

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING 5 FEBRUARY 2026 – 7.00 pm;  
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

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

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

- 26/13 Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllrs M Hassall, I Meadows, J Sellers, County Councillor, Catherine Brown; Borough Cllrs B George, J Jones and V Gould.
- 26/14 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation – the Clerk had declared an interest in item 26/18.2 in relation to the planning application for 68 Efflinch Lane.
- 26/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8 January 2026 and 15 January 2026  
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 26/16 Parishioners Forum – No items raised.
- 26/17 Police, County and Borough Council Reports
1. Police Report – Update on PCSOs review noted. Cllrs attendance was encouraged at the Drop In Sessions.
  2. County Council - Cllr Brown’s circulated report was noted. She had offered to facilitate a meeting with Parish Councillors, the Divisional Highways Team and the traffic action group to be hosted by Barton Parish Council. Enquiries would be made about changes in SCC’s policy on SIDs.
  3. Borough Council – Planning Committee to ask about the status of the Local Plan. It had been confirmed that The Green development will not be ready to go to Planning Committee in the next two months pending further information to be addressed.
- 26/18 Committee Reports considered as circulated.
1. Finance  
The Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – Following review it was **resolved** to approve all reports presented.
  2. Planning  
The Planning Committee report was accepted as circulated.  
Land off The Green – Cllr Lord reported that the planning officer dealing with it the application had left ESBC; Lisa Bird had confirmed that a recommendation will not be made for some time – the application would be reallocated to a new planning officer. The applicant intends to respond to concerns raised before a decision is to be made. It was hoped we will be copied in with any more information received. Cllrs felt the site had access issues and there was no visibility from Dogshead Lane to turn right. The junction’s accident spot has been referred to in the Parish Council’s objection.

3. Community Assets – Parks Open Spaces, Burial Ground, Fishpond, Allotments  
Open Spaces – Grounds maintenance tender. Due to extenuating circumstances and pressures of Councillor time, the tender pack had not been finalised.

The current grounds maintenance contractor has approached the Council and offered to extend the existing contract for a further year on the same terms, provided there are no significant changes to the specification.

Members discussed whether the Council is permitted to waive financial regulations and proceed with a direct extension and agreed this needs to be formally checked.

Resolved: It was agreed in principle, pending confirmation of the above, that a one-year extension would provide service continuity and allow sufficient time to prepare and run a full tender process for the following year. Cllr Frend suggested the next tender process should begin earlier in the year (around April) to improve preparation time.

It was further resolved that, if a full-year extension is not permitted, a shorter interim contract (for example three months) could be used as a stop-gap measure while a formal tender process is undertaken.

Burial Ground - Members considered a request to waive the residency criteria within the Burial Ground Regulations in respect of a former resident with demonstrable and longstanding family connections to the parish. Councillors reviewed the circumstances presented and noted the strength of the familial links to the burial ground and the parish community.

It was **resolved** that, in this exceptional instance only, the Council would exercise its discretion under the Burial Ground Regulations to waive the residency requirement.

Fishpond – Cllr Frend met with the bailiffs and an EA fisheries officer. A fish survey will be carried out in March. The old island is to be removed. Algae is quite prevalent for the time of year and this was attributed to too much tree cover, leave falling in to the pond causing blue green algae problems. Willow and alder need coppicing. A tree works plan is being drawn up with quotes to be obtained. Potters Way overhanging branches also to be removed for access to HSC. Algae can be removed but was deemed cost prohibitive to dispose of it. Cllrs will assess again following tree work. Coir rolls may be planted. Reed beds on the Efflinch Lane side were also to be introduced. It was **resolved** to proceed within budget set.

#### 4. Policies, Events and Communications

Minutes covered last month. A meeting with the schools would take place at the beginning of March. Further Committee Meeting scheduled.

26/19 Correspondence -

1. List referred to and noted.

Resident request for information following an accident involving the Lime trees outside St James – Chairman to reply.

26/20 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

Meeting to discuss priorities and workload – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.30pm. Action plan to be resent.

26/21 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club - Cllrs discussed the PWLB loan application to pay for the changing rooms project. BPC's Survey had elicited 369 responses; 88% positive. Even if responders outside of the village were taken out, the response was 80% in favour.

The proposal was made that in view of sufficient community support, Barton Parish Council

proceed with an application for the PWLB loan through SPCA. **Resolved** - All in favour. It was further proposed that if the loan application was successful, an Annuity basis was preferred as a flat repayment each year. **Resolved** - All in favour.

Holland Sports Club had requested copy of the feedback from the survey. All confirmed they were happy with sharing anonymised data. The survey would now be closed.

Lease arrangements – a working group had met to go through existing lease and headline terms. Issues including the Deed of Assignment to HSC to be addressed with the new lease. Some changes to provisions suggested but it was a standard uncomplicated deed. 4 x Quotes received were reviewed. It was **resolved** to revisit quote 1 and to accept within a budget of up to £4.5k.

Cllrs agreed to move to a closed session to discuss further items of commercial confidentiality.

2. Flood Risk Group – Cllrs Sharkey and Lord had been pleased to meet with a new Community Flood Officer for Severn Trent. The Flood Liaison Group was met with enthusiasm which the EA were happy to restart. Detailed concerns were discussed. Efflinch Lane - the ditch is silted up so the culvert is not visible and blocked. Some clearing work had been carried out but further work to desilt required.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – the steel works were going in and the bridge is on target for completion in September. It was confirmed there will be no weight restrictions on the new bridge.
4. Quarries Liaison – no update

26/22 Councillors & Clerk Reports - No reports received

26/23 Dates of Future Meetings

2026: 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September  
Meeting moved to closed session at 20.14