

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Barford Memorial Hall on Monday 14th September 2009

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

Opening

- 152 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 153 Eight members of the public were present.
- 154 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 155 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:
- Cllr Norman Pratt (Chairman WDC)
 - Mr Graham Stanley (Senior Engineer WCC)
- 156 Cllr Pratt addressed the meeting.

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 157 See Annex A to these minutes.

Church Street , Barford – Proposed Safety Measures Outside Barford St Peter’s C of E School

- 158 Mr Graham Stanley gave details of a safety engineering survey of Barford for which £12k had been allocated for improvements.
- 159 He gave the highest priority to the improvement of safety measures outside Barford St Peter’s C of E school by improving the sight lines of the “lollipop lady” to give her earlier warning of approaching traffic.
- 160 His proposals achieved this by reducing car parking in the area at a cost of parking space for approximately three cars.
- 161 Members of the JPC questioned him:
- 161.1 Cllr Mrs Cobb thought a 20mph speed limit or flashing lights or both would improve safety. Mr Stanley explained that after trials in other villages Warwickshire did not endorse 20mph limits and therefore this was not possible.
- 161.2 Cllr Mulgrue reminded the JPC that this safety improvement was a requirement of the Barford Parish Plan but that speed enforcing measures were costly to install and were likely to be unacceptable to nearby residents.
- 161.3 Cllr Byerley wondered if it might be possible to permit parking out of school hours. Mr Stanley said that the markings were actually “advisory” and were unlikely to be enforced outside school

- operating times. It was hoped that this position could be formalised pending the results of an ongoing trial at another location.
- 161.4 Cllr Mrs Gordon asked for details of the benefits and disbenefits of the proposal to which Mr Stanley replied that the benefit was a marked reduction in the risk to children at the cost of three parking spaces and some inconvenience to nearby residents.
- 161.5 Cllr Rhead sought confirmation of the priority and costing. Mr Stanley reiterated that it had the highest priority and the total safety engineering package for Barford had £12k funding.
- 161.6 Cllr Worrall observed that the current problems would be exacerbated by the proposed increase in school numbers, perhaps making the proposed measures even more appropriate.
- 161.7 Cllr Mrs Gordon reflected that some experimental evidence had suggested that the removal of signs helped to reduce accident rates and added that excessive amounts of signs added to street clutter. Mr Stanley responded that his proposal included the replacement of some large ineffective signs with smaller more effective ones.
- 161.8 Cllr Caborn explained his role in facilitating the improvements which he described as “vitaly important”.
- 162 Standing Orders were suspended to permit members of the public to express their views.
- 163 In a vigorous and sometimes noisy debate the following comments were made:
- The estimate of the loss of three car spaces was disputed; it was put as high as six.
 - The loss of parking facilities devalued house prices.
 - There was a need for a written definition of parking restrictions.
 - Perhaps one of the two school entrances could be closed.
 - A self-imposed parking restriction by owners of large vehicles.
 - Fine tuning of the proposal might save some of the lost parking spaces.
- 164 The “lollipop lady” Mrs Sonia Fairey, initially reluctant but warming to the subject, spoke in support of the proposal explaining the real fears she had for the safety of the children and detailed the difficulties she had in seeing and controlling the heavy traffic flows. She was strongly in favour of the proposal
- 165 Standing Orders were imposed.
- 166 Based on the opinions expressed during the public debate members gave their concluding thoughts:
- 166.1 Cllr Mrs Cobb wondered if the school could offer parking on its premises.
- 166.2 Cllr Worrall said that the school long-predated the residents and that its requirements were of a higher priority.
- 166.3 Cllr Clay said that this was an initiative by the Barford Parish Plan in response to which WCC had offered a solution which the JPC would be brave or foolish to refuse.
- 166.4 Cllr Rhead hoped that the final solution would take account of the options discussed in the public debate.
- 166.5 Cllr Caborn said that the suggestion of closing one of the two school entrances was a matter for the school governors to whom he would speak.
- 166.7 Cllr Worrall said that the reduction in entrances was not the easy option it might appear.
- 166.8 Cllr Mulgrue made four points:
- This proposal had been the subject of three years of negotiations.
 - A 20mph limit was not on the agenda
 - There could be no control over traffic volumes

- He was persuaded by the first-hand experience of the “lollipop lady” of the need for action now.

166.9 Cllr Byerley remembered that as a child attending the school he gained access by another entrance from the allotment footpath but realized that might not now be an option because of security considerations.

170 Put to the vote the JPC supported the WCC proposal.

171 Cllr Caborn and Mr Stanley left the meeting with the thanks of the Chairman.

Representations by Members of the Public

172 Mr Taylor made a statement about Country Cars which included:

- The verge was part of the highway yet cars parked on it had no road fund licences.
- The height of the front fence was higher than permitted and to date no retrospective planning application had been submitted despite WDC advice to that effect.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 13th July 2009

173 The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

174 Minute 93. The failure to trim the hedges in Debden Hollow gave rise to grave concern. It was thought to be a real safety hazard and that the proposal to trim it by flailing was inadequate. Years of neglect had ensured that the growth required major tree surgery to cut it back adequately. Cllr Worrall undertook to attempt to arrange a site meeting with WCC representatives to draw up a specification for remedial action.

175 Minute 114. Cllr Mulgrue reported an unsatisfactory response to the JPC's complaint about rural footway lighting maintenance changes and said that the matter would be pressed at the next Community Forum on 28th September to be held at Barford.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 3rd August 2009

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 5th August 2009

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 13th July 2009

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 3rd August 2009

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 17th August 2009

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

Cash Balances as at 31st August 2009

181 The JPC took note of the following cash balances

HSBC	£ 2,490.41
Alliance & Leicester	£ 29,233.87

Receipts and Payments

182 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee	Category	Total
1 Jul 09	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(207.00)
3 Jul 09	J F Johnson	Postage	(17.47)
3 Jul 09	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(36.00)
4 Jul 09	A&L	Bank Interest	2.09
7 Jul 09	LexisNexis	Printing and Stationery	(53.60)
16 Jul 09	A&L	Bank Interest	2.26
28 Jul 09	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(507.40)
28 Jul 09	J F Johnson	Employment Expenses	(653.72)
28 Jul 09	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(50.67)
15 Jul 09	Regent	Printing and Stationery	(40.57)
24 Jul 09	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(60.00)
27 Jul 09	Clement Keys	Audit Fees	(327.75)
3 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Postage	(23.30)
3 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(29.33)
3 Aug 09	A&L	Bank Interest	2.21
4 Aug 09	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(207.00)
15 Aug 09	Regent	Printing and Stationery	(28.15)
17 Aug 09	BSGSG	Allotments Water Charges	(85.20)
24 Aug 09	Norton Lindsey JPC	Barford Playing Field Lettings	175.00
28 Aug 09	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(507.40)
28 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Employment Expenses	(653.72)
28 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(50.67)
31 Aug 09	BPSL	Open Spaces Maintenance	(17.76)
31 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Postage	(3.30)
31 Aug 09	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(10.70)

Affordable Housing

- 183 Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Byerley absented himself from the meeting for the whole of this agenda item.
- 184 The WP had met with the WRHA officer Mr Phil Ward and reconsidered the sites submitted. There were several irregularities in the WDC and WCC assessments and he has been so advised. Their further assessments are awaited in the light of the new information provided. Once a further response has been received the WP will again consider Mr Ward's findings and recommendations, reporting the outcome to the JPC.
- 185 Cllr Mrs Gordon suggested that Mr Ward should be invited to address the JPC.
- 186 The JPC took note.

Country Car

- 187 The old County Garage has now been renovated and reopened as *Country Car*. Local residents have expressed concern about the boundary treatments and use of the grass verges in front of the sales area.
- 188 It is understood that the front fencing (1.8m galvanized palisade) is not appropriate as Permitted Development and the operator has been so advised and a changed arrangement or a retrospective planning application is awaited.
- 189 No permission is needed for the other security fencing and CCTV arrangements which have been installed on the site and hence no action on these matters is expected.

190 The use of the grassed frontage for display of cars and consequent obstruction of the public highway is subject to LA/Police action if it continues following advice given.

191 The JPC took note.

WDC Core Strategy

192 The JPC Core Strategy WP's response to WDC having been considered was endorsed by the JPC subject to the insertion of the following at Question 11a:

“and of proposed developments in neighbouring districts which may impose pressure on WDC's infrastructure”

Barford A429 Signs

193 Members of the "Barford Signage WP" met WCC officers.

194 Officers were not sympathetic, constructive or helpful given the scenario which was presented viz: Spurious current trader signs and a JPC wish to support local businesses and inform travellers of the facilities available. They advised on the statutory signage, the brown sign scheme and that they would arrange removal of no-approved signs forthwith.

195 The matter has been raised with Cllr Caborn and will be one of the subjects at the next Community Forum when hopefully officers can be prevailed upon to seek routes to accommodate the JPC's requirements.

196 The JPC took note.

Barford Playing Fields and Cemetery Boundary

197 The Chairman has undertaken a survey of the Barford Playing Field boundary and has had informal meetings with PCC members and with Mr Chris Hastie (WDC Arboriculturalist).

198 Several trees and bushes have become overgrown and in need of trimming, lifting or thinning but due to Conservation Area rules will need a formal application. The Holly hedge was damaged by fire several years ago and the remaining fencing is in extremely poor repair and totally ineffective. This is unsightly, potentially dangerous and has led to complaints of dog fouling in the cemetery. It is hoped that in the short term an effective fence can be reinstated by repair and supplementation with dog-proof wire.

199 In the longer-term it is hoped that the Holly hedge can be re-established. At the Church Lane end of the hedge is an established and much used gap which could be improved by the installation of a kissing gate (cost c. £212).

200 In recent years the South and East margins of the Playing Fields have been left uncut as a wildlife haven; this is now getting overgrown and advancing into the playing field proper - it is suggested that the scrub is cut back to the tree line as a one-off or occasional procedure.

201 The majority of the work can be done on a self-help basis and the JPC may be able to call on WCC support.

202 Subject to an assurance that any project would be sensitive to wildlife, the JPC confirmed:

- 1 Support for the arboricultural works
- 2 Support for repair/improvement to boundary fence in conjunction with PCC
- 3 Support for reinstatement of the Holly hedge in conjunction with PCC
- 4 Support for the installation of a standard gate or kissing gate in conjunction with PCC
- 5 Support cutting back of the South and East scrub margin.
- 6 Approve an initial JPC nominal budget of £500 towards the project

Barford Memorial Hall Heating System

- 203 Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Murphy absented himself from the meeting for the whole of this agenda item.
- 204 The BMH management committee is investigating replacement of the current heating with a more economic and sustainable system along with further improvements to insulation. Double glazing has already been installed in the main part of the building.
- 205 There are significant grant and funding opportunities for this project, some of which may only be available to PCs. Furthermore some grant schemes may also bring VAT reduction and reclaim opportunities as the BMH is not able to reclaim VAT.
- 206 Whilst there are strict rules on what is permissible, guided by WALC and HMRC, there are also opportunities to save significant sums of money for both local residents and funding bodies. Whilst some of the funding opportunities can cover 100% of costs of some of the elements of the project some JPC funding support may be appropriate when considering future village hall grants.
- 207 The JPC approved the formation of a working party to work in tandem with the BMH management committee to advise on preparing a grant application. Members of the working party are:
- Cllr Clay
 - Cllr Rhead
 - Cllr Worrall

Reports on Contact with Other Bodies

- 208 Cllr Morrow reported on contact with Royal Mail to explore the option of locating a new post box behind Barford Village Shop.
- 209 Cllr Mrs Barlow gave a progress report on the activities of Friends of Oakley Wood.
- 210 Cllr Worrall spoke about the Community Forum:
- Barford (and other villages) resent being taken for granted and insist that their views are more thoroughly considered in the decision making process.
 - Four meetings a year (the minimum under the terms of reference) are too few and more are required, particularly to deal with time-sensitive issues or to deal with business not allocated time on the agenda for scheduled meetings.
 - Barford's particular concerns with the Village Design Statement and Rural Footway Lighting should be discussed as a matter of urgency.

Any Other Business

- 211 WDC Travel Tokens. Cllr Rhead undertook to discover why Barford is excluded from the list of those villages enjoying this benefit.
- 212 Playing field Maintenance. Cllr Clay gave a description of the work he and Cllr Murphy had done on the children's play area to install safety frames and drainage for the concrete tunnels.
- 213 Glebe Hotel Cedar Tree. Cllr Mrs Hayward confirmed that the Glebe hotel had confirmed their commitment to the agreement for a 50-50 sharing of cost between the JPC and the Glebe Hotel. She would press for full costings for proposed measures and when they were known would arrange another meeting with the parties.
- 214 Mail Delivery in Barford. Cllr Mrs Cobb urged anybody suffering from the very poor delivery performance to complain to the MP.
- 215 Sandy Way Tree Lopping. Cllr Byerley reminded members of his annual plea for the tree obscuring the light in Sandy Way to be lopped. Cllr Rhead undertook to follow this up.
- 216 Parking. Cllr Mrs Barlow observed that parking in Sandy Way in Barford is increasingly difficult..

Closure

217 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:52pm.

Date of Next Meeting

218 The next meeting of Council is on Monday 12th October 2009 at 7:30 pm in Sherbourne Village Hall.

ANNEX A

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Name	Agenda Item	Type	Reason
Cllr Clay	Proposed Safety Measures Outside Barford St Peter's C of E School	Personal	Spouse is a school governor
Cllr Mrs Cobb	Proposed Safety Measures Outside Barford St Peter's C of E School	Personal	Child at school Friends with affected residents
Cllr Worrall	Proposed Safety Measures Outside Barford St Peter's C of E School	Personal	Deputy Chairman of School Trustees
Cllr Byerley	Affordable Housing	Prejudicial	One site could be overlooked from my garden
Cllr Mrs Barlow	Affordable Housing	Personal	My house will be overlooked by a possible development
Cllr Thurley	WDC Core Strategy	Personal	Trustee of land chosen as a preferred option by WDC
Cllr Clay	Barford Memorial Hall Heating System	Personal	Spouse BMH Chair
Cllr Murphy	Barford Memorial Hall Heating System	Prejudicial	BMH – Committee Member and Treasurer