

# BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the special meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Wasperton Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007

- Present:** Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)  
Cllr R Clay, Cllr Mrs M A Hayward, Cllr R G Mulgrue, Cllr S G Starkey,  
Cllr W Worrall, Cllr Mrs A Gordon, Cllr Mrs J A Jackson,  
Cllr E G Scrannage, Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe, Cllr N F J Thurley, Cllr J T Wright,  
Cllr L Caborn
- Apologies:** Cllr Mrs W Barlow, Cllr M P Byerley, Cllr G P Grima

## Opening

- 1 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 2 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 3 No members of the public were present

## Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 4 None was declared

## A46/M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge) Bypass

- 5 This special meeting of the JPC had been called to resolve issues arising at the public inquiry as a consequence of the failure by the Highways Agency to distribute the orders to all interested parties for comment.
- 6 The Chairman quoted from a "Note Regarding the Adjournment of the Inquiry" published by the Inquiry Inspector (copy at Annex A to these minutes) and it was agreed that the most appropriate method of presenting new evidence to the inquiry was as described in Paragraph 2(i), namely:

"The Highways Agency has recently served copies of the Orders on the Councils of Parishes in which the Scheme would lie. If any of those Parish Councils want to make representations on matters not previously raised by them that arise out of the Orders they may either make oral representations at the resumed Inquiry, in which case the inspector would hear oral evidence in rebuttal and would allow the Council to respond orally to that evidence at the Inquiry immediately it is given."
- 7 On the invitation of the chairman Cllr Mrs Gordon table a paper (Copy at Annex B to these minutes) which listed topics in the orders upon which no proper consultation had taken place and which could not therefore have been presented to the original inquiry. Some of them had been discussed at the Sherbourne Annual Parish Meeting on the previous day and had received wide support.
- 8 There followed an in-depth analysis of the points in the documents at the end of which there was a consensus that the Chairman, now knowing the mood of the meeting, should use the list as a basis for his comments to the resumed public inquiry.

## Date of Next Meeting

- 9 The next meeting of Council is the annual meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7:30 pm in Barford Memorial Hall

**A46/M40 Longbridge Bypass Public Inquiry  
Note regarding the adjournment of the Inquiry**

- 1 The Inquiry is adjourned until 10:00 on 8 May 2007, when it will resume at the Hilton Hotel, Stratford Road, Warwick. The Highways Agency has undertaken to post notices on the site, advising the public of this. At the resumed Inquiry, the inspector will hear any new representations, including proposals for new Alternatives.
- 2 The Highways Agency has recently served copies of the Orders on the Councils of Parishes in which the Scheme would lie. If any of those Parish Councils want to make representations on matters not previously raised by them that arise out of the Orders they may either.
  - i) Make oral representations at the resumed Inquiry, in which case the inspector would hear oral evidence in rebuttal and would allow the Council to respond orally to that evidence at the Inquiry immediately it is given; or,
  - ii) Make such submissions to the resumed Inquiry in writing and tender witnesses to appear at the Inquiry, in which case they should provide the Highways Agency and the Programme Officer with copies of their written submissions at least fourteen calendar days before the Inquiry resumes; in such cases the Highways Agency should deliver any rebuttal evidence they wish to bring, in writing, to the Parish Council and the Programme Officer at least seven calendar days before the Inquiry resumes. If copies of written evidence are not so provided then the Inspector will accept rebuttal evidence presented orally by the Highways Agency and will allow the party to respond orally to that evidence at the Inquiry immediately it is given; or,
  - iii) Make such submissions to the Inquiry in writing, before it closes, without presenting a witness.
- 3 Any other party who has not so far closed their case at the Inquiry (and anyone who has not yet appeared) may give evidence at the resumed Inquiry. They may appear at the resumed Inquiry either to:
  - i) Make oral representations, in which case oral or written evidence may be given in rebuttal and the party would be asked to immediately respond orally to oral rebuttal evidence; or,
  - ii) Make such submissions in writing and tender witnesses to appear at the Inquiry, in which case they should provide the Highways Agency and the Programme Officer with copies of their written evidence at least fourteen calendar days before the Inquiry resumes; in such cases the Highways Agency should deliver any rebuttal evidence they wish to bring, in writing, to the party and the Programme Officer at least seven calendar days before the Inquiry resumes. If copies of written evidence are not so provided, in advance, then the Inspector will accept rebuttal evidence presented orally by the Highways Agency and will allow the party to respond orally to that evidence at the Inquiry immediately it is given; or,
  - iii) Make such submissions to the Inquiry in writing, before it closes, without presenting a witness.
- 4 Those who wish to promote new Alternatives to the main scheme but have not so far done so have a further opportunity. It is for parties to prepare their own cases, but the Highways Agency has agreed to offer support for *any* such parties in developing their case (in the way that the Highways Agency has done for Alternatives that have been discussed so far at the Inquiry) and parties wishing to take advantage of that support should provide sufficient outline proposals to the Highways Agency not later than 16 April 2007 so that the Highways Agency can provide such support in time for the resumption of the Inquiry. Parties that do not make such an approach to the Highways Agency should instead prepare evidence in support of their Alternatives (which should include a plan of the proposal and evidence that all interested parties have had an appropriate opportunity to respond to the Alternatives) by other means. Parties should present their evidence in support of their Alternatives to the resumed Inquiry in any of the ways described in paragraph 3 and in accordance with the timescales set out there. Rebuttal evidence and responses to rebuttals may be provided in the same ways as, and in accordance with the timescale for, other evidence as described in paragraph 3.

**NOTES FOR RESUMED PUBLIC INQUIRY**

**Side Roads:**

- Watery Lane and Vicarage Lane are narrow rural lanes, increasingly suffering from rat-running as car and lorry drivers use these lanes to bypass the present Longbridge Roundabout.
- This is making these lanes dangerous for the locals, horse-riders, leisure walkers and cyclists.
- The construction period will make the situation even worse as the hold-ups will encourage even more rat-running than ever.
- When two roundabouts are in position, drivers will be even more tempted to by-pass both roundabouts by rat-running through Watery Lane and Vicarage Lane.
- The new roundabout will enable additional traffic movements for traffic travelling southwards, making use of these two lanes to access A429 and also J13.
- Rat-running can be prevented by eliminating any junction with the A46, which would also enhance road safety in general.
- This would also enable significant bunding to be built up to protect the nearby homes.
- Part of the "redundant" A46 could become a convenient link between the two lanes, a proposal made by the local residents and supported at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Footpaths:**

- The local WCC footpaths should not be diverted until there has been full consultation with all the local Parish Councils affected.
- Proposed diversions should be made with the view to improving the amenity for all leisure users.

**Tree Planting:**

- Proposals for tree planting as part of protection measures for the village need to be discussed in detail as to location and species, with an agreed management scheme.

**Balancing Ponds:**

- The number and sites of the artificial ponds have not been discussed locally and their artificial nature would appear alien to the landscape.

**Longbridge Roundabout Widening:**

- It would appear that trees planted some 10 years ago by HA as mitigation measures against the effect of the Longbridge Roundabout, are now to be destroyed as part of the widening scheme.
- These trees are beginning to mature and form part of the Special Landscape Area in which they grow and therefore merit fuller consideration than the current proposals suggest.
- It is vital that future safeguards are given by HA that any tree planting is intended for the mature life of the trees.
- Detailed planting schemes need to be locally agreed, together with long term management plans, as a formal condition.