

# **Barton under Needwood**

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Report**

**8 May 2024**

Siobhan Rumsby, Clerk to the Council

Website: [www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk)

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Approx 25 – 30 in attendance; 10 Cllrs – KM absent

## **Ed Sharkey – Annual Report - Barton Parish Council Chairman 2023-24**

The Annual Meeting was held on 6 April 2023 before Local Elections were held on 5 May 2023.

Several Parish Councillors stepped down at the May 2023 elections including Sue van Daesdonk who had served 8 years as Parish Council Chair, Graham Hughes (also PC Chair immediately prior to Sue), Lynn Bennett who had served as Sue's Vice-Chair, Alison Jones another long-serving Councillor, and James Weaver, who had joined more recently.

All brought great expertise and energy to the Council and gave great service to their Community – and are still doing so outside of the Parish Council being variously: Secretary and members of the Village Hall Management Committee, Secretary to the local branch of the Royal British Legion, Co-ordinator for the Barton Speedwatch Group, and Lettings Secretary for the PC Allotments.

At the May elections the Parish Council welcomed new members Cllrs Charley Walker, Steve Naylor, and James Brookes who joined existing Cllrs Ian Gilbey, Derek Lord, Ed Sharkey, Jeannette Taylor and Lindy Young. Cllrs Chris Allcock and Kevin McInerney were co-opted in June 2023 and Cllr Sally Bedford was co-opted in December 2023.

### **Key Projects:**

#### **Parks and Open Spaces**

The toddlers play area at Collinson Park was refurbished in the autumn with new safety surfacing, replacement of worn parts, and the equipment repainted in brighter colours. The Parish Council acknowledge with grateful thanks the significant financial contributions made to the cost of the works by both the Mercer Charitable Foundation and the Barton and Dunstall Key Trust.

After being told by the manufacturer that we would have to replace the 'Skier' exercise equipment at some cost we found that a local specialist engineering firm in Burton was able to refurbish the equipment at much lower cost by replacing worn bearings and making other parts; which will extend its useful life considerably.

The replacement fishing pegs at the pond were well used over the season and not just by anglers. Artists have been using them as a vantage point for painting and to sketch, and other folk just to sit and enjoy being by the water, or to have a picnic. The larger double platform which is used in the summer for training young people to fish responsibly is due to be replaced in the next few weeks so that it's available for this year's programme run by the FISH2013 (Fishing in Safe Hands) project; ably supported by our own Fishpond Bailiffs who's continued dedication in keeping the pond in good condition is very much appreciated.

As part of their work in monitoring water quality and water level in the pond, and following a previous serious oil pollution incident, a gate valve was installed on the water inlet system to the pond to allow the Bailiffs to isolate the pond from any pollution that might be affecting the Barton Brook – from which the pond is fed.

Our term landscape contractor continued to keep the Parish parks well maintained; however, grass cutting was badly affected both at the end of the 2023 season and the beginning of this season by the incessant rain over the Autumn and Winter (one of the wettest since records began). The ground has been saturated

most of the Winter and has had to be left to dry out sufficiently this Spring before mowers can operate satisfactorily to get the grass down to regulation length.

The Parish Council are looking to install additional land drainage in Collinson Park this year to try to deal with the issue and keep the grass areas useable for longer throughout the year.

Seating in the Parks and Open Spaces will be improved by a project to replace the existing timber benches and tables which are time-served, having been in place 15 years or more.

The National Forest interpretation signs in Collinson Park and Ash Tree Road Pocket Park and outside the village hall have all been refurbished this year and their expected lifespan extended.

New bollards have been installed on Potters Way by the fishpond to protect the fishing pegs and anglers and, with new and refreshed signage, to help regulate traffic along Potters Way. The Parish Council are looking to find funding to repair and/or replace the protective fencing along the side of the Brook course which has suffered a lot of 'wear and tear' over the years.

### Village Enhancement

The party to celebrate the King's Coronation was generally acknowledged to be a great success with a focus for activities at 'The Square' in the middle of the village between the Shoulder of Mutton PH and the War Memorial. A road closure of Main Street allowed an afternoon of music, dancing, a Maypole display by our local school children, food stalls, ice cream van, vintage car display and traction engines all in wonderful sunshine. Then in the evening music in St James Churchyard and the lighting of the beacon atop the church tower.

Many thanks to all the folk who worked so hard to bring that together in such a short period of time, Parish Councillors, St James Church PCC, Licensees, and the many volunteers who manned vehicle road blocks and did a hundred and one things that made the day what it was. A great day for the community to come together and to feel that life is good in our village.

The Parish Council, working closely with the local branch of the Royal British Legion and the Vicar of St James Church, organised the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Sunday 12 November and the service at St James. The rain stopped just in time to allow the reading of the Roll of Honour – which, 'technically', then counts as another successful 'rain-free' (if ever so slightly 'moist') event. Thanks to all our RBL Branch representatives, our schools and local community groups who came to bear witness, and to the 16th Signals Regiment who came from RAF Stafford to join us, arranged by RBL Branch President Sean Severn.

The Christmas Tree in The Square outside the Shoulder of Mutton PH was supplied once more by Mercer Farming – for which our grateful thanks- and installed and decorated by volunteers and with the 'Christmas Wishes' of our local school children. Father Christmas visited on 2 December to switch the lights on. The Parish Council are looking at improving PA arrangements for this year so those attending the event are better able to hear the carol singing and what Father Christmas has to say.

### Allotments

The Parish Council are currently negotiating with Staffordshire County Council to renew the lease on the Allotments off Efflinch Lane. Anyone interested in taking a plot should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

## Flood Risk

The extremely wet winter led to some close calls with very high levels in the Barton Brook on several occasions from as early as the beginning of October, causing fear of flooding.

Barton PC organised two Barton Brook Working Parties in November which were very well attended with between 30 and 40 volunteers looking at areas along the length of the Brook from Park Road to the Marina and removing snags and obstructions such as fallen trees and branches and bramble thickets which would trap debris in high flow.

BPC also worked with the Environment Agency (EA) to put together a bid to fund a new automated river level gauge to be installed above Park Road to measure water levels in the Brook as it comes in to the village. We heard recently that this bid has been successful and we will be working with the EA to get this installed this summer. We will then run a project to link the data from the level gauge with real-time rainfall data from an EA automated gauge at Berkeley Park. This gives the potential for development of a local flood alert system which people at flood risk can sign up to receive warning of high-water levels.

The EA are still looking at how a flood alleviation scheme can be put in place upstream of the village to 'slow the flow' and prevent the flood surges which have caused so much damage in the past. At the moment there is a large gap between what Government funding is available and what such a scheme may cost. Trent Rivers Trust has been meeting with landowners through all of the catchment of the Barton Brook above the village to look for opportunities to implement lower cost 'Natural Flood Management' techniques which would also help reduce flood peaks.

Downstream of the village the Parish Council is working with the EA and the owners of Barton Marina to look at how flooding in the lower part of the Barton Brook can be better managed to prevent loss of use of the rugby pitches at Holland Sports Club and overland flow off the pitches that have caused severe gully erosion to the banks of the adjacent Marina Lake.

Barton PC is also working with the EA and Staffordshire County Flood Risk Officer to try to get developer's St Modwens to carry out urgent maintenance on a succession of ponds on the Business Park site east of the A38 through which the Barton Brook flows on its way to join the River Trent downstream of Walton Bridge. Lack of storage volume in these ponds, which are heavily silted up, holds up flow from both the Barton Brook and the Full Brook and this increases flood risk to properties and roads at Barton Turns and along Lichfield Road.

Barton PC worked with engineers from Bellway to agree a revised Maintenance and Management Plan for the watercourses within the Public Open Space areas east of the Causer Road housing estate and along the Full Brook and its tributaries. The site management company has to improve clearance of bankside vegetation to allow good flow. Bellway also agreed to replace a pipe culvert at a key location with a timber bridge which makes a major difference in throughput of flow in flood conditions.

We have also been working with our County Councillor, Julia Jessel, and Staffordshire County Highways to try to get more resource provided to the village to clear blocked road gullies and watercourse culvert beneath roads, particularly on Efflinch Lane, in order to prevent surface water flooding and damage to properties caused by drivers going too fast through flood water. We have also requested that County Highways agree a scheme of delegation with the Parish Council to allow the PC to put temporary local road closures in place when roads are badly flooded.

BPC has also been lobbying our County Councillor to press Severn Trent Water to engage with the community on the issue of sewer flooding as too much surface water is getting into the foul sewer system resulting in surcharges and sewage escaping from manholes and flooding of people's gardens and property, particularly off Station Road and at Mill Lane & Mill Crescent. Sewer surcharging in heavy rainfall events is also causing contamination of the Barton Brook which has been noticeable on several occasions this winter. We are finally starting to see some movement from STW on this with their teams now carrying out sewer investigations at locations around the village.

Flooding is becoming an increasing problem countrywide, as has been evident in the national media, and we are aware that Staffordshire County Council and the Environment Agency are in high-level discussions with Severn Trent Water on strategies for trying to deal with the issue.

## Planning

The Planning Committee continue to meet fortnightly to review all planning applications made in the Parish and to provide comments to East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) Planning Officers on them. BPC receive welcome professional advice on this from Roger Bell, a retired Planning Officer living in the village, and our comments are very much focussed on explaining our view in relation to the Policies in the Borough Council's own adopted Local Plan.

The Parish Council does NOT have powers to grant or refuse planning applications; those decisions are taken by ESBC.

Frustratingly our comments are not always taken fully on board when decisions are made. In some cases, we make representation to our East Staffs Borough Councillor and request further explanation on the reason that permissions are granted, sometimes seemingly at odds with ESBC's own policies.

The current Local Plan, which amongst other things allocates areas in settlement for new housing, runs out in 2031 and we are entering a period where East Staffs will be starting to review its current plan.

As happened in the preparation of the last Local Plan, Barton PC will seek to work with other Parish Councils in East Staffordshire to meet with ESBC Planners to discuss the development of the new Plan, and particularly how its policies and land allocations may affect the Parish.

## Burial Ground

The Burial Ground is maintained in good order, together with the area around the War Memorial, by our Parish Gardener. A new bench has recently been donated and installed to allow opportunities for reflection and quiet contemplation. Due to a rising water table, it is becoming difficult to double dig graves in many areas and the capacity for burials is finite as available grave spaces are filled.

The Parish Council has again taken informal advice from local land agents on the likelihood of suitable land close to the village being available to buy for a replacement burial ground. However, due to all such land around the village being priced at a premium, with owners hoping to sell for development value rather than at agricultural rates, none has so far been identified. An area of land had previously been offered to the PC for a new burial ground but that was conditional on the PC's support for a planning application for housing on adjacent land and due to successive PC's concerns about the negative impact on the local landscape character no agreement has been entered into.

Whilst space will remain available for some time for interment of cremated remains, and scattering of ashes, eventually the site will necessarily have to be closed to full burials and the nearest alternative site will be at Stapenhill cemetery.

### Finally...

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all our Councillors and volunteers for all the time they have given over the last year in working so hard to serve our community. Much of this goes 'unsung', but their work would be very much missed if they stopped doing it and Barton would be a poorer place for the lack of it.

There is always more to do and anyone who has some time to give who would like to get involved in helping with all types of projects in the Parish would be very welcome. Please contact our Parish Clerk in the first instance.

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2023-24

### – Steve Naylor, Finance Chairman

The Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31 March 2024 has now closed and the statement drafted. Accounts have been subject to internal review and will now be subject of external audit before final acceptance by the Parish Council in June 2024.

The total income received was £156,508 which included the Precept (local tax) of £81,000. A significant part of our income was from grants and donations totalling £8,683 largely from Barton & Dunstall KeyTrust supporting the Coronation Event (£1464) and funding towards the refurbishment of the toddler park (£6,000); the RBL for a new bench at the fishpond (to be installed) and a personal donation of a memorial bench in the burial ground. The remainder of our income came from primary sources which are the Burial Ground (£14,150), Fishing Licences (£3,077), Rent from the COOP for the Car Park (£10,108) and Allotment Rents (£1,288). The balance of our income came from administrative sources such as Interest and VAT reclaim.

Expenditure for the year was £154,297k. Staffing costs (which include the Clerk to the Council and the people we employ to care for and maintain the village) remain the bulk of expenditure followed by grounds maintenance covering the parks and open spaces. This included significant investment in refurbishing the Toddlers Play Area at Collison Park, replacing some of the dilapidated Fishing Platforms and new Bollards along the edge of the Pond on Potters Way.

£2,700 was spent on the Coronation Party event which was an important activity in terms of developing community cohesion (a proportion of this came from the prior year's budget).

The Parish Council has ended the year with funds in hand of £96,773k, of which £48,580 has been earmarked for important projects this year which include a new angling training platform for the pond, improved drainage/entry for Collison Park and replacement of many benches and notice boards. This will impact our planned reserves, and this is a conscious decision. Our aim is to bring our reserves down to a lower level (£48k) as recommended by our external auditor.

A breakdown of the accounts, budget, scheduled payments and bank reconciliation is presented every month to the full Parish Council. The Finance Committee meet periodically to check the accounts, review the budget and make appropriate recommendations to full Council.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be subject to an External Audit and will be available for public inspection on request for a period in July.

### **New Financial Year**

At its meeting in January 2024 full Council approved the budget for 2024/25. In recognition of the pressures on household incomes and reflecting that we are planning to reduce our reserves, the Parish Council Tax Rate for the average band D property has remained at last year's level. This has been possible by sound financial management of the budget in previous years.

The Clerk of the Parish Council and Councillors who are members of the Finance Committee have worked hard on behalf of the community during the year and I thank them for their contributions and help/guidance during my first year as Chair.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - *Subject to Internal and External Audit*

<b>Barton under Needwood Parish Council</b>		<b>Receipts and Payments Account</b>	
S. Rumsby, RFO - Year ending 31 March 2024			
		<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Local Authority Precept		€ 81,000.00	€ 76,000.00
Local Authority Other		€ 1,865.00	€ 1,865.00
Burial Ground		€ 14,150.00	€ 15,480.90
Rents - Allotments, Fishing & Holland Sports		€ 4,814.50	€ 3,821.89
Investment Income (Interest)		€ 1,613.29	€ 243.94
VAT Reimbursement		€ 4,424.89	€ 9,862.34
Other + Grants & Donations		€ 8,855.67	€ 20,357.59
Car Park		€ 10,107.94	€ 9,367.88
Village Hall Salary contra		€ 12,976.23	€ 12,587.16
Credits not on statement		€ -	€ -
		<b>€ 139,807.52</b>	<b>€ 149,586.70</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Salary / Wages		€ 54,148.19	€ 49,947.87
Administration		€ 9,076.22	€ 7,928.55
Burial Ground		€ 4,863.88	€ 3,946.29
Allotments		€ 1,412.22	€ 1,913.45
Fishpond		€ 18,770.98	€ 5,500.00
Donations & S.137 payments		€ 658.00	€ 385.50
Capital Expenditure		€ 1,894.42	€ 237.50
General Payments inc Maintenance & Repairs		€ 3,497.25	€ 1,570.25
P & OS Grasscutting/Grounds Maintenance		€ 26,291.52	€ 12,120.33
Special Projects		€ 1,270.00	€ 1,251.58
Lengthsman		€ 2,809.20	€ 2,570.00
Car Park		€ 2,600.11	€ 988.00
VAT Payable		€ 10,978.81	€ 4,475.76
Village Hall Salary contra		€ 13,079.17	€ 12,462.59
Vec		€ 1,071.68	244.73
Unpresented cheques		€ 50.00	€ -
		<b>€ 152,371.65</b>	<b>€ 105,542.40</b>
Net Income for the Year to date		-€ 12,564.13	€ 44,044.30
Add Cash Balances B/Fwd 1st April		€ 163,596.12	€ 119,551.82
		<b>€ 151,031.99</b>	<b>€ 163,596.12</b>
<b>Represented By Cash Balances</b>			
Current Account		€ 2,015.00	€ 2,001.00
High Interest A/C (Closed)			
Deposit Accounts		€ 74,372.32	€ 87,522.39
Petty Cash		€ 150.00	€ 150.00
National Savings Account		€ 74,494.67	€ 73,922.73
<b>Total Cash Balances</b>		<b>€ 151,031.99</b>	<b>€ 163,596.12</b>
	Reconcilliation	-€ 0.00	

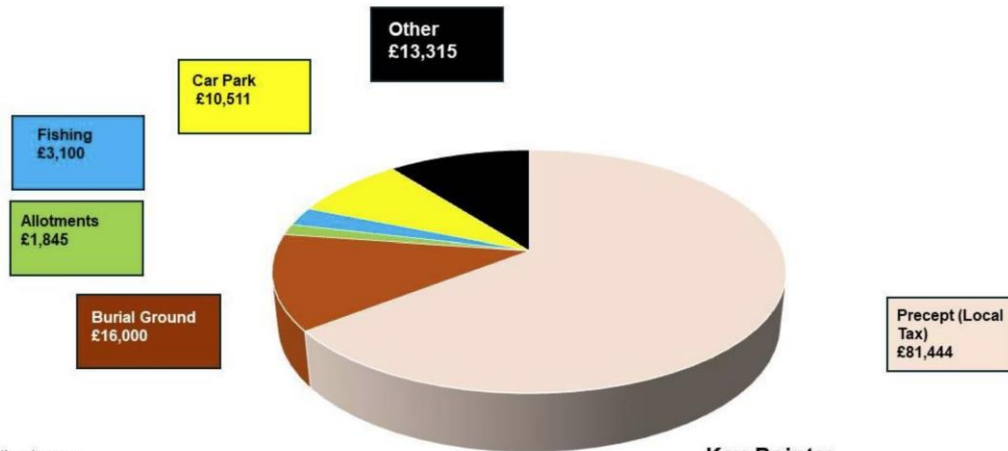
Receipts total excludes vired funds from reserves of £16700 to account for budget lines overspent.

Payments total excludes accrual of election expenses of £1875 pa to build reserves for next election.



Finance - 1

Barton under Needwood Parish Council - Total Budget Income 2024/25 £126,215



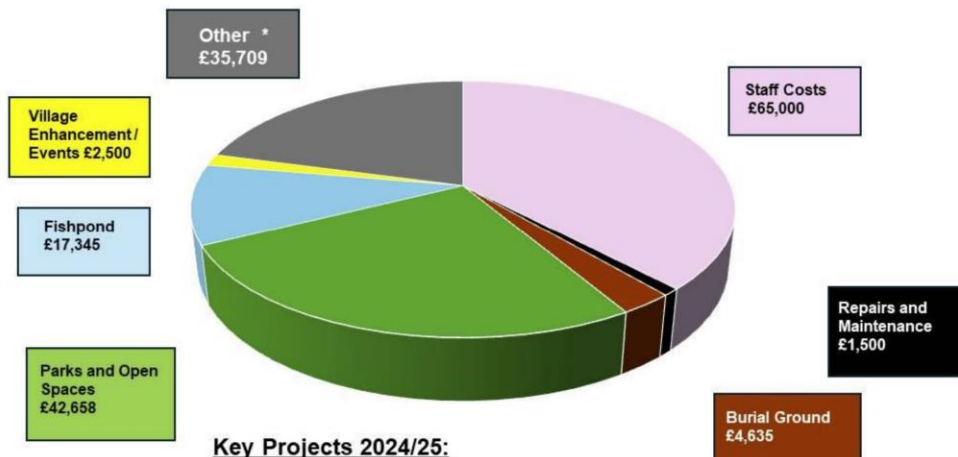
\* Other income includes:  
VAT Reimbursement  
Grants  
Interest

Key Points:

- Precept (tax) held at 2023/24 level
- Car Park Income is rent from CO-OP
- Marginal increases in Burial, Fishing and Allotment fees

Finance - 2

Barton under Needwood Parish Council - Total Budget Expenditure 2024/25 £169,347

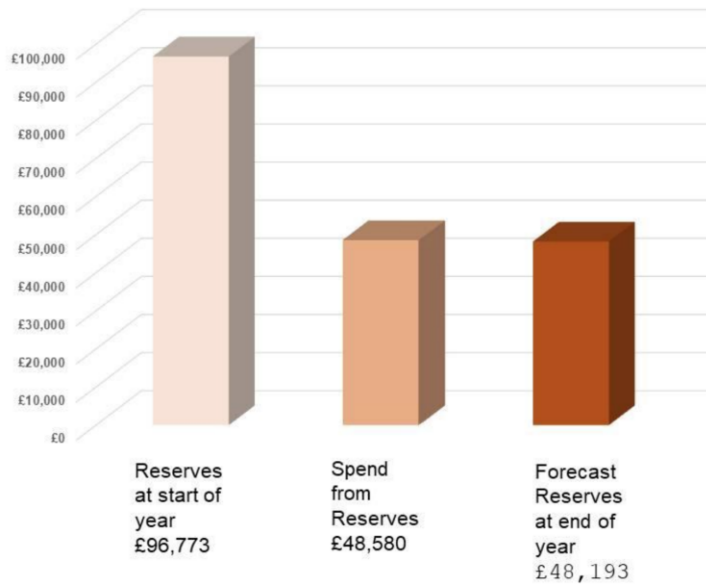


\* Other costs include:  
VAT, Election Costs, Bank Charges Donations, Allotments and fees

Key Projects 2024/25:

- Collison Park Drainage
- Replacement benches in Parks and at Fishpond
- Replacement fishing training platform for juniors
- Replacement and refurbishment of Notice Boards
- Refurbishment of Memorial Garden and fencing in Burial Ground

### Barton under Needwood Parish Council - Reserves 2024 / 2025



The Parish Council has decided to reduce the Reserves by spending more on community projects this year.

This is in line with our advice from our Auditors on the level of reserves required.

## General Power of Competence

As an eligible Council, the General Power of Competence (Part 1, Localism Act 2011) has been applied to the following payments for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. Payments made:

John Taylor High School – prizes	25.00
Coronation Entertainers	146.01
Royal British Legion – Barton branch	63.00
Barton Festival	<u>120.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£385.50</b>

## COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES

Councillors may claim for reimbursement of goods and services purchased on behalf of the Parish Council and occasional travel expenses.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining village assets including the Burial Ground, Collinson Park, Ash Tree Pocket Park, the Fishpond, the War Memorial, Allotments off Efflinch Lane, St James Road Garden and various planters around the village. It is also the Sole Trustee of Barton Village Hall and leases the majority of the land at Holland Sports Club.

The Parish Council are not responsible for the following:

Maintenance of roads and footpaths, jetting of gullies – *Staffordshire County Council Highways*  
The canal / brook / surface water flooding – *Environmental Agency/SCC and water authorities plus riparian owners (adjacent properties)*  
Fly-tipping, illegal advertisements, noise complaints, dog fouling, street cleaning and bins – *East Staffordshire Borough Council*  
Speeding, anti-social behaviour - *the police – non urgent incidents to be reported via their Website*  
Illegal parking– *Clear Streets, Staffordshire County Council*  
Parking causing an obstruction- *the police via their website*

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ed Sharkey, Chairman	Derek Lord, Vice Chairman	Ian Gilbey	Lindy Young
Jeannette Taylor	Charley Walker	Steve Naylor	James Brookes
Kevin McInerney	Christopher Allcock	Sally Bedford	

Stephen Harley resigned in October 2023

Co-opted Members: Christopher Allcock & Kevin McInerney, June 2023; Sally Bedford, December 2023

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors have attended all monthly Parish Council meetings with the exception of the following where apologies were recorded:

April 2023	E. Sharkey
June 2023	L. Young, S. Harley, C. Allcock
July 2023	S. Harley, C. Allcock
August 2023	C. Allcock
September 2023	S. Harley, C. Walker
November 2023	L. Young
December 2023	E. Sharkey
January 2024	D. Lord, I. Gilbey
February 2024	D. Lord, L. Young, C. Walker, K. McInerney, C. Allcock

ESBC Needwood Ward Councillors: Bev Ashcroft has attended 2 meetings; Jacqui Jones attended 3 and Vicki Gould 0 meetings.

Staffordshire County Councillor: Julia Jessel has attended 1 meeting

Police representatives: 1 meeting attended.

Parish Council meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every month, commencing at 7.00pm in the Douglas Room, Barton Village Hall, Crowberry Lane, Barton under Needwood. At the start of the meeting, there is a Parishioners Forum where 15 minutes is allocated for Parishioners to bring up any matters for discussion. Parishioners are asked to notify the Clerk of the nature of their representation in advance of the meeting.

## Contact Details

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Siobhan Rumsby. The office opening hours are 10am until 12pm Mondays; and 1pm until 3pm Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Tel: 01283 716059 Email: [clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk)

Barton under Needwood Parish Council, Village Hall, Crowberry Lane, Barton under Needwood  
Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8AF

The Parish Council website has a wealth of information so please do have a look. We are also on Facebook but note 'Messenger' is not monitored so please contact the Clerk directly via the office, telephone or email.

[www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk)

[Barton under Needwood Parish Council | Facebook](#)

# **Barton Village Hall – For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**– Joe Moody, Treasurer**

**Chair’s Annual Report and Treasurers Report (see separate document)**

Social Media: [Barton under Needwood Village Hall | Burton upon Trent | Facebook](#)

Web: [Village Hall - \(bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk\)](#)

Bookings: [bartonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bartonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com)

## Holland Sports Club – Dick Titley Chairman



### Chairman's Report for year ending April 2024

Welcome to you all from Holland Sports Club Executive group who assist me with the management of the club.

This is a great time for you to visit us as we are currently rebuilding our club in many ways following an unstable period of time where not only has the atrocious weather affected our business, but we have also been treading water for many months whilst trying to recruit a suitable club manager to take on the day to day running of the club. We are extremely pleased to tell you that Kate Martlew is now filling that role with much excitement and success, bringing not only a breath of fresh air to the club but also new business and life.

I would like to thank you for your support, your attendance at our monthly meetings are very much appreciated as they provide us with a prompt and knowledgeable response to the many issues that we discuss at each meeting and which enable us to move forward without delay . It is also great to be able to tease Jeanette and make the most of the benefit of her experience, her help in particular has been immense.

You will see from your surroundings that the Holland Sports Club buildings and surroundings are looking tired and in need of constant maintenance. This is an ongoing issue for us as a non-profit making organisation who rely on the affiliated clubs and bar takings to keep our finances healthy. We are very proud of our grounds which are looking green and healthy, and that is all down to the investment of not only thousands of pounds but also many hours of labour and especially the experienced touch of Fran Johnson and his volunteer ground staff to keep them going. They have spent hours over the winter months repairing the flood damage and preventing it from spreading further. This is something that we need to work hard to prevent in future as sooner or later the flood water will do irreparable damage. Your help with building and upgrading future flood defences would be appreciated.

We have been very fortunate with participating in a grounds project with the England Football Association (FA) and England Rugby Association (RFU) and which over the past few years has helped to fund grounds machinery and maintenance and which has allowed us to maintain our own grounds without having to employ expensive outside labour. Joint working and investment by our affiliated clubs has meant that our sports pitches are by far some of the best in the area and certainly the largest playing fields in the village. Our single rugby and football pitches plus cricket wicket and outfield are not large enough to cater for the hundreds of children and seniors playing sport at HSC. This has resulted in our affiliated clubs having to spend thousands of pounds each year renting external playing fields in order to practice and play their fixtures. Our junior football and rugby teams are spread out over the whole of the East Staffordshire borough even as far afield as Uttoxeter . It is for this reason that we have sought your help with finding alternative playing areas which are closer to the village. The Mill Lane fields are an ideal locality to provide space for our children to practice and play their sport whilst also providing close access to the changing facilities and refreshments at Holland Sports Club.

We are very grateful to the Probation Service's Community Payback Scheme who attend most weekends to paint and repair our buildings, saving us thousands of pounds a year in labour costs. Unfortunately, their maintenance skills are limited and they are not able to save all of our buildings which we are constantly in

need of repair. A good example of the unseen repairs is that of the security roller shutters which after 50 years are now becoming brittle and in need of replacing at great cost. Our doors and windows also need upgrading to improve our security and become more economical, the list to be perfectly honest is endless. The large trees surrounding our grounds are in constant need of maintenance which require expensive specialist skills.

We do need to remember that this club was built in 1962 and then upgraded in 1975 and has been patched up ever since by previous committees. We now need a new club house to see us through at least the next 50 years. I would like to acknowledge the support of Rob Mercer from Packington Free Range and the Mercer Family Trust who are currently helping us to realise the dream of replacing the clubhouse and changing facilities. Together we are currently researching options for new builds and replacements and hope to be able to present a proposal to you and our members very soon. It is no surprise that the costs are extremely high and will involve a huge amount of fund raising as well as acceptance of new buildings which will not only replace the old but also attract new business in the future.

On behalf of Tim, Seamus, Jodie and Simon our Executive committee we hope that you have a very successful meeting and look forward to working with you all in the near future.

Barton Rovers Fun Day 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**Dick Titley - Chairman of Holland Sports Club**

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