

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 2 JULY 2026 – 7.10 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

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

In attendance: Mrs S Rumsby, Clerk; 2 members of the public

- 26/73 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence –
Apologies were noted from Cllrs J Sellars, B George.
The Chairman advised that a resignation had been accepted from Hugh Frend. Thanks were expressed to Hugh for his efforts during his time on the Council particularly in working with Holland Sports Club and at the Fishpond.
- 26/74 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation.
None Received
- 26/75 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 June 2026
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 26/76 Parishioners Forum –
A resident spoke about the Efflinch Lane development and the impact on her property; mention was made of a secluded dead zone which she perceived would be an ASB hot spot. A crime prevention review had been requested. The resident felt that the parking bays were also an issue impacting the amenity and enjoyment of her home. Cllr Lord arrived at the meeting (1906 hrs). The resident stated there were air pollutions issues from cars in the parking bays and noise pollution from EV chargers and fans plus hazards from the cables. Light pollution would also arise from the parking bays. The 13-space parking court was in a u-shape so amplified acoustics will likely affect other properties in this vicinity. Cllr Lord confirmed BPC Planning Committee had a number of concerns. It had been agreed to refer to the resident's concerns which had been sent to ESBC directly and that BPC Planning Committee were supportive of those concerns. The layout presented has issues and will not be built in that form. Land Supply dictates that this development should not be approved as they have sufficient supply. This has been challenged by the developer and if ESBC cannot prove the land supply, more developers will make proposals. Drainage issues were still delaying any decision and comments are being taken to 29 July. Cllr Hassall remarked that all the village schools are at full capacity.
- 26/77 Police, County and Borough Council Reports
County Council – Cllr Brown's report had been circulated. Cllr Bedford had met with Cllr Brown who had relayed that she was disappointed not to be advised that Cllr Sharkey had stepped down as Chair.
Road maintenance feedback – it remains to be seen whether recent repairs would last; it was reported that Crowberry Lane is in a very poor state.
Community Climate Shelters - Barton Village Hall Management Committee had already

ACCEPTED ON:SIGNED:

discussed the provision of the hall as a shelter in extreme heat. They will liaise with Barton Neighbourhood Volunteers to transport vulnerable people to the hall.

26/78 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

The monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments and Schedule of Payments were accepted, the donation to the Teddy Festival was increased to £150.

2. Planning

Comments and objections as circulated were referred to. Cllrs Naylor, Sharkey and Roger Bell had met with Naomi Perry and Heidi Hollins regarding the Local Plan Review. The Government were pushing through a national plan. The National Government has instructed local planning authorities to remove many of their local planning policies from their plans, as these are to be covered in the main by national planning policies.

Councils were being encouraged to talk to landowners to seek viability. A scoping consultation had begun. There had been no update on housing figures since March. Newbold Quarry restoration plans for a country park were discussed. The Newbold site is owned by the Lower Dunstall Estate, and restoration plans may be relaxed to accommodate building development plans.

Cllr Lord referred to The Green application, points of concern had not been addressed. Surface water outfall was unacceptable in the current proposal.

Both The Green and Efflinch Lane sites have similar drainage issues which they claim to have addressed. Cllr Lord is challenging this.

3. Community Assets & Environment

Cllr Davis summarised the minutes of the Committee's recent meeting. Outstanding actions were now progressing. The situation at the Fishpond had taken up a lot of time. Our Bailiffs were thanked for their efforts. 2 aerators and the pump had overloaded the circuit. Supply for a new permanent second aerator could come off a lighting column. Allotment holders had been invited to express interest in forming a committee. Burial Ground topple testing is to be carried out this year.

4. Policies Events & Communications

The date for the Christmas lights switch on was still to be confirmed as the suggested 28 November clashes with Holland Sports Club Big Barton Ball. The BBC meeting had been cancelled. Cllr Hassall had visited schools with the book tokens which would be awarded for pupils' efforts – it was suggested JTHS students could be invited to a BPC meeting. It was relayed that some students were interested in the planning process. Cllr Bedford would be attending the infant's school; and there was also a tea party at JTHS – all Cllrs were welcome.

Teddy Festival – all agreed to the request for road closure signs and walkie talkies; Cllr Sharkey to liaise with the committee.

26/79 Correspondence

All matters noted.

It was noted that Staffordshire County Council had suspended licences for Speed Indicator Devices.

Student parking continues to cause issues for emergency vehicle access on Palmer Close.

Parking on double yellow lines near the Junior school was also an issue.

26/80 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. **Holland Sports Club** – Cllr Crawley updated on the build status. The concrete slab was down, blockwork complete, rib deck for the first floor had been delayed and the project was estimated to be around 3 weeks behind. The function room will have exposed steel and services.
Lease – points on the length of term and sub-letting had been resolved. Cllrs agreed the option to renew the lease for a one-off further period of 25 years only, following which terms would revert to statutory renewal grounds. This effectively gave the club a 50 year term. It was agreed to hold back the contract until the lease was signed.
Cllr Lord advised that drainage testing had been delayed. The discharge of planning conditions was required from ESBC.
2. **Flood Risk Group** – report to follow.
3. **Walton By-Pass** – nothing to report.
4. **Quarries liaison** – Cllrs Sharkey and Naylor had attended a recent liaison meeting. A long-standing Area Regional Manager was no longer working for Holcim. A further meeting was to take place regarding Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's interest in the acquisition of the site. A Heidelberg meeting was scheduled for September.

26/81 Councillors/Clerk's Reports

1. Cllr Naylor reported on a meeting he attended at Barton Marina along with Cllr Frend and Barry Morgan. The meeting focused on improving relationships with the parish council. Plans were shared for a children's play area, bridge refurbishment, additional walkways and wooded areas. Mr Morgan had offered site visit for councillors, any interest to be forwarded to Cllr Naylor.
Car parking charges were mentioned but it was confirmed the outcome of the court case was awaited. The water levels in the lakes had stabilised.
2. Cllr Meadows reported that another locksmith has been approached for the redesign of an allotment gate lock.
3. Cllr Sharkey referred to the fishpond and requested recognition for the Bailiffs efforts. All agreed to offer a £60 voucher at a local hostelry for a meal for both.
4. Bellways Plot Transfer – it was confirmed that quotes were being obtained from solicitors for the legal work.
5. Fire Brigade annual donation for help with the Christmas star – the donation account had been closed and any funds were requested to be redirected either to the Firefighter's Charity or other local causes. The local brigade to be written letter of thanks.
6. Cllr Naylor expressed thanks to all Cllrs for their efforts over the month.

26/82 Dates for future meetings:

6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December

Meeting closed at 20.30