

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 6 November 2025 – 7.00 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr J Sellers	Cllr M Hassall
Cllr H Frend	Cllr N Crawley	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr C Davis	Cllr C Wallace	Cllr S Naylor

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 4 members of the public; CI Neeson, Staffordshire Police

25/110 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The resignation of Lindy Young was noted and the Notice of Vacancy had been posted.
Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllr Lord and our Borough Councillors.

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 2 October 2025

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

25/113 Parishioners Forum –

Planning application: A resident referred to his objections regarding the Gower House application. Its Listed status seems to have been overlooked; overdevelopment due to the number of apartments proposed within the house; inadequate parking and amenity space; access issues (especially given its proximity to the school); potential loss of historic features.

Traffic issues: A resident expressed concerns about speed of vehicles on Main Street, particularly with children walking to school on narrow pavements. Request made for a 20mph speed limit, the introduction of speed bumps and Speed Indicator Devices. A working traffic group was evolving and the resident was invited to join.

Lichfield Road – A resident reported a non-return valve being fitted and expressed dissatisfaction with Severn Trent's response to the MP, disputing their assessment of flood risk in the area.

25/114 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police Report – CI Rob Neeson, Commander for East Staffordshire introduced himself and provided an update on local policing.

A PCSO review was underway. Barton will have two PCSOs and a PC allocated to assist with regular problem-solving issues. Across East Staffs, there is now one sergeant and seven PCs focused on problem solving, ASB, and traffic matters. Resources are deployed on threat, harm and risk based on intel and residents are encouraged to report crime as otherwise the priority for putting resources here can't be warranted. Vehicle crime is the main issue in Needwood will little organised crime groups active. Residents encouraged to pass registration numbers to police; dash cam footage alone is insufficient but can support ongoing intelligence. Persistent vehicle issues can be addressed via Section 59 notices with repeat offenders having their vehicles confiscated.

In relation to traffic calming, the Inspector advised that speed bumps were considered ineffective and can lead to noise complaints. Emphasis is place on gathering evidence rather than relying on public perception.

PCSOs – there is to be no reduction in PCSO numbers; shifts patterns are being condensed and will be data-led to match demand. 53 officers are being redistributed to areas of greatest need.

A Councillor remarked on a swift and thorough police response to a recent break-in attempt.

2. County Council - Cllr Brown's circulated report was noted and appreciated.

3. Borough Council – no report.

25/115 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Cllr Naylor referred to his circulated meeting notes. The quarterly budget review ; Draft Budget for 2026-27 had been reviewed. Cllrs to provide feedback on budget figures for approval next month.

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

Bank account and NS&I signatories – ex-Councillors to be removed from the mandate, replaced with Cllrs Bedford and Frend.

2. Planning

The Planning Committee report was acknowledged and accepted. It was hoped the Home Farm, Dunstall application would be rejected due to its inappropriate location and Highways objections.

Gower House – the building's deterioration was noted and the need for restoration but it was felt this application proposed too many apartments and associated cars. Cllr Sellers suggested it may be worth engaging with the applicant directly. Comments were made that owning a listed building comes with responsibility. It was resolved to offer to meet with the applicant. Cllr Sellers to pass on contact details to the Clerk.

Rhosyn Farm – the applicants had invited Councillors to a site meeting. It was resolved that Cllrs Sharkey, Sellers, Wallace and possibly Cllr Lord to visit; neighbours would also be visited. It was resolved that all actions in the Planning Report be ratified.

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

A meeting was scheduled for 19 November to go through outstanding actions. It was noted that the minutes of the last meeting had not been presented and Cllr Bedford reminded members of the CA&E Committee that all meetings required full Minutes.

Fisheries training course is being attended by the Simon Darby as Bailiff and Cllr Frend. Cllr Frend requested a copy of the topographical survey for the fishpond.

Despite a recent siting of two dead fish, there was currently felt to be no issue with fish health. The EA will visit again the new year and will net the pond to survey size, species, stock and health.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

Minutes of the recent meeting were referred to. An Action Plan is in place and a robust Risk Assessment adapted for both Remembrance events and Christmas Lights.

Holland Sports Club will have a stall at the Lights Switch on event along with St James' Church tea and coffee stall. The Junior School will be singing and John Taylor attending. Barton Music Makers Choir will also sing. School children's Christmas Wishes decorations will be hung on the tree the week before.

Cllrs Bedford and Hassall attended John Taylor High School for a meeting with the Deputy Head. The suggestion for a music festival was discussed and may tie in with HSC reopening.

Presentation Evening; the school would be happy to accept a book token or Amazon voucher,

they make their own trophies and will think about a community recognition award that the PC could sponsor. They may send Y13 pupils to a Parish Council meeting which could be coordinated by a 6th form leadership team. This could lead to a possible survey that they can produce for youth involvement. The Duke of Edinburgh lead will be in touch with their expectations for volunteering. Parental supervision is required.

Cllr Sellers reported on Barton Business Club's first meeting which had seen a slow start; a membership fee had been mooted but caution would be exercised around inclusivity for all at this early stage and this would need further discussion. A speaker on cyber-security is lined up for the next meeting on 1 March 3-5pm.

25/116 Correspondence - List referred to and noted.

A query on the restoration works for Newbold Quarry had been referred to Holcim's Regional Estates Manager.

Cllrs Sharkey and Crawley had met with the Cedar Road resident about works to trees overhanging from the Ash Tree Road Park site.

The toddlers climbing frame appeared to have been tampered with, Cllr Sharkey had made safe and order replacement parts.

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

25/118 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - closed session moved at the end of the meeting to discuss confidential items.
2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord had pressed bridge developers to improve the last section of Barton Brook towards the Trent. St Modwens works have also led to improvements in flow and hopefully further work by riparian owners downstream at the railway bridge will help further.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – making good progress for opening next year.
4. Quarries Liaison – Newbold Quarry site stripping for 12 months extension of minerals extractions towards the Rugby Club. Country Park idea, meeting to be arranged with Tim Claxton. Holcim only own parts of the site; Lower Dunstall Estate own peripheral areas closer to Barton and may have other plans for use of their land.

25/119 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Crawley attended the online Cllr Introduction course and found it very useful.
2. Cllr Naylor advised of the vacancy on the Finance Committee – it was agreed to appoint Cllr Clive Davis.
3. Cllr Davis reported that the pedestrian gate to Barton Marina, the hinge is broken and wood rotten; this will be reported.
4. Cllr Frend wondered if there would be merit in trying to introduce traffic restrictions, e.g. a 20mph traffic limit across the village. Traffic group to discuss.
5. Clerk reported on the approach from the Methodist Church – establish ownership of a strip of land adjacent to their foyer; they would prefer if it was made into a footpath.

25/120 Dates of Future Meetings

2025 : 4 December.

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

Meeting closed at 21.40.