

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 8 JANUARY 2026 – 7.00 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

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

In attendance: - Clerk, Mrs S Rumsby; 3 members of the public;

- 26/01 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence
Apologies for Absence were noted from County Councillor, Catherine Brown; Co-option Candidate no. 3; Borough Cllrs B George, J Jones.
- 26/02 Co-option to fill Councillor Vacancy
Three applications were considered and those present given the opportunity to address Council. All members of the public briefly left the room whilst a ballot was taken with a majority vote in favour of co-opting Ian Meadows.
Attendees were invited back into the meeting where Ian Meadows duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a Councillor.
- 26/03 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – none received.
- 26/04 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 December 2025
It was resolved that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 26/05 Parishioners Forum –
No items raised.
- 26/06 Police, County and Borough Council Reports
1. Police Report – Recent egging incidents were mentioned and also vehicles not stopping at zebra crossings. Barton Traffic Action Group to meet to pick up speeding issues.
 2. County Council - Cllr Brown's circulated report was noted. Grit bins have been replenished. Cllr Brown has been supporting matters relating to Walton by-pass.
 3. Borough Council – Cllr Jones had reported that the latest food recycling bins scheme is a government initiative being rolled out in many parts of the country. Cllr Naylor had raised the state of the footpath along Dunstall Road, Small Meadows and by the Council houses which needs sweeping.
- 26/07 Committee Reports considered as circulated.
1. Finance
The Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – reviewed and approved.
 2. Planning
The Planning Committee report was accepted as circulated.
John Taylor – An application for the all-weather pitch was discussed. Lighting detailed in the application is all full cut off with no spillage beyond the direction intended to the pitch surface.

The light impact assessment satisfactorily demonstrates no evidence of intrusion.
A Yoxall Councillor had advised of a large application; they are commissioning a housing needs survey, cost of £3-4k. Cllrs planned to liaise more with Yoxall PC and make contact with ESBC on their development strategy. Cllrs suggested there was a need for Barton to progress their own survey. Cllr Sharkey to look at Yoxall's brief and obtain a quote. Cllr Lord offered that the survey would input into the local plan representing the needs of Barton and appropriateness of applications, enabling challenges to developers if their proposals failed to meet the identified needs of the village.

Bellways Efflinch Lane Bus stop – it was agreed to press for approaching the bus company to put a notice regarding the request stop on the existing bus stop opposite.

Resolved - All in favour of recommendations made in the planning reports.

3. Community Assets – Parks Open Spaces, Burial Ground, Fishpond, Allotments
Open Spaces - Tenders for the maintenance contract to be revised and distributed to tenderers. Benches and tables, a local supplier in Barton has been found and will be approached to quote.
Fishpond – date to be arranged to meet the Environment Agency, they want to do netting exercise to look at fish stock.
4. Policies, Events and Communications
A Committee meeting had taken place on 7 January; the Committee had reviewed feedback from the Christmas Lights event and marshalling improvements. Exciting plans had been discussed for next Christmas. BBC meeting scheduled for 1 March.
Increasing the Parish Council presence and community engagement were discussed. It had been suggested a short video of all councillors be published possibly with the help of JTHS students. Policy reviews would soon be under way. Cllr Hassall is liaising with schools; the junior school was in negotiations to join the MAT; this may implicate on the Deed of Easement for Gilmour Lane.
5. HR – Chairmanship role. Cllr Sharkey advised he would step down from May. The division of workload needs consideration and also prioritisation in relation to the BPC Strategy. A separate meeting to be called within the next month to discuss further. Cllr Bedford reiterated the need to identify who can take on responsibility for priorities. The strategy action plan would be recirculated for benefit of new councillors.

26/08 Correspondence -

1. List referred to and noted. Dates of Police Drop-in Sessions to be circulated and an attendance rota applied.

26/09 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

Reflectors needed to be fixed on bollards

Village Hall CCTV - quotes needed but Cllr Lord suggested BPC should assist with this expense relating to the fabric of the building and exterior, ie. CCTV and timber bollards in Strawberry Lane which also need replacing.

26/10 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 – A New Community Flood Officer for Severn Trent had been appointed and Cllrs Lord and Sharkey had offered to meet her to explain our more significant issues; particularly the field next to HSC affecting Station Road. It was hoped to reignite the multi-agency Flood Forum. The blocked culvert at Efflinch Lane had been raised again. It was noted that gully emptying had been taking place.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – works on schedule to open in the Autumn. Chicane progress – there was a requirement at planning for this installation in 8 weeks following technical approval. There was no reason for this to hold up the installation. No commitment made as yet.
4. Quarries Liaison – Holcim had been approached to push plans for a country park for the Newbold site; excavations work planned to 2030; Julia Jessel was still inputting into this process.
Low water level at lake – the quarry had offered to pump but the landowner had not agreed; offer still open.

26/11 Councillors & Clerk Reports

1. Cllr Sellers reported that the barbershop had asked for her help with signage;
2. Cllr Davis advised that one of the large devices at the entrance to Barton Marina has been removed and barriers have been taken away.

26/12 Dates of Future Meetings

2026: 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September
Meeting closed at 21.36