/102 Parishioners Forum – None present

25/103 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police – PCSO Leathers circulated report was noted. Cllr Sellers queried the blackmail incident, however there was no further information available. CCTV footage had been forwarded to the police follow an incident in the car park.

Cllr Sharkey suggest a follow up was needed from the PFCC following the police forum earlier in the year.

Cllrs discussed a resident report of Wales Lane traffic mounting the pavement during the family festival road closure and diversion. However, it was noted this behaviour is quite common, not just during road closures. Blocks were suggested to prevent mounting the pavement. Some cars already park in their gardens as a deterrent. Cllr Lord reminded all that this area had been looked into previously by the police and the parish council and the parish council had decided not to take it further with County – given other dangerous areas in the village. There is a clear line of site at the reported location; matters are worse near the Catholic Church on the bend. Cllr Young offered that standards of driving had dropped generally.

2. Cllr Brown's circulated report was referred to. Argos would be approached for some suitable signage directing HGVs correctly to their site.

Cllr Sharkey had chased Lisa Bird for the highways report on The Green development.

Determination date for the application is 14/9.

Cllr Lord had contacted Cllr Brown re flooding issues for clarification on what work has been carried out.

Cllr Brown is making a donation to a new defibrillator unit at the Junior School and had asked if the Parish Council could contribute. It was agreed Cllr Hassall to approach the school to find out the costs and what is expected from BPC. The Barton Library unit has been taken on by another body.

3. Borough Council – Recent fly-tipping on The Green had been removed following chasing by Cllr Jones.

25/104 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Meeting deferred to 13 October to begin to draft the Budget – submission from Committees to be forwarded. The parks budget in particular is a large expenditure and Cllr Naylor offered assistance if required.

Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments - all approved.

2. Planning

Comments and objections in the Planning Committee report were acknowledged and accepted.

Local Government Reorganisation consultation report - Any costs savings rationale needs updating as it now looked like marginal savings would be achieved by the process. A draft report will be looked at further by Councillors.

Cllr Lord had concerns around housing land supply as by merging with Lichfield would mean an overall insufficiency.

Cllr Naylor felt the proposed unitary authority would be even more remote to Council Tax payers in the Parish; under current arrangements ESBC are generally more responsive than County.

It was thought that devolving some services to parish councils would save the unitary authority money as the PC's precept is uncapped. Any input from Cllrs was encouraged. Any transfer of Borough owned land would need careful consideration.

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

A meeting is to be arranged to discuss among other items, the re-tender for grounds maintenance contract and equipment repairs in Collinson Park.

Fishpond: Cllr Frend was engaging with the fishpond working party and FiSH – more Cllrs were encouraged to go along. The Topographic Survey was awaited. EA's Fisheries officer has some grant money and an application for this would need to be submitted in November.

Collinson Park: a dispute over costs withheld for some outstanding works was being dealt with by Cllr Lord. Cllr Young felt the job had been weather dependent and outside of the contractor's control; however, it was expected, as per the terms of the contract, that the contractor should return to establish grass seed and make good.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

Cllr Sellers reported on the formation of a Barton Business Community - to meet 3 x per year.

Local businesses to be invited; promotion of a growth hub, funding opportunities, security talks and different speakers all to be included. It will be a good opportunity for businesses to share information with each other.

25/105 Correspondence -

Resident correspondence regarding Rhosyn Farm change of use was discussed and the problems with access to the site. An injunction would appear to be the only recourse for the residents unless an alternative access to the site could be established.

An allotment site visit was needed.

25/106 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed. JTHS path cleared.

25/107 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - it was resolved to move to a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss confidential items.
2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord and our MP had been chasing St Modwens de-silting of the lakes and await a response. We are still waiting to test if the Barton Brook gauge works with more rainfall.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – chicane still to be installed. The bridge progress is weather dependent. Embankments and flood relief culverts on the Staffordshire side are being progressed.
4. Quarries Liaison – Heidelberg and Newbold quarries are due to have meetings over the next 2 months.

25/108 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Councillors discussed the recent plan to implement parking charges at Barton Marina. Traders were concerned about the negative impact to their businesses. An Injunction had been threatened to stop the charges pending investigation of the contract. Planning permission would be required for the infrastructure installed and this would enable public consultation. Cllrs were concerned about the impact of parking on local roads to avoid charges. Cllr Lord declared an interest. It was agreed to raise this with planning enforcement to investigate. Cllrs noted the recent TPO issued to protect the adjacent woodland.
2. Cllr Naylor reported that he had been approached about the proposed extension to licensing hours at Barton Bowls Club and additionally allowing both indoor and outdoor music. It was acknowledged that BPC are not consultees in this process but the Chairman offered to contact the licensing committee for an informal discussion to check the timings and process around how the Parish Council and the public can make representations.
3. Cllr Young reported on the success of the Teddy Festival and advised that charitable donations figures would be known by the end of the month. The church tea tent had raised £2k profit.

25/109 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 2 October, 6 November, 4 December.

2026: 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September

Meeting closed at 20.57