

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2004 at Sherbourne Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)

Cllrs M P Byerley, Mrs S Dean, Mrs A Gordon, G P Grima, K S Hope, Mrs J Jackson,
M Metcalfe, G G Morris, R G Mulgrue, S G Starkey and W Worrall.

In attendance: Cllrs R G Butler (WDC) and Mrs C Sawdon (WDC).

33. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Clay, Mrs M Hayward and Mrs J Compton.

Council received a written apology from Cllr Clay, read out by the Chairman, concerning a remark he made at the last meeting.

34. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Cllr Mulgrue – Agenda item 17 – notification of application for transfer of licence to sell intoxicating liquor and renewal of gaming machine licence - personal and prejudicial – personal friend and contributor to election expenses.

35. **Representations by Members of the Public**

No representations were made.

36. **Matters for the Constabulary**

The CBO was not present and no matters were raised.

37. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the following meetings were confirmed:

Special Council	26 th April 2004
Council	10 th May 2004
Planning Committee	26 th April 2004
Planning Committee	20 th May 2004

In relation to Minute 261 of the Special Council Meeting on 26th April, Mrs Gordon said that she had subsequently been informed that the applicant for the goods vehicle operating licence had made a mistake in his application by naming Grove Fields Farm as the operating base. The actual base will be in the Stratford on Avon area. So as to remain vigilant in the matter it was agreed to include it in the list of outstanding matters at the end of each agenda.

In relation to Minute 6 of the Council Meeting on 10th May, Cllr Mulgrue said that his perception was of no improvement in parking since the issue of fixed penalty tickets for pavement parking and reference to it in Plurality. Other Members had the same perception, and it was agreed that the CBO should be encouraged to continue with this action.

In relation to Minute 8 of that meeting, Cllr Hope referred to other villages represented at the Rural Speed Seminar having operated speed guns with police support and action. He had discussed this with Chief Supt. Bond, responsible for traffic matters in Warwickshire, who felt such schemes to be too confrontational. He was, however, supporting a scheme for mobile speed display boards that appeared to be having some success in its piloting, and it was agreed that the JPC's interest in participation in the scheme should be registered and that the organizers should be invited to give Members a presentation.

In relation to Minute 15, the Clerk informed the meeting that an advert for appointment of his successor, placed in the Observer newspaper, had so far resulted in 57 requests for details of the job. Only 3 applications had been received so far but the closing date is not until the end of June.

In relation to Minute 16, the Chairman reported that work toward noise reduction on the skateboard park was progressing. Cllr Worrall was working on the specifications and drawings, and the use of lifting equipment had been offered. The manufacturers of the skateboard equipment

had raised no issues and ROSPA had been very supportive when contacted. They felt no need to inspect the finished work until their annual inspection later in the year.

In relation to Minute 18, the Clerk reported a further delay in registering the Council's interest in public access to the river between Avonside Cottage and Waters edge in Barford. He had discovered that the 'unilateral notice' route intended was not open to notice of public rights. Another route is open but he is awaiting further information so as to ensure that, in using it, the Council is not exposed to more substantial costs than it was expecting.

38.. **Reports from Representatives Appointed to Serve on Other Bodies**

The Chairman referred to Cllr Wright's attendance at the WCC Area Committee meeting concerning the issue of opening the Avon to navigation. He said there were a number of presentations from a large attendance. He had reiterated the JPC's concerns. He confirmed that there had been no economic assessment of the proposal to date. Some two-thirds of speakers were opposed to the scheme and, though some WCC members wished to hear fuller argument before committing on the issue, it was resolved to oppose the proposal in principle.

Cllr Butler informed Council that he had met with the Housing Officer and gained his agreement to repair the fencing by the old peoples' bungalows in Barford.

39. **Sherbourne Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Morris, as Chairman of the Parish Meeting, said that it had been a satisfactory meeting, with 10 residents present. He said that it had agreed that he send the following letters:

To the CBO congratulating him on his efforts in the village.

To WCC's Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy reopening the discussion of the case for a pedestrian crossing on the A429.

To the Highways Agency concerning restitution of trees lost in the work on Longbridge Island.

To the Electoral Officer at WDC seeking investigation of the possibilities for Sherbourne to leave the JPC and manage its own affairs or with another small parish.

40. **Byelaw(s) Covering Proper Use of Barford Playing Field.**

At its meeting in September last, concerned that recently erected signs about use of the playing field had been torn down, Council decided to consider adopting appropriate byelaw(s).

Council was subsequently informed that the Home Office has a fast-track scheme for approving byelaws where councils are willing to adopt one of those for which it provides models. Scrutiny of non-model byelaws can involve a much lengthier process.

Council established a working party composed of the Chairman and Cllrs Mrs Hayward, R G Mulgrue and W Worrall to consider the matter further and it reported to the last meeting.

Two sets of byelaws were circulated at the meeting. One, 'Set 2', had been amended as permitted to suit the JPC's needs. The other, 'Set 8', was also considered to be useful to the Council but could only be adopted by a County or District Council.

The matter was left for decision at this meeting in the light of enquiries to these councils as to whether the 'Set 8' byelaws were already in place and effective for the JPC's area and, if not, whether they could be considered for enactment.

Enquiries to the two councils has established that 'parking on verges' is already covered by a WCC byelaw but to give it effect notices have to be posted on the particular site.

Skateboarding offences are also covered, but as a Police matter.

There is no byelaw covering interference with road warning equipment but, if needed, WCC would need to issue the byelaw.

Resolved: that, for Barford only, byelaws be sought as set out in Set 2

41. **Tree works in Barford Conservation Area**

The Chairman reported that he had met with WDC's Arboriculturist and has agreed necessary tree works as shown below. Notification of these works had subsequently been made to the District Council in accordance with the conservation area rules, and approved.

Oak near to housing on Church Lane – *Crown lift to 2.5m by removal of branches of not more than 100mm diameter or of damaged branches.*

Robinia adjacent to children's playground – *Fell*

Oak adjacent to skateboard area – *Remove stubs and deadwood. Remove lowest branch towards skate area and one other low branch plunging down towards skate area. reduce spread over skate area by 2m maximum.*

Sycamore adjacent to skateboard area – *Crown lift by removal of smaller growth only. remove one low branch at trunk.*

Resolved: that the above tree work be carried out and that the contractor's advice be sought on remedial work needed to the village green oak tree.

42. **Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Landing Sites**

The Air Ambulance service has asked WCC's Emergency Planning Unit for support in identifying landing sites within the County. The EP Unit feels it would be useful to identify such sites in each parish council area, information which could also be used in the parish community emergency plans.

In emergency life threatening circumstances the air ambulance is cleared to land in an area just 22m square in daylight hours, and 30m square for non life threatening missions.

When sufficient funds allow, the air ambulance is looking to extend the operation of the aircraft to a 24 hour deployment, when it would require a site 200m by 30m for night-time landings.

Resolved: that members from each parish take action to identify appropriate sites, gaining landowner permissions as necessary.

43. **Provision of Safety Surface under Play Equipment on Barford Village Green and Refurbishment of Children's Slide on Playing Field**

At its meeting in January, Council resolved that indications of cost be obtained for provision of a safety surface beneath the village green climbing frames. WDC had already agreed a concurrent services grant of £1,850 towards the cost when this work was mooted two years earlier and has confirmed its continued availability for this year only.

By the February meeting a quotation for provision of a bark pit under the village green equipment had been received but Wicksteed, the supplier from whom quotations had been sought for safety tiles, had been unable to quote by the time of that meeting.

All quotations having now been received the alternative costs are:

<i>Bark Pit</i>	£1,850
<i>Synthetic Tiles</i>	£3,522
<i>Continuous Synthetic Surfacing</i>	£5,125

Members had indicated a preference for a synthetic tile surface to avoid the continuous maintenance costs of a bark pit. However, WDC has been unable to offer additional funding towards the higher cost of that product.

Resolved: that Council consider a proposal at its next meeting to purchase a synthetic tile surface and indicating how the cost would be met.

44. **Additional Waste-Bin on Barford Playing Field**

A great deal of litter is being discarded by users of the shelter by the skateboard park. There is a waste-bin at the entrance to the playing field by the children's play park but it is clearly not sufficiently close to encourage some users of the shelter to put their litter in it.

It was proposed to site another bin just in front of the shelter so that users of the shelter find it difficult to ignore when wishing to discard litter.

Costs indicated by WDC would be approximately £200 to £300 for installation of the bin, according to size, and £50 annually for its emptying. There is a possibility of WDC meeting all or part of the installation costs, which is being followed up.

Resolved: that an additional bin be provided as proposed.

45. **Footpath Lighting in Barford**

At the last meeting Cllr Butler reported discussions with WDC/WCC representatives to improve footpath lighting in the vicinity of Wasperton Lane and Cllr Mulgrue reported drawing attention to the need to replace a number of deteriorating concrete lighting columns.

Cllr Butler circulated copies of a letter that he had received on these matters. It indicated that WDC could provide two lighting columns in the currently unlit service road off the Wellesbourne Road at a cost of £4,348.10 (exc vat), towards which it would give a grant of 50%. As an alternative, more traditional lanterns could be used, costing 6,313.86, towards which the same grant in cash terms could be given.

The letter also indicated a cost of £1259.82 for improved lighting at the adjacent bus stop, and £3019.85 for two new lighting columns on the footpath between the service road and Sandy Way.

So far as deteriorating columns elsewhere are concerned the letter indicated replacement of two in Wasperton Lane as part of the 2004/2005 works programme.

Resolved: that financial regulations be waived to enable Council immediately to accept WDC's offer to meet half the cost of providing two lighting columns in the service road off the Wellesbourne Road, and to enable the Council to meet its half of the cost from reserves.

46. **The Local Council Review Journal**

At its last meeting Council agreed to renew its subscription to WALC. That entitles us to one copy of the Local Council Review each month. Hitherto we have paid for an additional two copies and if we continue to do so this year the cost will be £12.50.

Resolved: to no longer purchase additional copies of this journal and to ensure efficient circulation of the single copy.

47. **Bank and Building Society Balances**

The following were noted:

As at 19 May 2004

	£
Bank Account	6255.72
Building Society Deposit Account	29298.76
Received from WDC 50% precept (£7806.50) and concurrent services grant on account (£824.59)	8631.09

48. **Payment of Accounts**

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

MFM – April mowing	185.00
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Wasperton Village Hall Committee – Provision of venue for 4 Council and 8 Planning Committee meetings in 2003/2004	56.00
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George Worrall Engineering Ltd – Refurbishment of children's slide	1468.75
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Payment of the following accounts was approved:

T.Offiler – May salary and expenses (Office £41.66, Travel £19.80, postages £5.69, telephone £59.25)	329.53
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MFM – May mowing	350.00
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Prontaprint – May printing	36.43
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49. **Notification of application for transfer of licence to sell intoxicating liquor and renewal of gaming machine permit**

(Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, Cllr Mulgrue withdrew from the meeting for this item, returning for the next item.)

The above notifications had been received under the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964 and the Gaming act 1968 in respect of the Granville Arms Public House. The applications will be made to the Magistrates Court sitting at Nuneaton on 5th July 2004.

Resolved: that this application for licence transfer be noted.

50. **Proposed Extension to the Avon Navigation**

WCC had notified us that, following the two Area Committee meetings held in Stratford and Warwick, the next stage of consultation will be a special two-day meeting of the WCC Economic and Rural Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee , on 29th and 30th June, at Shire Hall. The meeting will be open to the public, and Members are inviting a selection of respondents to make a 10 minute presentation each to the Committee.

Because of time constraints, groups with similar interests wishing to speak are asked to make a joint presentation. Our group is the parish council group and, in addition to ourselves, comprises:

Hampton Lucy Parish Council
 Fulbrook Parish Meeting
 Alveston Villagers' Association
 Charlecote Parish Meeting

Hampton Lucy Council has delegated one of its members to make a presentation on behalf of the parish and he has asked to be informed if the JPC wishes to make a presentation so that there can be liaison to make best use of the time allotted.

The JPC's written response to WCC was 'that this Council inform the WCC that it does not support the principle of extending navigation of the Avon and does not believe that WCC should support such a principle'.

Resolved: that Cllr Wright be asked to represent the JPC in a presentation to the WCC Economic and Rural Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee and liaison be arranged with Hampton Lucy Parish Council to make best use of the time allotted.

51. **Public Telephone Box, A429, Sherbourne**

At the last meeting Council resolved that representations be made to Telecom for retention of this facility for the benefit of motorists, cyclists and walkers. BT has recently informed us of an extension of the consultation period until 31st July.

James Plaskitt MP has copied to us his letter to BT Payphones urging retention of this telephone box on grounds of its community and safety value.

Resolved: that, using Cllr Gordon's draft, the Clerk make formal representations to BT for retention of the telephone box.

52. **WCC Trading Standards Service Open Day – 10th July**

Resolved: that receipt of the promotional material and invitation to attend the open day be noted.

53. **Road Closures at Longbridge Island**

The Clerk reported notice by the Highways Agency of road closures for re-surfacing between 10.00pm and 6.00 am as follows:

Southbound M40 entry slip road – 15th and 16th June
A429 Barford – 17th June
Northbound M40 entry slip road – 18th June
A429 Barford – 22nd June.

The closures had been agreed with WCC and would be fully signposted.

Resolved: that this information be noted.

54. **Barford House Wall**

The Clerk reported his eventual receipt of a reply from WDC's Building Control Officer to his letter expressing the Council's concern about the deteriorating state of this wall. It indicated only a watching brief by himself and the two owners of the wall to ensure it does not present a danger. Nothing had been heard from WDC's Conservation Officer, to whom the Council's letter had been copied.

The Chairman, however, has heard from the owner of Barford House that he intends to begin work on the worst areas in the not too distant future.

Resolved: that this matter be noted.

55. **Provisional Map of Common Land and Open Country**

The Clerk reported receipt of appropriate extracts from this map as part of the consultation process under the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 by which those with a legal interest may appeal to the Secretary of State against land being included. The appeal period ends on 19th August.

Resolved: that the appropriate maps be passed to the parish representatives and notices be placed on notice boards and in Plurality inviting inspection through them.

56. **Glebe Hotel Planning Application**

The Chairman informed members that this planning application would be heard by WDC tomorrow, 15th June, and that Cllr Byerley would speak at the meeting on behalf of the JPC.

Resolved: that this matter be noted.

57. **Parish/Town Councillor Induction Day – Saturday 10th July**

The Chairman referred to this induction day and its content and Cllr Metcalf indicated his wish to attend. The fee is £25.

Resolved: That Cllr Metcalf's attendance at this induction course be approved.

58. **Road Sign and Gullies in Barford**

Cllr Worrall referred to the damaged road sign at the juncture of Church Street and High Street and the need for gully emptying. Cllr Hope referred to the deep pot-hole in Hareway Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant authorities.

59. **War Memorial Refurbishment**

Cllr Byerley asked when the spalling on the refurbished memorial would be attended to. The Chairman informed members that it was now in hand.

60. **Gravestones in Cemetery**

Cllr Byerley referred to a number of gravestones having been knocked to the ground, apparently on the advice of the Health and Safety Officer. The Chairman said that he understood that they were deemed a danger. However, concern was expressed that relatives of the deceased had not been properly informed.

Resolved: that the Secretary to the PCC be asked for an explanation of events and to keep the JPC informed.

61. **Barford Parish Plan**

Cllr Mulgrue informed members that the Parish Plan Committee had received a grant of £3000 in response to its recent request to the Environment Agency. It was now establishing rules for proper control of expenditure against the grant. He went on to indicate work in hand on the Plan with target dates for completion.

62. **Bus Shelter (Northbound) Outside the Granville Arms, Barford**

Cllr Hope reported that this final shelter was now on order by WCC.

63. **Footpaths to A46 Sherbourne and A429 Barford to Wasperton**

These footpaths were reported as needing adjacent vegetation cutting back.

Resolved: that WCC be asked to attend to these needs.

