

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 7 MAY 2026 – 7.10 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

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

In attendance: Mrs S Rumsby, Clerk

- 26/49 Appointment of Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office
Cllr Naylor was nominated for Chairman by Cllr Crawley and seconded by Cllr Frend – there being no other nominations, and all in favour it was **resolved** that Cllr Naylor was appointed Chairman and the Declaration of Acceptance signed by Cllr Naylor. Councillors Bedford and Naylor expressed thanks to Cllr Sharkey for all his hard work during his Chairmanship.
Appointment of Vice Chairman
Cllr Lord was nominated for Vice Chairman by Cllr Sharkey and seconded by Cllr Frend – there being no other nominations, and all in favour, it was **resolved** that Cllr Lord was appointed Vice Chairman.
- 26/50 Apologies for Absence - Apologies noted from Cllrs C Wallace, I Meadows, M Hassall; Borough Cllrs J Jones and B George
- 26/51 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation. None received
- 26/52 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 April and 15 April 2026
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 26/53 Parishioners Forum – none present
- 26/54 Police, County and Borough Council Reports
County Council – Cllr Brown’s report had been circulated. It was noted Cllr Brown had been proactive in getting the County Enforcement Officer on board regarding Newbold Quarry debris on the slip road and A38. Cllr Bedford mentioned the initiative to educate children about food and farming and would put Cllr Brown in touch with a fruit farmer at Hints, Tamworth who had several initiatives underway. Cllr Lord referred to the Barton Gate junction – SCC were still awaiting an inquest report on the recent fatality before deciding on action to take.
- 26/55 Appointment of Members to Committees, Outside Bodies and Special Responsibilities
Councillors referred to the circulated list which was updated. Cllrs not present to confirm their willingness to remain on appointed committees.

ACCEPTED ON:SIGNED:

26/56 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

A brief overview of the year-end figures was summarised by Cllr Naylor. Recommendations within the report were all resolved to be approved. Financial monthly reports as circulated were reviewed and resolved to be accepted. Following internal audit, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be brought to the June meeting for review.

2. Planning

Comments and objections as circulated were referred to. Housing Needs Survey – members had attended an online Teams meeting with Paul Keats from Support Staffordshire and Tony Price from Trent & Dove and were still in the process of gathering information. A proposal would be brought back to a future meeting on the pros and cons of carrying out a survey. ESBC had published its housing needs data – up to 2043 they will need approx. 8,000 more houses over and above the current supply. If the split is as before, it would suggest that proportionally, it was possible that Barton could be allocated circa 300 houses. Assuming that housing allocations will be made as part of a revised ESBC Local Plan then it is probable that the amount of housing and proposed locations within the Borough would be debated at Local Plan Public Inquiry. Allocations of housing should only be made to sustainable locations.

3. Community Assets & Environment

Cllr Sharkey summarised the circulated Minutes. A site walk around was required to look at priorities for replacement benches. Allotments – Cllr Sellers reiterated that plot-holders had advised her that issues previously raised had not been resolved. She indicated that the issues involved a particular plot holder and his treatment of adjacent trees, rubbish burning and general behaviour. Cllr Lord maintained that complaints received had been investigated and addressed where appropriate. Any new evidence constituting a breach of the allotment agreement needs to be sent in via the clerk.

4. Policies Events & Communications – Policy Review

Resolved: Councillors reviewed the Policies for annual review and the following were adopted with no changes: Code of Conduct; Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; Publication Scheme; Social Media Policy; Privacy Notice. The new Data Audit was agreed to be adopted as presented and the update to the Asset Register was agreed as circulated. A Policies acknowledgment form was distributed for signature by all.

26/57 Correspondence

Cllr Sharkey to respond to resident's concerns regarding road safety and priorities. Cllr George's request to Display Boards for use at Barton Festival was approved by all. Request for planter at Radhurst Rise – it was thought this belonged to Trent & Dove and should be replenished by them.

26/58 Outstanding Actions -

Circulated list referred to. The Chairman asked for outstanding items to be incorporated onto relevant Committee Agendas.

26/59 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. **Holland Sports Club** – Some of the drawings had been received; Cllr Crawley to liaise with the architect for those outstanding. We are awaiting final draft of the Lease and confirmation of PWLB funding. Steels were already going up, brickworks and damp-proof course to follow, drains and slabs to be done the following week. Cladding then follows, so in 3-4 weeks the external envelope of the building should be complete. Traffic management needs consideration along with some aspects of Health & Safety to be addressed. Signs and banksmen should be deployed.
The Contract for changing rooms will not be signed until the PWLB loan is confirmed. It was agreed that further detail addressing Cllr Davis’ queries would be followed up outside of the meeting.
2. **Flood Risk Group** – Cllr Lord to provide a detailed report following a meeting of the reconstituted FRG he attended with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, and the SCC Flood Risk Officer. It was hoped the Group would now again meet at regular 6 monthly intervals.
3. **Walton By-Pass** – the latest prediction for opening of the bridge was the end of this year. Vehicles were still getting stuck on approach to the Bailey Bridge and there was no sign of any chicane bollards to prevent access for large vehicles along Station Lane.
4. **Quarries liaison** – Cllr Sharkey reported on a meeting at Newbold Quarry; there was a two months reserve on the old quarry workings when extraction will then move to the Northern Extension Area near Burton Rugby Club from June. Restoration plans continue including the re-instatement of footpath 17. Mud on the slip road - the SCC enforcement officer has been investigating this and requiring Holcim take action.
Community Initiatives – Holcim had offered sand for bags for properties in the village at risk of flooding from the Barton Brook .

26/60 Councillors/Clerk’s Reports

1. The Clerk asked for all remaining Register of Interests forms to be returned.
2. Cllr Bedford asked if Cllr Sharkey could condense his outgoing Chairman’s report for the Chime article; she mentioned she would be available to Chair the PC meetings for July and October if needed.
3. Cllr Davis asked if Insurance cover could be checked for members carrying out ‘topple testing’ in the burial ground.

26/61 Dates for future meetings:

4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December

Meeting closed at 20.48