

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 2 APRIL 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 H Frend	Cllr N Crawley	Cllr S Bedford
Cllr C Davis	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr C Wallace
		Cllr I Meadows (arrived 7.15pm)

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

26/35 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were noted from Cllr J Sellers; Borough Cllr B George.

26/36 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation. None received

26/37 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 March 2026

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

26/38 Parishioners Forum – None present.

26/39 Police, County and Borough Council Reports

1. Police Report – C I Neeson had confirmed that due to a shortage of PCSOs, the Needwood patch would not be getting a replacement for PCSO Leathers at present. PC Grace Payne and PCSO Dominika Bond-Siwiek remain the only allocation for Needwood.
2. County Council – Cllr Brown's report was summarised in relation to Barton. The quality of potholes including supervision and inspection had been queried. SCC have a duty to keep the highway safe and this had been publicised. The Streethay diversion is causing problems with the condition of the lanes.
The Green application - Cllr Lord will chase regarding the response from Provident Land and he hoped to attend a meeting.
Barton Gate – Cllr Frend felt that something fundamental should be done due to the rate of accidents and the recent fatality. Cllr Lord offered some simple ideas for traffic calming, a chicane island and different surfacing to slow traffic down before the junction.
3. Borough Council – Cllr Jones reported that the food waste scheme had started collections. Burton Hope's relocation remained a contentious issue. The two main planning applications were referred to, one as yet unregistered. Efflinch/Mill Lane - Planners were aware there had been no public consultation; there are several outstanding matters. Land at the Green will go to committee possibly next month. Highways England thought there was no problem accessing the A38 from Dogshead Lane. Cllr Lord's extensive response had been submitted. Cllr Jones thought it would likely be refused on the basis of access.
Local Planning Review – East Staffs to be broken into sub-areas. Cllrs and planners were minded to defend their own plan. ESBC is still maintaining its 5-year land supply. End of March figures indicated 5.1. - Provident Land were contesting how ESBC have calculated this. Yoxall have their Housing Needs Survey and BPC were liaising with them on this. BPC need to determine whether it is timely to carry out a Housing Needs Survey for Barton now. A proposal will be brought to a future meeting regarding this.
Cllr Jones now left the meeting and was thanked for her attendance.

26/40 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

- 1.1.1. The Monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Schedule of Payments – it was **resolved** to approve all financial reports as presented.
- 1.1.2. CCTV quotation – financial regulations were waived due to the complexity of the installation and the system already having been worked on by the quoting firm. It was resolved to accept the quotations as received.
- 1.1.3. Crowberry Lane Bollards’ quotation – it was resolved to accept the cheapest quote (no. 3) with V. Wright to install.

2. Planning

- 1.1.1. The Planning Committee report was accepted as circulated. The Borough Council’s Housing Needs Survey, including Barton, is due to be published and will identify the required housing mix. While funding for affordable housing is available, concerns were raised about developers’ claims of high demand. Previous surveys indicate housing is unaffordable for local residents, and this evidence has already been used to support further development. It was agreed that additional research is needed before deciding whether to undertake a new survey. Councillors supported further investigation into costs and available support.

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

- 1.1.2. The Committee Minutes as circulated were summarised.
- 1.1.3. Fishpond tickets prices had been revised for non-residents.
- 1.1.4. Burial Ground – Cllr Davis and the Clerk had met with the gravedigger on site to review number of spaces left (17 new double plots and 5 new single plots). This emphasised the need for finding alternative ground.

4. Policies, Events and Communications

- 1.1.1. Cllr Bedford reported that Cllr Hassall has been meeting with the schools. Gilmour Lane is BPC land. The Education Authority have an easement to access their site via Gilmour Lane and maintenance responsibilities have been difficult to uphold; this need reiterating with JT MAT if they take over TRJS. The proposal for book token awards was well received – the schools will produce certificates.
- 1.1.2. Comms – updates had been provided about potholes.
- 1.1.3. Chime – it was suggested including an item regarding the success of land drainage project.

26/41 Correspondence -

- 1. List referred to and noted.

26/42 Outstanding Action Points - List reviewed and updated.

26/43 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. Holland Sports Club -

- 1.1.1. Cllr Naylor’s request for clarification of BPC’s contribution to the changing rooms project was addressed. BPC had applied to the loan board for £100k to contribute that sum to the project; this is based on all local authority figures being net cost. It was clarified that the PC always refer to net figures, being the cost to the Parish Council as the VAT is always claimed back, so the contribution is £100k net (with £20k VAT to be reclaimed on the £120k worth of invoices). It was resolved by a majority to accept this clarification with one against (Cllr Naylor).
- 1.1.2. Cllr Bedford suggested that an explanation of items discussed under a closed session should be provided on the website. Cllrs agreed to move to a closed session to discuss further items of commercial sensitivity, namely the details around the Changing Rooms Contract and the draft Lease update.

2. Flood Risk Group – Cllr Lord reported on a meeting scheduled for 20 April. St Modwen’s site now have a 5-year maintenance plan. Watercourse on Efflinch Lane, further de-silting to the culvert was to take place.
3. Walton By-Pass Bridge – all going to plan. Further meeting scheduled for 13 April.
4. Quarries Liaison – Newbold Quarry, complaints received about mud on the slip road. There had been issues with safe working and lane closures; a further site visit is to take place and the SCC Enforcement officer is holding the quarry to account. Meeting due 16 April.

26/44 Councillors & Clerk Reports –

1. Cllr Davis – it was confirmed that Vision ICT were migrating the email server this weekend.
2. Clerk reported that the criminal damage to Council property (bucket swing barrier) had been allocated a Crime Reference Number and CCTV footage uploaded to the police investigation bureau. CA&E to decide if the item is to be replaced and whether to claim back on insurance.
3. Cllr Crawley reported that Barton taxis were parking on zig zags at the pedestrian crossing which was a public safety issue. Instances should be reported to the police and feed-back provided to Barton Business Community.

26/45 Dates of Future Meetings

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

Meeting Closed at 21.21