

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday, 18 November 2002 at Wasperton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr JV Murphy (Chairman)

Cllrs M P Byerley, R Clay, Mrs A Gordon, Mrs M Hayward, K S Hope, D H Hunt,
R G Mulgrue, A Roberts, W Worrall, J T Wright.

In attendance: Cllrs R G Butler (WDC), Mrs J Compton (WCC), Cllr B S Gill (Chair of WDC),
Mrs M B Haywood (WCC), R Tamlin (WDC), PC R French.

109. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G P Grima, Mrs J Jackson, G G Morris,
M Peters.

110. Cllr Balvinder S Gill, Chair of Warwick District Council

On behalf of Members Cllr J V Murphy welcomed Cllr Gill to the meeting. Cllr Gill then
addressed Members.

111. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The following interests were declared:

Agenda item No.11 – Village Halls – Applications for Grant

Barford Memorial Hall

Cllr K S Hope – Prejudicial - JPC representative on Barford Memorial Hall Management
Committee.

Cllr J V Murphy – Prejudicial - Member of Management Committee.

Cllr W Worrall – Prejudicial - Member of Management Committee.

Wasperton Village Hall

Cllr D H Hunt – Prejudicial - Member of Wasperton PCC.

Agenda item No.11 – Parochial Church Councils – Applications for Grant re Churchyard
Maintenance.

Barford:

Mrs M Hayward – Prejudicial - Member of PCC.

Wasperton:

Cllr D H Hunt – Prejudicial - Member of PCC.

Agenda item No.15 – Land at Wellesbourne Road, Barford – Cllr A Roberts -Prejudicial
– owner of adjoining property.

Members left the meeting during consideration of the relevant agenda item.

112. Representations by Members of the Public

No representations were received.

113. Matters for the Constabulary

PC French reported on the role undertaken by ‘Crimestoppers’ and their co-operation
with the constabulary.

It was agreed that 'Crimestoppers' request for grant assistance be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

Concern was expressed regarding the danger caused by cars being parked too close to the junction of Wasperton Lane and Wellesbourne Road, Barford.

It was suggested that the problem could be alleviated if a lay-by was constructed in the wide verge of Wasperton Lane.

It was agreed to ask Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council if a lay-by could be provided.

114. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed:

Council	14 October 2002
Planning Committee	5 November 2002

115. Reports from representatives appointed to serve on other bodies

Cllr Mrs A Gordon and Cllr R G Mulgrue reported on their attendance at a 'Roadshow' held in Leamington Spa by the Standards Board at which representatives of the Board updated Members on the operation of the Code of Conduct.

The Clerk read a report submitted by Cllr Mrs J Jackson on her attendance as the Councils representative at the Annual General Meeting of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils held on 30 October 2002.

The governments consultation paper on Airport plans was discussed at the meeting and a proposal made by the Rugby Area Committee to oppose a new airport in Warwickshire. The meeting supported the proposal although the County Committee was awaiting responses from Member Councils before deciding on their decision.

116. Traffic Calming – Barford

The Chairman reported that representatives of the Council and Barford residents had met on 14 November 2002 with Officers of Warwickshire County Council Traffic Group to discuss the Councils concerns regarding the unsatisfactory traffic calming measures installed in Church Street and High Street, Barford.

The outcome of the meeting was disappointing. Whilst the Officers had agreed to consider carrying out some remedial work the extent of this was unsatisfactory with no positive indication as to when it would be undertaken.

Concern was expressed that the Chicane near Avon Close was dangerous and it was known that a number of accidents had occurred as a result.

It was agreed that the current situation was unacceptable and it was:

Resolved: that the Councils concern and request for remedial action be conveyed directly to Mr J Deegan Director of Planning and Transport.

117. Airport Plans

It was noted that on 23 July 2002 the government launched a consultation paper seeking views on the development of airports in the UK.

A paper setting out the five options for the Midlands was circulated with the agenda papers for the September meeting.

Cllr Mrs J Compton and Cllr R Tamlin reported on the respective action taken by Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council to investigate the options put forward. It seemed likely that they would indicate that their preferred option was expansion of the existing airports.

Members noted the work undertaken to investigate the proposals by the County and District Council. It was also noted that the formal response of the County Council would be available before that of the District Council.

Resolved: that DETR be informed of the Joint Parish Councils support for the response submitted by Warwickshire County Council.

118. Trees – Barford Playing Field

At the October meeting of the Council it was reported that some of the trees growing adjacent to the new multi-sports surface had low growing branches that could present a potential hazard to users as well as make mowing under them difficult. The oak tree near to the entrance of the playing field also had low growing branches that prevented use of a tractor- mounted mower underneath it. It was therefore desirable that pruning work was undertaken as soon as possible.

Quotations had been invited from four contractors but the only one received was that from Douglas Lewis Tree Surgeons in the sum of £265.00 plus VAT.

At the October meeting acceptance of the most suitable quotation was delegated to the Chairman and Clerk and it was therefore intended to issue instructions to Douglas Lewis Tree Surgeons to undertake the work subject to clarification of a minor variation in their quotation from the work specified.

Resolved: That the above report be noted and proposed action confirmed.

119. Warwickshire County Council – Annual Emergency Planning Briefing

Following their attendance at the Annual Emergency Planning Briefing for Parish Councils held on Tuesday 24 September 2002 Cllr Mrs A Gordon and Cllr J V Murphy reported on the need to regularly update the Councils Emergency Plan.

Resolved: that a copy of the Councils Emergency Plan be circulated in each parish to enable amendments to be made if required.

120. Applications for Grant 2002/2003

a) Village Halls – Applications for grant received from the three Village Halls were considered.

It was noted that the application by Barford Memorial Hall Management Committee indicated that they had two major projects in hand but unfortunately the builder had gone out of business and they were now in the process of re-tendering. It was unlikely that the new tenders would be as low as the one obtained eighteen months ago so any difference would have to be funded. The Committee had successfully applied to the Community Fund for a grant of Lottery money towards the cost of the work but this would not be available unless they could show that they were able to finish the whole project. The Committee advised that they would inform the Council of any shortfall when this information was available.

The Clerk reported receipt of an updated receipts and payments statement in respect of Wasperton Village Hall.

Resolved: that a decision on the award of grants to Village Halls be deferred to enable provision of the additional information referred to in the application by Barford Memorial Hall and circulation of Wasperton Village Hall revised statement of Receipts and Payments.

b) Churchyard Maintenance

Applications for grant received from the three respective Parochial Church Councils were considered.

Resolved: That the following grants be made:	£
Barford	230.00
Sherbourne	230.00
Wasperton	230.00

121. Freedom of Information Act

It was noted that Parish Councils are one of the bodies to whom the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applied. Section 19 of the Act required every public authority to adopt and maintain a publication scheme approved by the Information Commissioner.

Section 20 of the Act provided that the Commissioner may from time to time approve model publication schemes for public authorities falling within a particular class. Where a public authority adopted an appropriate model scheme no further approval was required.

The implementation timetable required public authorities covered by the Act to have a scheme approved by the Commissioner and in place by 28 February 2003.

The model scheme comprised six 'core' classes of information some of which contained details of optional information. As well as the core classes the scheme contained seven optional classes.

NALC recommended that Councils adopt the model scheme as it stands unless it was absolutely impossible to do so.

Resolved that the Council adopts the Model Scheme with inclusion of the following optional classes of information as set out in Appendix A attached.

Core Class 1 – Council Internal Practice and Procedure

- Agendas and supporting papers for Council and Committee Meetings.

Optional Class 7 Development and Implementation of Policy

- Responses made to consultation papers.

It was further resolved that the actual cost of providing a copy be charged.

122. Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

At the meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2002 the Chairman and Clerk were requested to review the interim resolution suggested by NALC acknowledging the general duty placed on it as a result of new legislation to promote race equality.

The Chairman and Clerk reported that they had reviewed the interim resolution and suggested that the following resolution was adopted:

‘Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council acknowledges the general duty placed upon it by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The Council will in the exercise of its functions and policies have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote racial equality between people of different racial groups’.

Resolved that the resolution set out above be adopted.

123. The Boundary Committee for England – Periodic Electoral Review of Warwickshire County Council

At the meeting of the Council held on 16 September 2002 a letter from the Boundary Committee was considered in which they advised that a periodic review of Warwickshire County Council electoral arrangements would commence on 6 August 2002.

The Boundary Committee stated that the primary objective of the County Council review was to achieve as far as possible equality of representation across the county as a whole in order that a similar number of electors were represented by each County Councillor.

The Committee invited any views the Council may have.

Warwickshire County Council had written advising that the Council had decided to put forward options for public consultation before finalising its proposals to the Boundary Committee on 3 December 2002. A copy of the County Councils letter together with a copy of the Warwick option was circulated with the agenda papers for the meeting

Resolved:

That the Boundary Commission and Warwickshire County Council be informed the Council has strong objections to the proposal put forward for its own area (Group 14)

Whilst the Council is pleased to see that its three parishes are in the same group it is concerned that it is proposed to group it with Urban Town Wards.

The Council believes that rural parishes have different concerns and needs from Urban and Town areas and requests that is grouped with adjoining rural parishes. The Council considers it unacceptable to be grouped with an Urban or Town area simply to equate the

number of electors. It considers it important that the grouping should reflect contiguous interests and not just a minor part of an Urban or Town Division.

The Council suggests that an appropriate grouping would be the parishes of Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Budbrooke, Hatton, Norton Lindsey, Sherbourne and Wasperton.

124. Land at Wellesbourne Road, Barford

The Berkeley Group plc who stated that they had an option to purchase the above land had written stating that they were in the process of considering options for the development of part of the land with a view to submission of an outline planning application.

They stated that they were currently discussing the future of the site with Warwick District Council and asked if they could meet with Members of the Joint Parish Council to discuss the possible contents of the scheme.

Resolved: that the Berkeley Group be informed that the Council sees no value in a meeting since the land is not in an area allocated for development.

125. Village Ventures Competition 2002 –2003

It was noted that Warwickshire Rural Community Council had advised that it was now accepting entries for the 2002 – 2003 Village Ventures Competition. The competition aimed to highlight and reward voluntary effort that improved community life in the small towns and villages of Warwickshire.

Resolved: that an entry be made in respect of the Multi-sports surface and equipment installed during the year on Barford Playing Field.

126. A Local Strategic Partnership for Warwick District

It was reported that Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council had arranged a conference to be held on Monday, 2 December 2002 at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, which would look at the way forward for partnership working in Warwick District.

They stated that the Community Planning Action Team or COMPAT which comprised key statutory and voluntary agencies had been looking at the development of a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the District. Central Government considers LSP's as the most effective means of driving forward community strategies which accurately reflected the needs of local people.

Cllr J V Murphy indicated that he would endeavour to attend.

127. Planning Applications Nos W20011196 and W20011517 by Oldhams Transport and Wilcon Homes in respect of proposed residential development at Oldhams Transport Depot, Wellesbourne Road, Barford

At the meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2002 it was reported that Warwick District Council had advised the above planning applications were considered favourably by its Planning Committee and referred to the Secretary of State as a departure from the Development Plan.

The Secretary of State had directed that the above applications be 'Called In' for his determination instead of being dealt with by Warwick District Council. The applications would now be the subject of a Public Inquiry. The date had not yet been confirmed but was likely to be March or April 2003.

The Councils responses to Warwick District Council in relation to the applications would be disclosed to the Inquiry. The Council could if it wished submit representations to the Inquiry.

Resolved: that a Committee comprising Cllrs M P Byerley, R Clay, K S Hope, R G Mulgrue be appointed to prepare a draft submission to the Inquiry such draft to be submitted for approval to the next meeting of the Council.

128. Wall to Barford House

Concern was expressed that parts of the wall to Barford House, Wellesbourne Road, Barford was in a dangerous.

Resolved: that the Councils concern be conveyed to the owner of the property.

129. Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick Transport Strategy Study

The Clerk reported receipt of a request from the Jacobs Consultancy UK Ltd to participate in a study they had been commissioned to undertake by DETR into transport facilities in the area. A response was required by 29 November 2002.

Resolved: that Cllrs K S Hope and R G Mulgrue respond on behalf of the Council.

130. Bank Balances

The following were noted.

As at 11 November 2002	£
Bank Account	22108.83
Building Society Deposit Account	27147.46

17.10.02 Donation received from Wellesbourne Lions Group towards cost of providing multi-sports surface etc at Barford Playing Field	500.00
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25.10.02 Grant on account received from Warwick DC re Multi-sports surface etc.	8000.00
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131. Payment of Accounts

a) The cheque signatories action in making payment of the following accounts was approved:

	£
D H Hartwell – September salary & expenses £325.10; arrears of pay award £40.00; reimbursement of postages imprest £74.14; reimbursement of printing £3.01	442.25
Centre 1172 – printing	31.07
MFM Services – mowing charges	100.00
Warwickshire Assn of Local Councils – publications	14.98
Playground Management Services – Annual play area inspection	91.65
D H Hartwell – October salary & expenses £296.45; reimbursement of stationery purchase – Staples £36.44	332.89

b) Payment of the following account was approved:
Leisuremark Ltd – Supply and installation of wheeled sport equipment 15333.75

132. National Salary Awards for Local Council Clerks

It was reported that following agreement by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks a cost of living increase had been agreed to the national pay scales with effect from 1 April 2002. The increases were based on the award agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

It was noted that in accordance with the standing resolution the Clerks salary had been increased from £3165pa.as follows:

Wef. 1 April 2002 - £3261 pa.
Wef. 1 October 2002 - £3292 pa.
Wef. 1 April 2003 - £3408 pa.

Resolved: that the report be noted.