

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 2 October 2025 – 7.00 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord	Cllr J Sellers
Cllr H Frend	Cllr N Crawley	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr C Wallace	Cllr C Davis	Cllr L Young (late arrival)

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 3 members of the public; PC Cerys Baron; PCSO T Leathers

25/110 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllrs M Hassall, S Naylor.

25/111 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/112 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 September 2025

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

25/113 Parishioners Forum – Residents of Hardy Close raised concerns regarding bonfires on the

allotments, which they had documented. It was reported that waste is being brought in by car to be burnt, and that bonfires are sometimes lit during unsuitable conditions, including during drought periods and as early as 5am. Petrol has also been used to start fires.

Residents felt that allotment holders should be composting waste rather than burning it. While some weeds cannot be composted due to disease risks, alternatives such as a communal compost facility or small incinerator were suggested.

Attempts will be made to identify those responsible. It is believed that around 10 plots may be involved. Allotment agreements already require plot-holders to observe rules regarding bonfires, including being present at all times and ensuring smoke is directed away from neighbouring properties.

All agreed that a letter will be sent to all plot-holders reminding them of the rules. Non-compliance will risk forfeiture of the plot. It was noted that any abatement orders would fall under the responsibility of ESBC Environmental Officers. Further investigation will be carried out, and research will be undertaken into how other allotment size manage bonfire policy.

25/114 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police Report – Councillors expressed disappointment that criminal damage at Collinson Park had not been recorded, and it was believed the matter remained with the Investigation Bureau which currently has a backlog of cases.

Cllr Wallace reported having challenged a group of youths at the Post Office and received verbal abuse.

Officer Cerys Baron was introduced to the meeting; she has been assigned to the Needwood area.

The monthly police report focuses on crime, ASB and transport, with further statistics available online. Visibility and under-reporting were discussed, with Cllr Bedford noting that the lack of reporting may lead to an unclear picture of true crime levels in Barton.

Cllr Young arrived at the meeting.

SIDS data remains under review.

Reports of underage alcohol sales at Londis had been received and would be followed up.

2. County Council - Reference was made to Cllr Brown's circulated report. It was hoped that the missing bollards at the war memorial would be reinstated in time for Remembrance events, and this was being pursued. A bollard remains down at the Upper Main Street chicane. Councillors commended the detail and range of issues addressed within the report.
3. Borough Council – The Chairman advised that he had held an informal conversation with the Licensing Officer regarding Barton Bowls Club licence alterations, and the previous objection from a resident was no longer being pursued.

25/115 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – reviewed and approved.

2. Planning

The Planning Committee report was acknowledged and accepted.

A response to a complaint from Rhosyn Farm on our comments was noted.

Regarding Barton Marina, it was noted that planning permission is required for parking charge equipment, which is not yet operational. The Council has requested clarification on whether enforcement action will be taken should the units become operational without permission. It was also noted that one car park had been blocked off, causing access difficulties for nearby residents.

A presentation on Local Government Reorganisation, attended by Cllrs Sharkey, Frend and Bedford at Yoxall, was referenced. The number of Councillors will be significantly reduced. It was agreed to submit this Council's report on the reorganisation.

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

A meeting had been held, though minutes were unavailable. The tender for renewal of Grounds Maintenance needs to be issued. Work is ongoing to develop the Fishpond Management Plan to support future funding bids.

Cllr Lord outlined the position regarding disputed outstanding fees for works at Collinson Park; a response from the contractor is awaited. It was agreed that completion of outstanding works can be arranged by BPC and funded from retention monies. The motion was carried by majority with one abstention.

The ESBC Open Space Survey will be discussed at the next Community Assets & Environment meeting.

Criminal damage was reported to the log bench at Collinson Park and to the Fishpond noticeboard. An insurance claim will be considered once repair costs are known.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

Minutes of the recent meeting were referred to. An action plan covering the Remembrance event and Christmas Lights was outlined. The Risk Assessment for Remembrance Day will be updated by Cllr Bedford and the Clerk. A pool of marshals is required for all events, and efforts are being made to recruit volunteers. Road closure notices have been obtained.

The Christmas tree will be erected on 22 November, and volunteer Councillors were requested. The star will be checked by a qualified electrician.

Cllr email issues should be referred to Vision ICT if persistent.

Cllr Sellers reported on the Barton Business Club plans for the first meeting, with speakers on finance and security confirmed and 15–20 businesses already participating. All Councillors were encouraged to attend.

Cllr Bedford suggested short Councillor videos would improve Councillors' approachability.

Susie Miller continues to manage social media posts, with a limited response so far to the call for event marshals.

Cllr Hassall had met with the heads of the infant and junior schools and will report back to the next meeting.

The date for the Christmas Night event is to be confirmed, likely 11 or 18 December, once Councillor availability is known.

The General Risk Assessment, as circulated, was reviewed and adopted.

25/116 Correspondence -

1. Copy correspondence was received regarding Yew Tree House at Woodhouses. A meeting had been convened by the PCSO but residents did not attend. It was agreed to respond signposting the resident to Social Services Safeguarding; Staffs Highways, Police and Environmental Health.
2. A request for a portable Lollipop sign was discussed. Councillors suggested that alternative funding opportunities be explored if the item was deemed necessary, such items usually being funded through the PTA.

25/117 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

25/118 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 summarised his circulated report.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – A meeting was scheduled for the following week;
4. Quarries Liaison – Cllr Sharkey reported that the Heidelberg quarry off Station Lane is being pressed to de-silt its side of Barton Brook.

25/119 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Bedford asked all Councillors to respond re availability for a Christmas night.

25/120 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 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 21.34