

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday, 17 March 2003 at Wasperton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Cllls R G Butler (WDC), Mrs J Compton (WCC), R Tamlin (WDC).

187. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M P Byerley, Mrs M B Haywood,
Mrs J Jackson, M Peters, A Roberts.

188. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Mr D H Hartwell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item no. 16 –
Retirement of Mr D H Hartwell and appointment of new Clerk and RFO - as he was the
subject of this item.

189. Representations by Members of the Public.

a) Mr V Rees of Vicarage Lane, Sherbourne referred to agenda item no.9 of the meeting
- provision of a crossing on the A429 at Sherbourne. He asked that the Chairman read for
the benefit of Members a press cutting and a copy of a letter he had written to
Warwickshire County Council regarding its decision to not provide a crossing. Mr Rees
also requested the Chairman to read an extract from an RNIB fact sheet (no. 6 paragraph
9).

The Chairman then read to the meeting the documents requested.

b) Mr P Hunt asked if a response had been received from Warwickshire County Council
Planning and Transport Department regarding the unsatisfactory traffic calming measures
installed in Barford.

The Chairman replied that the County Council had promised a response to enable it to be
considered at the meeting but this had not been received.

190. Matters for the Constabulary

PC French reported that there were no incidents he wished to bring to Members attention.

191. Warwick District Council Dog Warden Service

Mr Ian Pigeon one of Warwick District Council's tow dog wardens attended the meeting
and outlined his duties. He then answered Members questions.

The Clerk reported that Warwick District Council Environmental Health Department had
informed him that the cost of providing a dog bin would be £250. The cost of a regular
emptying service would be £70 per annum.

Mr Pigeon was thanked for his presentation and it was agreed that the provision of a dog
bin for Barford Playing Field should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next
meeting of the Council.

192. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed:

Council	17 February 2003
Special Council	25 February 2003

193. Reports from representatives appointed to serve on other bodies

Cllr K Hope reported on his attendance at a meeting arranged by the Association of Parish Councils to establish interest in providing Broadband access for rural communities. The meeting had agreed that this would be of benefit to small businesses operating in rural areas including the JPC's area.

194. Unsatisfactory Traffic Calming Measures – Church Street/High Street, Barford

It was noted that following the meeting held on 30 January 2003 with representatives of Warwickshire County Council Planning and Transport Department a response had been promised to enable the matter to be considered at this meeting.

It was reported that the promised response had not been received.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to Mr I Caulfield the County Councils Chief Executive expressing the Councils extreme dissatisfaction with the failure of the Planning and Transport Department to provide the promised response

195. Planning Application No. W1031/02CM029- Composting Facility – Sherbourne

At the February 2003 meeting of the Council it was reported that an initial reply had been received from the County Councils Complaints Officer in response to this Councils letter dated 23 December 2002 to the Chief Executive expressing concern regarding the omission of consultees responses from the agenda papers to County Council Members.

In reply to the Joint Parish Council letter the County's Complaints Officer indicated that he was still investigating the matter and would write again within 28 days.

The Clerk report that since no further response had been received he had written to the Complaints Officer requesting a reply to enable it to be considered at the meeting.. The Complaints Officer had now written advising that the Councils complaint was still being investigated.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to Mr I Caulfield the County Councils Chief Executive expressing the Councils extreme concern and dissatisfaction with the delay in providing a response.

196. Request for a Crossing -A429 near junction of Fulbrook Lane, Sherbourne

Mr V Rees of Vicarage Lane, Sherbourne at the meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2003 expressed his concern that Warwickshire County Council had advised in their reply to him that the results of a survey undertaken did not justify the need for a pedestrian crossing.

It was noted in their reply a copy of which had been sent to the Joint Parish Council the County Council had acknowledged that a large number of vehicles were travelling at high speed along the A429. They stated that in view of this the criteria for the provision of a crossing could not be met.

It was also noted that the County Council had refused previous requests by the Joint Parish Council to impose a 50mph speed limit on the A429 road from Longbridge Interchange to the Charlecote turn.

Resolved: that the decision of the County Council be noted with concern and they again be requested to impose a 50mph restriction on the A429 from Longbridge Interchange to the Charlecote turn and provide crossing facilities with a minimum of a central reservation at Sherbourne.

197. Revised Standing Orders

The draft revised Standing Orders incorporating the amendments agreed at a Special Meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2003 were considered.

The amendments made at the meeting held on 25 February 2003 were confirmed. After making further amendments it was recommended that the revised Orders should apply from the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 12 May 2003.

Resolved: that the Council adopt revised Standing Orders as set out in the copy attached to come into effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 12 May 2003.

198. Revised Financial Regulations

It was reported that following publication by NALC of an updated form of Financial Regulations the opportunity had been taken by the Consultative Committee at its meeting held on 17 November 2002 to look at these in conjunction with the Councils own Financial Regulations which were adopted in September 1997.

The Consultative Committees submitted its recommended form of revised Financial Regulations for adoption by the Council. After making minor amendments it was recommended that the revised Financial Regulations should apply from the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 12 May 2003.

Resolved: that the Council adopt revised Financial Regulations as set out in the copy attached to come into effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 12 May 2003.

199. Warwickshire Best Kept Village Competition -Calor Great Britain Village of the year

It was reported that Warwickshire Rural Community Council with Calor plc was again inviting entries for the Best Kept Village Competition. The closing date for entries was 1 April 2003.

Entries were also invited to the competition to find the Warwickshire Village of the Year 2003.

Resolved: that no entries be made by the Council.

200. DEFRA –Protection of Countryside Features and Amendment of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997

At the February meeting of the Council it was reported that NALC had advised that DEFRA has issued a consultation document containing proposals to update and improve the laws introduced in 1997. Responses were required by 18 April 2003.

A copy of the consultation document had been obtained. The proposals included new powers to allow local planning authorities to prevent the removal of certain hedgerows that form an essential part of the essence or character of an area or region.

The proposals sought to protect the distinctiveness of hedgerows and to make the application of the existing Regulations easier for planning authorities.

Resolved: that Cllrs Mrs A Gordon and Mrs M Hayward examine the consultation document and submit a response on behalf of the Council.

201 Bank Balances

The following were noted.

As at 10 March 2003	£
Bank Account	998.39
Building Society Deposit Account	17647.46

202 Payment of Accounts

The cheque signatories action in making payment of the following accounts was approved:	£
Hitchman Stone – 50% fees re Barford War Memorial refurbishment spec.	352.10
Centre 1172 – Printing	53.87
Observer Newspapers – Advert re Clerk & RFO	109.86
Herald Publishing – Advert re Clerk & RFO	62.27

203. Retirement of Mr D H Hartwell and appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

It was reported that the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer had been advertised and the Consultative Committee had made arrangements to interview a number of the applicants. The Committee was hopeful that they would be able to make an appointment. They considered however that it would be in the Councils interests if for a period of 6 months Mr Hartwell were available in an advisory capacity to provide guidance and support to the new Clerk and RFO. In recognition of this and his long service to the Council the Committee recommend that the Council pay a lump sum gratuity.

Resolved:

- a) That no gratuity be paid;
- b) Mr Hartwell be requested to continue for a further period of 6 months from 1 June 2003 in an advisory only capacity to provide guidance and support to the new Clerk and RFO and in recognition a retaining fee of £1000.00 be paid (paid as a monthly amount).

204. Other matters

- a) A copy of a letter sent by Mr Reed of 6 High Street, Barford in which he complained of the poor condition of roads in Barford was noted.
- b) Members from all three parishes expressed their concern regarding the poor condition of the roads and verges and it was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with the County Councils Divisional Surveyor.

- c) Cllr K Hope reported that in a discussion with a representative of Warwickshire County Council regarding the JPC's request for provision of a bus shelter close to the Granville Arms, Wellesbourne Road, Barford he had been advised that they were hopeful this could be provided in the near future.
- d) Concern was expressed that the public footpaths had been ploughed up at Fulbrook Lane/Castle Farm, Sherbourne and Wasperton House/Forge Cottage, Wasperton. It was agreed that concern be expressed to Warwickshire County Council Countryside Access Team.