

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



Members Present: -

Cllr E Sharkey (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord (Vice Chair)	Cllr J Sellers
Cllr H Frend	Cllr N Crawley	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr C Davis	Cllr C Wallace	Cllr M Hassall

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

25/121 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllr Naylor and our Borough Cllrs B George, J Jones.

25/122 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.

25/123 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 November 2025

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

25/124 Parishioners Forum –

A resident of Main Street had approached the Chairman about a recent accident and it was hoped with support from the Parish Council, that residents would be forming and leading a Barton Traffic Action Group.

25/125 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police Report – an update on PCSOs review had been circulated. Whilst overall hours were not reduced, it was thought proposed shift patterns were unpopular with the PCSOs. Cllr Lord felt Barton is not well covered by police officers. Cllr Neeson had assured the previous meeting that resources were driven by stats; another constable had been allocated to the patch. Cllr Sellers advised that a PC who lives in Barton would like to speak at the next Barton Business Community meeting about fraud in the village.

Cllr Hassall referred to recent knock and run incidents in St James' Road. Residents need to report any ASB. Cllr Sellers suggested a leaflet drop on where to call, signposting for all problems. PEC to review this suggestion in the new year.

2. County Council - Cllr Brown's circulated report was noted. Referencing police resourcing, Cllr Brown reiterated that police will react and respond if something is happening. Data currently does not warrant any further policing. PCSOs had been more visible since the public forum. Speeding is a problem across all villages and all incidents should be reported.

The safety of the Six Lane Ends junction was discussed. Despite at least 2 crashes per week, the current data did not meet the criteria for traffic measures to be actioned. A roundabout would cost £2m, traffic lights the cheaper alternative. Cllr Lord questioned whether the junction meets highways safety standards and whether a road safety audit should be carried out.

Some SIDs can now provide data directly that will enable fixed penalty notices to be issued, raising money directly into County Highways coffers. However, funding isn't the only obstacle, any restrictions or measures imposed must comply with road legislation. Cllr Brown stressed that more people need to report incidents to drive the data. Cllr Wallace acknowledged that

Six Lane Ends is problematic but he indicated he was more concerned about multiple accidents occurring in Barton.

Cllr Hassall asked about Speedwatch data; Cllr Brown understood that Captains Lane data did not warrant further action. Cllr Hassall to forward Speedwatch data to Cllr Brown.

Barton Traffic Action Group meeting to take place.

A call for a further Needwood Forum had received no response.

3. Borough Council – no report.

25/126 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

Meeting minutes had been circulated. It was resolved that the Draft Budget and Earmarked Reserves for 2026-27 be approved. Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – reviewed and approved.

2. Planning

The Planning Committee report was accepted as circulated.

Gower House – Cllr Wallace asked if a meeting had taken place with the owner. Cllr Sellers to contact.

Cllr Sharkey and Frend visited Rhosyn Farm, our original response had been re-sent; the business had been operating on the basis of 28 days of non-farming activities. However, traffic issues had been created by having too many visitors at once. The current proposal allows an hour between visiting parties; Cllrs to arrange to visit neighbouring property to hear their perspective. Issues around rights of access and the safety of the junction were still to be determined. Cllr Lord suggested asking ESBC for a copy of County's report. Planning Committee to discuss this.

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

Open Spaces - Tenders for the maintenance contract were still to be issued. Some extra items had been added to budget. The Committee need to meet as soon as possible. Cllr Sharkey asked for another Councillor to assist in revising the previous tender pack. Cllr Crawley to assist.

Fishpond - Cllr Frend had completed an angling course and was happy to be the lead Councillor on Fishpond matters; he will meet with the bailiffs to establish a long-term plan.

Collinson Park - Cllr Crawley asked about the ongoing costs dispute with drainage contractor; a meeting is awaited to verify figures.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

A meeting had taken place and minutes circulated. The Remembrance Parade arrangements went successfully; a former Staffordshire Police member who had marshalled provided some useful feedback which was implemented. The Christmas event had been a huge effort involving lots of volunteers for all 3 days, erection, event and dismantling. The Elves had proved popular and a fancy dress was suggested for next year. The PEC would look into pros and cons of having food stalls including the impact on the road re-opening.

Cllrs Bedford and Hassall were actively engaged with all three schools now and they would also attend the community tea at John Taylor.

Barton Business Community was now set up and working for the benefit of village.

5. HR – it was agreed to move a confidential item to the closed section at the end of the meeting.

25/127 Correspondence -

1. List referred to and noted.
2. Cllr Sellers referred to a traffic collision on Main Street by post office.

25/128 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

A meeting had taken place with Kings Bromley PC. 4 sites had been identified for SIDs, the device would need to be moveable as drivers get used to them and ignore them. National evidence indicates that SIDs are only effective on a temporary basis. The Parish Council would support but not lead on Barton Traffic Action Group. Forum to be held in January/February to gauge interest and establish priorities.

25/129 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Cllrs resolved to move this item to a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss confidential items.
2. Flood Risk Group – land on the downstream side of Station Lane, would be the responsibility of the bypass builder, Vistry. The EA had confirmed they will establish maintenance works required in Summer of 2026. Upstream, the quarry will carry out minor maintenance such as removal of fallen trees debris, but have refused to de-silt until the Vistry section is completed. Water levels have dropped at St Modwens. Full Brooks from St Modwens site desilted and culverts now visible. No back up from other side of A38 from downstream. Efflinch Lane, SCC told owners to desilt ditch, some work done but further clearance of the culvert needed. Data from gauge will become more meaningful as rainfall rises. Will take 18 months for data to become established. Thanks to Sam Griffiths for arranging gulley cleaning works around the village. Cllr Brown commended Cllr Lord for his diligence in flooding works. Staffordshire side of bridge will not cause flooding impact to Barton. Series of mini bridges seen from Station Lane will allow flood water to fall through, model approved by EA. We now have a community flood officer contact for Severn Trent. (send details to Cllr Brown)
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – S106 required following full tech approval, Vistry would put in barriers and chicanes within 8 weeks. Approval won't be complete until later next year although bridge will be built. Progress report indicated going well, no major concerns, earliest completion date will be Autumn next year. Recent flood warnings enable plant to be moved in time.  
Cllr Brown and residents now left meeting; 20.46.
4. Quarries Liaison – resident queries on restoration plans had been answered by the Estates Manager.  
The quarry had offered to pump water into Marina Lakes to raise water levels and this is being pursued with Barton Turns Developments.

25/130 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Bedford spoke about arrangements for the Christmas gathering; Cllrs were all encouraged to attend the St Giles Light up the Night Memorial Service at St James' Church on 6 December 4pm.
2. Cllr Davis reported on a broken gate at the Station Road entrance to the Marina.
3. BVH cameras – this item would be added to the January Agenda; a third camera had been proposed by Cllr Sharkey. Due to the complexity of the upgrade being added to an older system, only one quote would be available.

25/131 Dates of Future Meetings

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

Meeting closed at 21.37