

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Wasperton Village Hall on Monday 14th July 2008

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)
Cllrs: Mrs W Barlow, M P Byerley, R Clay, Mrs D S Cobb, Mrs M A Hayward,
R G Mulgrue, W Worrall, Mrs A Gordon, Mrs P Johnston Mrs P W Wilkinson,
Dr M J Metcalfe, N F J Thurley, J T Wright,
Apologies: Cllrs: A B Rhead, S G Starkey,
In Attendance: Cllr Mrs J Falp

Opening

- 89 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 90 Four member of the public were present.
- 91 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 92 The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, Chairman of Warwick District Council to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Falp addressed the JPC.

Presentation by WCC on “Locality & Partnership Working”

- 93 The Chairman introduced Mr Tim Healey (WCC) and Mrs Alison Hodge (WALC) to the meeting and invited them to deliver their presentation.
- 94 Mr Healey’s premise was that the differences in the providers of public services were irrelevant to the public at large who wanted only to know how to obtain those services. Currently he claimed providers **effectively** worked in “silos” which made the identification of the source of public services very difficult for the uninitiated.
- 95 The solution he **described** was the creation of “Localities” to allow the devolution of **local** decision making to as low a level as possible. Under the present system there were too many county council and district council **controls** and not enough **input from** parish councils. Localities would be created thus:
- Leamington 2
 - Kenilworth 1
 - Warwick 1
 - Rural 1
- 96 The local decision making would be delegated to “Locality Forums” of which there would be seven; one for each of the localities above plus an extra one for Rural and another for Whitnash. The **hope was that** Safer Neighbourhood Panels would be converted to locality forums (one had already done so and the SNP West would be invited to do so at its meeting on 2 Oct 08). **Each locality would have a dedicated team of officers, representing each council department and partner service provider, which would take ownership of all issues brought before them.**
- 97 Model terms of reference (TORs) had been published but these would be modified to meet the needs of individual forums. One contentious point was that the model TORs forbade any parish councillor being the chairman of a forum.

- 98 Mrs Hodge then spoke and said that WALC had been consulted over these proposals and whilst sympathetic to the overarching ideal of better access by the public to the providers of public services, it had certain misgivings, not least the possibility that forums would, [in their initially proposed format](#), undermine the authority and role of parish councils. [This had been addressed and PC and TC input had been significantly increased under NALC's influence.](#)
- 99 There were certain advantages for parishes with parish plans because the proposals provided an ideal route to channel the action plan from the parish plan directly to the forum for inclusion in its agenda.
- 100 Nevertheless she maintained a healthy scepticism and said that WALC would continue to represent parish councils' interests by consulting with them and offering their views as part of the planned twelve month review of progress of the concept.
- 101 The JPC asked detailed and penetrating questions and the mood was "we are yet to be persuaded". In particular there had been no commitment that the delegated authority would be accompanied by a budget, and without this the true authority resided as now at district and county council level. If this [remained](#) the case then all the proposals would achieve would be the creation of an [extra](#) level of bureaucracy with no tangible benefits.

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 102 Cllr Murphy declared a personal interest ([as Treasurer of Barford Memorial Hall](#)) in Barford Pre-School's application for a grant.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 9th June 2008

- 103 The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

- 104 [Minute 59.](#) It was agreed that the liaison with WDC over a housing needs study should be expedited.
- 105 [Minute 64.](#) The Landscaping of M40/J15 Working Group had met. Its report was read to the JPC. The recommendations would be sent to the contractor with strap-line of emphasis on woodland at the maximum safe coverage.
- 106 [Minute 68.](#) Cllr Clay gave an update on the allotments. More land was to be cleared for letting.
- 107 [Minute 69.](#) The chairman reported that the selection of children's play equipment for Barford Village Green was still ongoing.
- 108 [Minute 81.](#) The Options for Growth Working Party had met and reported its conclusion to WDC that Option 5 (brown field sites concentrated in towns and green field sites in selected areas outside them – [South of Coventry and adjacent to A46 corridor](#)) was preferred.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 19th May 2008

- 109 The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 2nd June 2008

- 110 The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 16th June 2008

- 111 The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 30th June 2008

- 112 The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising

Reports on Contact with Other Bodies

- 113 Cllr Worrall had attended a Green Issues meeting and had received the manual "Conservation Management Plan Volume 1 (Survey)"
- 114 Cllr Murphy reported attendance at a Play Seminar.
- 115 Cllr Murphy reported an informal meeting with the Barford PCC to discuss the state of the boundary between the playing field and the cemetery. It was hoped that the boundary fence and a holly hedge might be reinstated. He had tried to involve Mr Hastie (WDC Aborculturalist) but that had not yet proved possible.
- 116 Cllr Murphy reported that through contact with the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel (West) he had received a small kit to deal with graffiti.
- 117 Cllr Murphy reported that he and Cllr Mulgrue had met the WCC representative to discuss signs, quiet areas and the like in Barford. The meeting had been very positive with much guidance being given and a report was pending.

Cash Balances as at 30th June 2008

- 118 Members took note of the following cash balances:
- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| HSBC | £ 1,581.99 |
| Alliance & Leicester | £40,541.34 |

Receipts and Payments

- 119 Members endorsed the following:

Date	Payee	Category	Total
9 Jun 08	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(13.57)
16 Jun 08	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(45.00)
19 Jun 08	Jewson	Open Spaces Maintenance	(12.07)
19 Jun 08	Building & Plumbing Supplies Ltd	Open Spaces Maintenance	(27.45)
30 Jun 08	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(467.38)
30 Jun 08	J F Johnson	Employment Expenses	(597.07)
30 Jun 08	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(48.25)

Management Accounts

- 120 Members took note of the management accounts at Annex A to these minutes.

Use of Personal Credit Card

- 121 Members approved the use by Cllr Murphy of his personal credit card to make the following purchases for the JPC:
- 19 Jun 08 Jewson £12.07
 - 19 Jun 08 Building & Plumbing Supplies Ltd £27.45

Audit of Annual Return 2007/8

- 122 Clement Keys, the external auditor, gave an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Return 2007/8 and the statutory notices had been posted on village notice boards.

Report by the Barford Village Green Working Party

- 123 The WP has met and considered the RoSPA response to the JPC's enquiry. The RoSPA report rates the risk of fall from the green as "low end of low to medium". NB: RoSPA scale ranges only from Low through Medium to High.

- 124 The WP considers that in view of this finding there is no immediate requirement for any action and recommends awaiting the opening of the shop and the annual RoSPA inspection of JPC sites for a better informed interpretation of the risk.
- 125 The WP also recommends that the inspection is with a timed appointment in order that the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Cobb can meet with the inspector and get any appropriate additional advice which may assist in bringing a further recommendation to JPC.
- 126 The WP considers that having addressed the publicly perceived risk via RoSPA the JPC is not unduly subject to any claim in the event of any unfortunate accident relating to this matter and retains a fully defensible position in the case of any such claim.
- 127 Members should note that as part of the shop works and the consequent upgrading of the trans-Green path a 3m section of railings will be now installed at the Church Street end of the path, on the section of wall in question.
- 128 The JPC endorsed the report.

Lap Dancing

- 129 Members took note of the opportunity to respond directly to WDC with views on the circular on lap dancing from the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

Application for Grant – Barford Pre-School

- 130 The JPC considered an application for a grant from Barford Pre-School but was not satisfied that a coherent case had been made and that all the relevant facts had been revealed.
- 131 It was decided therefore that no grant should be made at this meeting but the management of the pre-school was invited to return to the September meeting of the JPC with a renewed bid:
- Providing a forecast of receipts and payments for the current year in detail and the subsequent three years **and last year** in outline.
 - Providing an analysis of the break-even number of children attending.
 - Estimating any required redundancies.
 - Explaining the rapid erosion of an £11k reserve.
 - Stating the size of the bid and how it would be applied to the business.
- 132 Members were sympathetic to the concept of the pre-school (providing as it does a valuable service to the community) but on the evidence presented felt they would not be justified in reaching a decision to make a grant.
- 133 There was general agreement that a case well made could secure a one-off grant. There was less certainty about the merits of an annual grant to sustain the school should that prove necessary.
- 134 Cllr Mrs Johnston generously offered to make her experience in the not-for-profit sector available to the management to help it meet the requirements of Minute 131

Closure

- 135 There being no other business the meeting closed at 10:40pm.

Date of Next Meeting

- 136 The next ordinary meeting of the JPC is on Monday 8th September 2008 at 7:30 pm in Barford Memorial Hall.