

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Wasperton Village Hall on Monday 13th July 2009.

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

Opening

- 88 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
89 No members of the public were present.
90 Apologies for absence were noted.

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 91 See Annex A to these minutes.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 8th June 2009

- 92 Subject to the amendments shown below, the minutes were approved as a true record.
92.1 In Attendance: Insert "Cllr M P Byerley".
92.2 Minute 80. Delete "Wellesbourne" insert "Wasperton".
92.3 Minute 81.1. Delete "Mr Hastie (WDC Aborculturalist)" insert "Dr Sidhu".

Matters Arising

- 93 Minute 67. There appears still to have been no effort to trim the hedges in Debden Hollow. Cllr Caborn is to be informed and asked to expedite this matter on safety grounds.
94 Minute 80. Cllr Mrs Hayward having reported that the Joseph Arch walk route through to Wasperton was greatly overgrown, Cllr Rhead had promised to deal with the matter by liaising with Footpaths Officers. There was uncertainty what work had been done and he promised to investigate.
95 Minute 82. Cllr Rhead announced that the work on the oak trees on Wellesbourne Road (reported by Cllr Mulgrue at the last meeting) would start on 14th July 2009.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 1st June 2009

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

Cash Balances as at 30th June 2009

97 The JPC took note of the following cash balances

HSBC	£ 1,575.49
Alliance & Leicester	£35,227.31

Receipts and Payments

98 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee	Category	Total
1 Jun 09	J F Johnson	Postage	(18.99)
1 Jun 09	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(22.84)
3 Jun 09	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(45.00)
3 Jun 09	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(207.00)
8 Jun 09	Regent	Printing and Stationery	(123.75)
18 Jun 09	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(60.00)
28 Jun 09	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(507.40)
28 Jun 09	J F Johnson	Employment Expenses	(653.72)
28 Jun 09	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(50.67)

Accidents on the Barford Village Green Play Area

99 The Chairman had contacted the RoSPA Inspector concerning the accident reported at the last meeting. His commentary and advice is as follows:

"I visited the site on Wed 10th June as I was passing through and could find no issue with the equipment in question. It fully meets EN1176 but as it is new perhaps the best course of action will be to monitor it for further incidents and notify Playdale if there are."

The advice from RoSPA Playsafety is not to publicize the previous accident or to highlight the possible "entrapment".

As far as liability you have received an assurance from the supplier that the goods are "fit for purpose" and it is still under guarantee I would imagine."

100 Councillors took note to monitor the situation, recording any incidents and keeping the manufacturer informed.

Barford Telephone Kiosk

101 The Chairman had met with the adjacent property owners who had repeated their wish that the kiosk be relocated and confirmed that they did not own the land on which the kiosk stood. In view of their situation they had determined to cease their voluntary care of that area of verge pending kiosk removal. The Chairman has arranged temporary care and cutting of that area and has approached WCC to establish the correct responsibility for such care. A definitive response is still awaited.

102 Cllr Mrs Gordon again questioned why the kiosk had not been and was not currently going to be relocated. It was again explained that there had never been a firm plan to relocate the kiosk and relocation had been considered only as a possibility when considering retaining its presence in the village. Consultation with the community had indicated a preference for its current roadside location and furthermore no other suitable site had been identified. This situation however did not prevent further consideration of relocation some time in the future.

Barford Signs

103 A letter was prepared and circulated to all traders using "unofficial signs" on Barford Bypass indicating the concerns which had been expressed concerning legality, safety and appearance. The letter indicated the legal position, enforcement and the JPC's wish to support local businesses and services, along with a suggestion of consideration being given to some form of joint or generic signage. The letter was also circulated to other significant businesses in the parish

which might attract significant numbers of "visitors". The concept was almost universally welcomed and most wished to support and scheme which might emerge, obviously subject to detail and costs. The letter also invited traders to review their current signage and some have already improved the situation by limiting the number of signs and tidying those which remain.

- 104 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were to meet a WCC representative on site on 14th July 2009 to discuss the options available.
- 105 A working party was convened to advise the JPC, of any possible scheme, in the light of WCC advice and trader responses so far. It comprised:
- Cllr Mrs Barlow
 - Cllr Murphy
 - Cllr Mrs Wilkinson
 - Cllr Worrall
 - Cllr Wright

Rural Footway Lighting Maintenance Changes

- 106 A notification of future maintenance changes for footway lighting has been received from WDC. Its two main proposals were:
- To discontinue the night-time inspection by WDC of lighting, relying upon reporting by residents to identify problems.
 - Possibly to seek a financial contribution from the JPC for the replacement of defective lights.
- 107 The Clerk ad obtained the following additional information from WDC:
- Mercury lamps are no longer manufactured.
 - WDC may not store them.
 - Contractors will not fit them
 - Sodium lamps cannot be used to replace mercury lamps on the same standard.
- 108 It follows that when a mercury lamp fails the whole lamp standard must be replaced with one carrying a sodium lamp. This becomes an expensive prospect in conservation areas where "conservation" lamp standards are required. The WDC's rule of thumb is £2k per standard.
- 109 The numbers of mercury lamps in the JPC's conservation areas are:
- Barford 34
 - Sherbourne 0
 - Wasperton 6
- 110 WDC is strapped for cash and cannot afford a replacement programme. It suggests that parishes might be invited to make a financial contribution to the replacement cost.
- 111 The response to the question "What if a parish is unable or unwilling to provide additional funding?" was "The lamp remains out". The subsequent question "Does WDC not have a statutory duty to maintain adequate street lighting?" was met with "No".
- 112 The JPC was critical of the WDC for its unilateral decision to halt the inspections when it had a duty, as stated clearly in The Local Councils' Charter, to consult any parish council before altering services it provides. This matter would be addressed at the next Community Forum where Cllr Worrall had made a formal request for it to be added to the agenda.
- 113 It was concerned that the financial constraints might in future result in footway lighting might not be maintained in full working order and questioned the assertion that the WDC had no duty to provide adequate lighting.
- 114 Cllr Mulgrue accepted an invitation to draft a letter to the responsible officer and his superior at WDC bringing these concerns to his/their attention.

WDC Core Strategy Preferred Options

- 115 Cllr Mulgrue reported that he and Cllrs Clay and Morrow had attended a symposium on this subject on 22nd June 2009 and submitted the following report:

The Core Strategy has now been approved by the District Council for consultation. It will be formally launched on 3 July and copies sent to Parish Councils with a closing date of 25 September. Officers are willing to attend meetings in Parishes to explain the document.

It sets out the Council's preferred options for dealing with growth in housing and employment, how to distribute that growth and how to achieve the strategic objectives.

So far as housing is concerned, it confirms the Council's view that 10,800 should be the target for additional homes. 2,700 of which have already been built or have been given permission. An estimate of 2,100 dwellings on "windfall" sites in the period of the Plan (to 2026) leaves 6,000 still to be found. In addition to this there will be a number for Coventry overspill in Warwick District to the immediate south of the City boundary west of the A46. There is also land identified for expansion of Warwick University but any student accommodation within this expansion will not count under the rules towards the District Council's target.

In the light of the Council's assessment of land availability the Core Strategy states the preferred options for where the growth should occur, the phasing of development and the number of dwellings that could be accommodated on each site. Most growth will be directed to Warwick, Leamington and Whitnash. Since most transport links and employment are to the south of these urban areas, most new housing will be directed there: west of Europa Way (1,250 new dwellings), south of Harbury Lane (1,050) and several smaller sites. There will be a new Area of Restraint to separate Bishop's Tachbrook from this new development. Further north an area has been identified for development between Kenilworth and the A46 (800).

There are policies in the Core Strategy on the mix of housing types, infrastructure, standards for sustainability of buildings, a strategy for town centres and rural development. Rural Development will be restricted to that which meets local needs identified via a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement. These could be adopted by the District Council as Area Action Plans.

If the numbers for additional new housing in the Nathaniel Lichfield report are accepted, then the whole Core Strategy will need to be revisited.

- 116 This provoked an animated discussion and it was agreed that it was important to ensure that as many people as possible responded to the WDC's invitation to comment on the proposals. To that end the JPC determined to convene a special meeting in early August to which the WDC would send representative(s) to brief the public on the detail.

Application for Use of Barford Village Green for a Charity Pig Roast

- 117 The JPC granted a request for the use of Barford Village Green for a charity Pig Roast in aid of Home Farm Trust on Sunday 27th September from mid day has been granted by the JPC with the condition that the event should cease by midnight and the area cleared by 1:00am.

Glebe Hotel Cedar Tree

- 118 The JPC received the report on the options for saving the Cedar tree at the Glebe Hotel.
- 119 The first step was to establish whether the tree was capable of be saved and the recommended action was to undertake an tree physiological assessment by thermal imaging at a cost of £476.50 + VAT. The owner of the Glebe Hotel had agreed to pay half of this and the JPC voted to fund the balance.

- 120 If the assessment was that the tree could be saved then the owner of the Glebe Hotel undertook to instruct remedial works and was hoping for grant assistance from WDC Rural Initiatives funding, or other sources.

Reports on Contact with Other Bodies

- 121 Cllrs Mulgrue and Murphy had had a meeting with Graham Stanley (WCC) to discuss signage in Wasperton Lane, Hareway Lane and Church Street. The proposals were proceeding well and designs were currently being finalized.
- 122 Cllrs Clay and Murphy had attended a WDC Planning Symposium where the main topics had been WDC Core Strategy, relaxation of development controls, changes in the PP validation process to allow PCs the full 21 day consultation period and proposals to move towards electronic PP consultation.
- 123 Cllr Murphy had visited Playfair for updates on play area matters and equipment.
- 124 Cllr Mrs Barlow gave an update on Oakley Wood and announced a meeting to inform the public to be held in Barford Memorial Hall on 14th July 2009.

Any Other Business

- 125 Affordable Housing.
- 125.1 A letter had been received from the Rural Housing Enabler giving comments from WDC and WCC on eight potential sites for affordable housing in Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton. It had arrived too late for inclusion in the current agenda but members had received a copy of the correspondence.
- 125.2 The Chairman reminded members of its contents and it was agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next ordinary meeting of the JPC.
- 125.3 It was further agreed to reconvene the Affordable Housing Working Party to give advice to the JPC at that meeting. The working party comprises:
- Cllr Mrs Johnston
 - Cllr Mulgrue
 - Cllr Murphy
 - Cllr Mrs Wilkinson
 - Cllr Wright
- 126 Local List of Historic Buildings in Warwick District.
- 126.1 A letter had been received from the Principal Architect Planner WDC stating that a public consultation would be carried out into the formation of a Local List of buildings of architectural and historic merit in Warwick District. It had arrived too late for inclusion in the current agenda but members had received a copy of the correspondence.
- 126.2 The JPC had been invited to comment but the suspense date was 14th August 2009. The Chairman reminded members of the letter and it was agreed either to add this as an agenda item for the next ordinary meeting of the JPC (if the Clerk's request to extend the suspense date to 30th September 2009 was agreed) or to add it to the agenda of the special meeting in early August (qv Minute 116)

Closure

- 127 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:02pm.

Date of Next Meeting

- 128 The next ordinary meeting of Council is on Monday 14th September 2009 at 7:30 pm in Barford Memorial Hall

ANNEX A**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

Name	Agenda Item	Type	Reason
Cllr Mrs Barlow	Barford Telephone Kiosk	Personal	Member of Heritage Group
Cllr Mrs Hayward	Barford Telephone Kiosk	Personal	Chairman of Heritage Group responsible for refurbishment of telephone kiosk
Cllr Rhead	Use of Barford Village Green	Prejudicial	I am Chairman of the Home Farm Trust and the applicant is my wife
Cllr Mrs Hayward	Glebe Hotel Cedar Tree	Personal	Involved in negotiation between owner of Glebe Hotel and firm of tree conservation experts over Cedar tree