

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



Members Present: -

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

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

26/24 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllr C Wallace; Borough Cllr J Jones.

26/25 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation.

26/26 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 February 2026 and 26 February 2026

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

26/27 Parishioners Forum – None present.

26/28 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police Report – PCSO Tim Leathers had announced he was moving to a new role within the police force. It was agreed the Clerk to query the name of his replacement with CI Neeson.
2. County Council - Cllr Brown's circulated report was noted. Efflinch Lane was to be closed at the end of May for road repairs. Following the recent fatal accident at Barton Gate, Cllr Brown had raised the issue of road safety in this location.
3. Borough Council – Cllr George had also raised the issue of road safety at Barton Gate with County. Richard Rayson was gathering information about the accident along with historical stats.

Councillors received details of East Staffordshire Sports Council grant funding available of up to £1000 per club, the flyer would be shared by BPC.

Cllr George had sourced two snare drums for use in keeping time on the Remembrance Day parade. Cllr Sharkey to contact Foresters Scout group leader to confirm that a Barton Scout (or scouts) would be available to act as drummer and then to make an offer to Barton Branch RBL. Cllr George had objected to The Green application.

The 5-year land supply was discussed which the developer had challenged. Both Cllr George and this Council will continue to press for definitive details of the 5-year supply.

Residents had asked about the precept increase to pay for the changing rooms project, Cllr George had directed them to our website;

Christmas trees for the Main Street business fronts – Cllr Sellers is pressing this idea with Barton Business Community.

26/29 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance
 - 1.1.1. Cllr Naylor reported on an unpaid invoice relating to the car park. It was agreed to issue a 7 days' notice letter adding 8% late payment charges. Cllr Meadows to review and draft a suitable letter.
 - 1.1.2. Cllr Naylor summarised the Finance Committee Minutes. The 25-26 Budget review indicated that we were close to budget set; however the car park invoice remains outstanding and Fishpond expenditure was over budget. The 26-27 Budget was revised slightly to reflect the expected loan and contribution to the changing rooms project. The first year loan

repayments being taken out of reserves which will reduce the net funds. Kim Squires circulated letter was noted and she was duly appointed Internal Auditor.

- 1.1.3. The Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – it was **resolved** to approve all financial reports as presented.
- 1.1.4. Cllrs referred to previously a circulated proposal detailing the PWLB loan repayments, precept increase required, and public consultation results. It was resolved to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for borrowing approval for a loan of £100,000 to be repaid over 10 years to pay for the Holland Sports Club Changing Rooms Project. The annual repayments will come to around £13k. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept in the financial year 2027-28 by around 12.38% which is the equivalent of an additional £5.59 per year (Band D). A consultation on the precept increase had been carried out.

2. Planning

- 1.1.1. The Planning Committee report was accepted as circulated.
A draft Agenda for a meeting with ESBC Planning Manager was accepted to be sent.
- 1.1.2. A draft response to the latest Local Government Reorganisation consultation was considered and it was resolved to accept Roger Bell's draft report and respond with the comments as circulated. Thanks to Roger for the effort involved.
- 1.1.3. Cllr Lord reported on a previous application for cabins in the woods at Barton Turn which BPC had objected to. Cllrs were pleased to note that an interim Tree Preservation Order to protect those trees had now been made permanent by ESBC.

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

- 1.1.1. The Committee membership was reviewed following the recent strategy meeting. As Cllr Crawley was fully engaged with the HSC project, it was proposed a new Cllr be appointed as Chair at their next meeting. Co-opted members previously appointed were not now engaged with the Committee due to other commitments. It was resolved that the new membership of CA&E would consist of: Cllrs C Davis, D Lord, H Friend, S Naylor, I Meadows. The Committee would seek to co-opt Bailiff, Simon Darby to liaise on any Fishpond matters. Next meeting to take place Thursday 12th March 6.30pm with the first matter of business being to appoint a Chairman.
- 1.1.2. Grounds maintenance tender. Following confirmation by SPCA, it was resolved that due to exceptional circumstances, and in accordance with Regulation 19.2 that the relevant provisions of the Council's Financial Regulations would be suspended to allow the extension of the current grounds maintenance contract for the financial year 2026-27 only. BPC budget allows for a small inflationary uplift and the one-year extension is based on previous unchanged terms.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

Cllr Bedford summarised Minutes of the meetings held. Cllr Sellers gave a brief update about the recent Barton Business Community meeting. The cyber security talk was well received and will be repeated to a wider audience in an open meeting, probably a date in the Autumn..

Communications - a quarterly report on web/social media activities is to be produced. It was agreed to focus on featuring individual Cllrs each month in a short vlog. Schools' liaison - Councillors discussed a Community Award for the prize evenings. Recognition would be in the form of vouchers - a £20 book token for infants/junior school students and a £50 book voucher for JTHS students. **Resolved** All in favour. Cllr Hassall to arrange via local book shop.

The updated Policy Tracker would be circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Bedford summarised the list of policies and procedures given priority to adopt over the next year.

The following policies were considered for adoption:

- 1.1. IT Policy – it was **resolved** to adopt the policy as presented
- 1.2. Reserves Policy – it was **resolved** to adopt the policy as presented.

Communications – The Leaflet regarding the development on The Green had been

distributed to properties most affected and would be shared on social media and our website.

Councillors were asked to submit any further ideas to increase BPC's public awareness in general.

26/30 Correspondence -

1. List referred to and noted.

Issues raised by Hardy Close residents regarding trees and bonfires at the allotments was discussed; the item to be prioritised and discussed further at the next CA&E meeting.

John Taylor awards evening – Cllrs Hassall and Sharkey to attend.

Barton Library Celebration Day – Cllrs Lord and Sharkey to attend.

26/31 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

A fish survey had been undertaken by the EA, report to follow after analysis of samples by EA Fisheries Labs, probably mid-April.

Strip of land outside Methodist Church, this was the responsibility/ownership of BPC – CA&E Committee to investigate costs of converting to a footpath.

Upgrade of CCTV at the Village Hall & replacement of bollards (Cllr Sharkey to forward to Clerk). in Crowberry Lane – the quotes had only just been received and were requested to be brought as an Agenda item for April.

Housing Needs Survey – Yoxall PC to send a copy of their survey and brief.

26/32 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club -

Cllrs agreed to move to a closed session to discuss further items of commercial sensitivity, the main points of discussion are summarised as follows:

- 1.1.1. Members received an update regarding contractual arrangements associated with the changing rooms element of the project. It was explained that, for administrative and financial reasons, the Parish Council would need to enter into a separate contract for the changing rooms aspect of the works. This requirement had recently been discussed with the relevant parties and further clarification would be provided.
- 1.1.2. Cllr Naylor raised a query regarding the Council's agreed financial contribution and this would be clarified. It was confirmed that payments to the contractor would be made in agreed stages.
- 1.1.3. It was agreed that Councillors Sharkey and Frennd would arrange a meeting with relevant representatives to clarify the reasons for the proposed contractual arrangements.
- 1.1.4. Members noted that additional project information had been received, although some further detail was still awaited. Work was ongoing to obtain clarification where required.
- 1.1.5. The timing of a decision relating to the Football Foundation funding application remains a consideration for the project.
- 1.1.6. Members also noted that the specification for the changing rooms element of the works required further detail.
- 1.1.7. An update was provided regarding the lease arrangements for the site. It was noted that the existing documentation required review to ensure it accurately reflected the current organisational arrangements and provided appropriate oversight and protection for the Parish Council. Work would therefore continue with legal advisers to prepare revised documentation, which would be circulated to Councillors for consideration before being shared with HSC.

2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord reported on correspondence from Severn Trent's land agent which related to Combined Sewer Overflow work required on land at HSC; further info had been requested. A Flood Liaison Group meeting was scheduled for 20 April at the EA offices at

Fradley. Representatives of the Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council, Severn Trent and BPC had been invited.

3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – it was confirmed that the main steel beams for the bridge had been installed.
4. Quarries Liaison – no update. Date of next meeting – 16/04/26 at Newbold Quarry

26/33 Councillors & Clerk Reports -

Cllr Lord referred to the Road Traffic Assessment Addendum on the application for the development at The Green. Whilst new information had been provided including Dogs Head Lane usage, it still doesn't address BPC's previous concerns. Video footage will be submitted to reflect the true situation. The Flood Report Addendum also doesn't address or respond to BPC's and SCC Lead Local Flood Authorities previous concerns.

26/34 Dates of Future Meetings

2026: 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September

A date for the Annual Parish Open Meeting was set for 7 May; a BPC report will be produced and various village group will also be invited to provide a report on their activities.

Meeting moved to closed session at 20.53

Meeting Closed at 21.27