

MINUTES OF BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING 6 AUGUST 2026 – 7.00 pm;
Robert Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall



Members Present: -

Cllr S Naylor (Chairman)	Cllr D Lord (Vice Chair)	Cllr I Meadows
Cllr S Bedford	Cllr E Sharkey	Cllr C Davis
Cllr M Hassall	Cllr J Sellers	Cllr S West (appointed at 26/84)
Cllr M Grahamslaw (appointed at 26/84)		

In attendance: Mrs S Rumsby, Clerk; 5 members of the public

26/83 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence –
Apologies noted from Cllr Crawley and Cllr George

26/84 Co-option -
Four Candidates were considered; all indicated their willingness to be co-opted onto committees or other voluntary assistance if they were unsuccessful. Voting was carried by paper vote with all candidates having left the room.
It was resolved that Steve West be appointed to the first vacancy. Cllr West rejoined the meeting and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
A vote to fill the second vacancy by Co-option then took place and it was resolved the Margaret Grahamslaw be appointed. Cllr Grahamslaw rejoined the meeting and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
The other candidates left the meeting.

26/85 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and requests for dispensation.
Cllr Meadows declared an interest in item 26/91.1 Holland Sports Club (HSC) – as he is employed by the solicitors acting for the Council in the drafting of the Lease;

26/86 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 July and 30 July 2026
It was **resolved** that the Minutes were accepted to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

26/87 Parishioners Forum –
A resident (Chairman of the Barton branch of the Royal British Legion) asked about the Christmas Star, offering to get it PAT tested. It was confirmed the star had already been completely refurbished and tested.
The RBL Chairman confirmed that the RBL cannot organise the Remembrance Day parade. It was confirmed BPC will have arrangements in hand and the road closure applied for.

The resident then raised questions regarding the public consultation undertaken in relation to the Parish Council's proposed financial contribution to the new HSC building, including the number of households consulted. It was noted that 369 responses had been received. Councillors explained that the consultation was intended to inform the Council's deliberations and was not a formal referendum. The responses received indicated strong support for the proposed contribution, and the Council considered that the consultation provided a positive indication of residents' views within the available timeframe. Questions were also raised regarding the awarding of contracts associated with the HSC project and the involvement of HSC Directors. It was clarified that the Parish Council has no

ACCEPTED ON:SIGNED:

involvement in the management of HSC or its procurement decisions. The importance of appropriate governance and transparency was acknowledged.

The resident also queried the Council's decision to suspend Standing Orders in relation to the appointment of a contractor without undertaking a separate tender process. Cllr Naylor explained that HSC had already undertaken a tender process and that appointing a separate contractor could create practical difficulties, additional cost and increased project risk. Cllr Naylor offered to provide the resident with a written explanation of the Council's decision. The transparency of the Council's minutes was also raised. It was acknowledged that, where appropriate, matters involving commercial confidentiality may be considered in closed session.

Cllr Lord commented on the financial realities facing the existing building, noting that the building was becoming unsustainable. It had been recognised that, if the Parish Council did not contribute to the project, a significant proportion of the same expenditure could ultimately have been required for BPC to demolish the existing building, leaving the community without a replacement facility.

The resident left the meeting at this point.

26/88 Police, County and Borough Council Reports
County Council – Cllr Brown's report had been circulated and content noted.

26/89 Committee Reports considered as circulated.

1. Finance

The monthly Summary of Receipts & Payments and Schedule of Payments were accepted.

2. Planning

Comments and objections as circulated were referred to and accepted.

The Local Plan Consultation process was underway and the Planning Committee to register our interest. Housing allocation figures would be established and communities may have to make their own negotiations with developers.

Three Horseshoes - some of the signage and colours had warranted an objection.

The Cameron Homes development was referred to. BPC's concerns had been shared with other authorities. The date for an ESBC Planning Committee was awaited.

3. Community Assets & Environment

Cllr Sharkey circulated quotes for tree work at the Fishpond. The Fisheries management plan had identified the requirement to reduce leaf fall, by coppicing and pollarding. Ideally this work would be done before September. All agreed to accept a quote received in the sum of £3,850. There was a global budget of £5k for tree work, leaving £1250 for other works needed elsewhere. Comms and Notices to be put out about the necessary tree work. Trees at the pocket park were expected to be in the region of £500—700. Collinson Road trees to be looked at. The Clerk would ask John Taylor and Trent & Dove to clear overgrowth either side of the path - Palmers Close bottom of Holland Park. Allotment Committee – There were 9 interested parties. CAE to appoint someone to draft the Terms of Reference.

Bellways Land Transfer to BPC – This forms part of the open space which has been maintained. The boundary needs defining. There were no constraints on use and this can be decided once transferred. Solicitors' quotes had been received for dealing with the transfer of plot of land. It was resolved to accept quotation no 3 in the sum of £1,500

plus minor disbursements of circa £30. Majority in favour with one abstention.

4. Policies Events & Communications

The next meeting was scheduled for 9 September to discuss the two main events.

Remembrance Day would be on 8 Nov, BPC to organise the parade, road closures and marshalls. 11 November would be the Act of Remembrance involving the schools. 2 volunteers had been identified to help with drumming, Cllr George to train with adult supervision present. Cllr Sharkey to liaise.

Xmas Lights Switch on Sunday - 29 November with a Fancy Dress theme. A special visit from Father Christmas had been secured.

5. HR – Committee Minutes accepted as circulated. Resolutions recorded were:

- the Terms of Reference had been updated.
- the Clerk's appraisal had been carried out.
- the Litter picker role had been extended to cover recorded checks of play equipment.
- the risk assessment had been reviewed.
- WhatsApp use was discussed and an explanation circulated to Cllrs. This to be sent to new Cllrs.
- BPC Chairmanship discussed and Cllr Naylor had offered to continue as Chair to the end of the current term.
- the date for Annual playground inspection was to be confirmed.

26/90 Correspondence

All matters noted. Item 7, Cllr Sharkey offered to provide further reassurance to the resident regarding trees at the rear of Brookside Close.

Item 10, Cllr Lord would be attending the Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal, public consultation, he confirmed this would be at the Crows Nest at the Waterfront.

26/91 Outside Bodies & Special Responsibilities

1. **Holland Sports Club** – Cllr Naylor summarised the current position;

The reason for withholding the changing rooms contract had been to obtain finalisation of the Lease. The Lease had now been agreed, although the sub-lessees would like further changes to be made to the Head Lease.

It was confirmed that there would be no further negotiation from version 5 and that a Deed of Variation could be applied at a future date if required. It was noted that the VAT claim should not be prejudiced.

A number of conflicts with the Head Lease had been highlighted. The Changing Rooms Contract had been released on the basis of the undertaking that the Lease would be signed without further negotiation.

It was noted that the sub-lease is proposed for 20 years and that sub-lessees may wish to sell their interests in between break clauses, requiring an assignment of the sub-lease. and need to assign their sub-lease. The Head Lease provides that they an assignment cannot take place without permission, and does not give an automatic right to assign. It was noted that it is not general practice to give such an automatic right to assign. The potential conflict of interest in relation to a HSC Director was noted in this regard.

Cllrs resolved to hold to the terms of version 5 of the Lease.

Cllr West confirmed he would be happy to liaise with Cllr Crawley and assist with representation of BPC as appropriate.

2. **Flood Risk Group** – nothing to report

3. **Walton By-Pass** – the developer had made an error in assuming the quarry could be closed to tie in the road on the Staffordshire side. The subsequent redesign of the tie-in is awaiting sign off. This has delayed completion to early next year.
4. **Quarries liaison** – meetings with Wildlife Trust, Staffordshire County Council and Julia Jessel to progress the after use of the quarry.

26/92 Councillors/Clerk's Reports

1. Cllr Bedford suggested following up with the two unsuccessful candidates regarding co-option onto volunteering opportunities.
2. Cllr Hassall had attended the presentation evening at John Taylor; she will invite the recipients of the book tokens to a future council meeting.
3. Cllr Davis expressed a concern around additional costs for HSC.
4. Cllr Naylor thanked Cllr Sharkey for a great deal of BPC time spent on his birthday.
5. Comms on the WWII bomb to be maintained.
6. New Cllr Inductions to take place
7. Vacancies on PEC, CAE and Finance, HSC. SW HSC and CAE. MG on Finance & PEC.

26/93 Dates for future meetings:

3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December

Advance apologies received for 3 September from Cllrs Grahamslaw and Sellers due to holidays.

Meeting closed at 20.55