

## BARFORD SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Sherbourne Village Hall  
on Mon 10 Oct 16

<b>Present:</b>	Cll, J V Murphy (Chairman) Cllr: Mrs W Barlow, R Clay,, Mrs A Gordon, T Merrygold, Mrs R Newsome, A B Rhead, Mrs K E Thomson, N F J Thurley, J T Wright
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr: J M Hawkesford, M J Metcalfe, S Morgan,
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Cllr L Caborn (WCC)

### Opening

- 118 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 119 Three members of the public were present.

### Declarations of Disclosable Interests

- 120 None was declared.

### Public Participation

- 121 Mr Cadogan addressed the meeting on matters causing him concern in the Warwickshire Minerals Plan.
- 122 Mr Braithwaite spoke about Green Spaces identified in the Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan.

### Minutes of the Meeting of Council 11 Jul 16

- 123 The minutes were approved as a true record.

### Matters arising

- 124 Minute 91. Cllr Merrygold informed the meeting that Mr M Pilkington (the tenant of the dairy farm in Sherbourne) had been invited to a Village Meeting to discuss residents' concerns about the effect of increasing the present herd of 150 cows to one of 500, with regards to the environmental impact.
- 125 Minute 92. The Chairman had written to WDC and reported that the footpath in Sherbourne from the A46 towards Norton Lindsey (Number WB16) had been rendered impassable by hedgerow trees and bushes being felled onto it and it has grass growing through it. Repeated appeals by Cllr Mrs Gordon to WDC to solve the problem had fallen on deaf ears. Sadly, the Chairman's letter had had the same fate.
- 126 Minute 93. The ditch beside Fulbrook Lane running from the Dairy out of the village had been cleared and the spoil had been dumped on the roadside verge to a level about 600mm above the road surface which is dangerous and unacceptable. The landowner had been instructed by WCC to remove the spoil but, to date, his only response had been to use an excavator's bucket to tamp down the mound. Following further contact by the JPC Chairman WCC is taking the matter up with the landowner. There has been some token clearance but the majority of the spoil has been left undisturbed. The Chairman had advised Mr David Cross (WCC) of the situation and requested further action and was told that the landowner would be sent a final reminder.
- 127 Minute 94. Footpath SD1380 (from opposite Corner Cottage on Fulbrook Lane, to A46 on Sherbourne Hill) is impossible to walk through as the steep hillside section has been turned into a mud slope by constant horse-riders. This has been shown to Mr Barnard a couple of years ago, but nothing has been done to enable the path to be used. He had explained that the problem had been created by a nearby dwelling having had its boundaries extended. Since then however there had been no further communication

- 128 Minute 95. Cllr Mrs Barlow had made a plea for drop kerbs to be put in on each side of the splay where Sandy Way joins Wasperton Lane and for the drop kerb on the opposite side of Wasperton Lane (leading into the allotments) to be widened. Without these improvements the current arrangement was difficult and dangerous for wheel-chair users and the elderly to cross the road here to access the Scout Hut, allotments and king George's field. She now described the efforts being made to identify sources of funding. Cllr Caborn promised to try to help from WCC sources in his gift.
- 129 Minute 96. At the last JPC meeting, Cllr Metcalfe had reported that the Forge Cottage footpath was still blocked. The Chairman had reported this to WCC once again and some remedial work, by persons unknown, sufficient to allow access, had been completed, but more is required.
- 130 Minute 115. The temporary closure of Watery Lane, Sherbourne on 26 Sep 16 had lasted but a few minutes.

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 26 Sep 16

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

### Cash Book Balances as at 30 Sep 16

- 132 The JPC took note of the following cash balances

- HSBC (1) £121,866.49
- HSBC (2) £431.16
- Santander £51,255.65

### Receipts and Payments

- 133 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee/er	Category	Total
1 Sep 16	M Hadley	Allotments Hire of Land	(125.00)
1 Sep 16	R J Smith	Allotments Hire of Land	(125.00)
1 Sep 16	Countryside Services	War Memorial Wasperton	(25.00)
1 Sep 16	Administration	Postage	(25.47)
1 Sep 16	Administration	Travel Expenses	(84.70)
1 Sep 16	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(508.00)
3 Sep 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(38.92)
5 Sep 16	TPC Digital Solutions	Barford Neighbourhood Plan	(275.52)
8 Sep 16	J V Murphy (BLIS)	BLIS	(460.53)
8 Sep 16	Murley Agricultural	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(1,146.00)
8 Sep 16	Cricket Direct	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(1,364.85)
10 Sep 16	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(60.00)
10 Sep 16	BSGSG	Allotments Water Charges	(18.76)
10 Sep 16	Warwick Print & Copy	Barford Neighbourhood Plan	(165.00)
10 Sep 16	Barford Cricket Club	Grants: BLIS	400.00
10 Sep 16	Barford Netball Group	Grants: BLIS	92.00
10 Sep 16	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(630.69)
11 Sep 16	Rotherham & Company	Rectory Paddock: Legal Fees	(750.00)
13 Sep 16	Streetmaster	Barford Memorial Hall	(806.40)
13 Sep 16	Streetmaster	BLIS	(8,050.80)
15 Sep 16	Murley Agricultural	BLIS	(186.00)
15 Sep 16	Sign Depot	BNDP	(70.00)
25 Sep 16	BCC	Grants: BLIS	5,000.00
26 Sep 16	WDC	Precept	21,393.50
26 Sep 16	WDC	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	707.50
28 Sep 16	Grant Thornton	Audit Fees	(1,560.00)
28 Sep 16	BSGSG	Barford Neighbourhood Plan	(16.00)
29 Sep 16	H T Williams	Open Spaces Maintenance	(40.00)
30 Sep 16	Administration	Office Accommodation	(59.92)

30 Sep 16	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(806.39)
30 Sep 16	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(378.00)

### Management Accounts as at 30 Sep 16

134 The Management Accounts are at Annex A to these minutes. The JPC took note.

### Audit of Accounts as at 31 Mar 16

135 On 16 Sep 16 the External Auditor, Grant Thornton, gave an unqualified audit opinion. The statutory Notice of Completion of Audit has been posted on the Barford Community Website. The JPC took note

### Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan

136 Members took note of the result of the referendum held on 6 Oct 16:

- Yes 469 (97%)
- No 16 (3%)
- Rejected paper: 1
- Turn out 45.2%

137 A vote of thanks to the Working Party was moved. The Chairman said that the team planned a social event to mark the successful completion of the task and that might be a suitable time to convey the JPC's appreciation.

### Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme – Progress Report

138 The Chairman reported:

- The extensive use of the facilities continues
- Still awaiting the final installation of services
- The new benches have been ordered
- The outdoor gymnasium has been ordered and work has started
- Maintenance:
  - Smiths (the main contractor) has made the first of three visits in the maintenance contract
  - Delivery has been taken of the Billy Goat cleaner and blower they are in use
  - Some areas of the play area safety surface have been poorly installed and the contractor has agreed to replace them
- The fence between King George's Field and Toad Cottage is completed. The installation of the Barlow Memorial Tree is awaited.

### WDC – Withdrawal of Financial Support to JPC

139 The text of the Chairman's response to WDC is at Annex B to these minutes. Members endorsed it.

### Warwickshire Minerals Plan

140 WCC had published its latest report which seeks approval to go out to public consultation for a period of 6 weeks from November 2016 on the next stage of the Warwickshire Minerals Plan. This is the "Publication" consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which is also known as the Pre Submission Draft document. Its detailed proposals for Sites 4 & 5 had been circulated to members.

141 Cllr Caborn anticipated that the consultation period would be extended and, in any event, no final decisions would be taken until the new regime at WCC was in place after the May 2017 elections.

142 There was disappointment that so few of the JPC's comments during the first round of consultations seem to be embodied in the Pre-Submission Draft, and since the current consultation is the last opportunity for the JPC to express its views it was thought very important to give the matter close attention. It was agreed therefore to convene a working party to formulate the JPC's

response which is to be presented at its November meeting for ratification. The composition of the working party is:

- Cllr Clay
- Cllr Mrs Gordon
- Cllr Merrygold
- Cllr Metcalfe
- Cllr Murphy
- A N Other (nominated by Wasperton)

### **Barford Rectory Paddock**

143 The lease was executed on 1 Oct 16. The JPC took note.

144 The JPC has taken possession of it and maintenance tasks started.

### **Barford Youth and Community Centre (aka The Scout Hut)**

145 Cllr Mrs Barlow gave a progress report, the content of which is at Annex C to these minutes.

### **Meetings 2017-18**

146 The JPC took note of the following schedule of future meetings:

Mon 10 Apr 17	Annual Parish Meeting	Barford
Tue 18 Apr 17	Annual Parish Meeting	Sherbourne
Mon 24 Apr 17	Annual Parish Meeting	Wasperton
Mon 8 May 17	JPC Annual Meeting	Barford
Mon 12 Jun 17	JPC	Sherbourne
Mon 10 Jul 17	JPC	Wasperton
Mon 4 Sep 17	JPC	Barford
Mon 9 Oct 17	JPC	Sherbourne
Mon 13 Nov 17	JPC	Wasperton
Mon 8 Jan 18	JPC	Barford
Mon 12 Feb 18	JPC	Sherbourne
Mon 12 Mar 18	JPC	Wasperton

### **Any Other Business**

147 Speed Limits. Cllr Mrs Gordon strongly advocated the imposition of a blanket 20mph speed limit in small villages in Warwickshire. She pointed out that this had been done by local authorities in other parts of the country. Cllr Caborn said that WCC had examined the merits of such a scheme but found it was not cost effective. This matter will be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

148 Barford School – Road Safety. Cllr Merrygold deplored the standard of driving close to the school and feared for the safety of the children. The police shared this view and had given the site a high priority. He urged members to spread the word that the police would be greatly aided were people to report incidents of dangerous driving and parking with details of time, place, registration number and photographs.

149 Barford Bypass – Road Safety. Cllr Rhead recalled that when Chairman of the WDC Planning Committee dealing with the planning application for the Taylor Wimpey building project in Barford, he had insisted upon a condition that the Section 106 (Highways) monies arising would be spent exclusively on the reconfiguration of the northern Barford exit from the bypass. He asked what progress had been achieved. Neither the Chairman nor Cllr Caborn was aware of such an arrangement and the latter asked for further details to enable him to investigate.

### **Closure**

150 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:40pm

**Date of Next Meeting**

151 The next meeting of the JPC is on Mon 14 Nov 16 at 7:30 pm in Wasperton Village Hall

## MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 SEP 16 (EXCLUDING BLIS)

<b>Executive Summary</b>		
Opening Balance 1 Apr 16	50,586	
Add Excess Income over Expenditure	6,626	
Closing Balance 31 Mar 17	<b>57,212</b>	
<b>Designated Funds</b>		
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	2,000	
Barford Memorial Hall	4,175	Current balance
Barford Parish Directory (CVS)	7	Current balance
Barford Telephone Kiosk	200	Bond deposited by Barford Heritage Group for future costs
Election Expenses (reserve from 2015)	2,000	JPC policy to reserve this early in the election cycle
Neighbourhood Watch	100	Current Balance
Provision for new mower	1,600	Purchase approved by JPC
Public Access Defibrillator	302	Current balance
Rectory Paddock Modifications	2,000	Lease terms
Rural Footway Lighting 2017-18	906	Phased payment
Rural Footway Lighting 2018-19	906	Phased payment
Section 106	3,140	Reserved for specific developments
War Memorial Barford	470	Raised by public subscription. Unavailable for any other purpose
WDC New Local Plan	1,300	Contingency for challenge
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>19,106</b>	
<b>Total Reserve</b>	<b>38,106</b>	Closing balance 31 Mar 17 less Designated Funds
<b>Risk Management Reserve</b>	<b>13,417</b>	75% of Clerk's costs
<b>Discretionary Reserve</b>	<b>24,689</b>	Unallocated reserve

	Budget 2016-17	YTD	Outturn
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Allotments Rents	993		993
Bank Interest	100	103	240
Concurrent Services Contribution (WDC)	2,290	2,290	2,290
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1,415	1,415	1,415
Grants: Royal Visit		2,050	2,050
Precept (WDC)	42,787	42,787	42,787
Section 106		3,140	3,140
VAT	1,000	96	96
Wayleave	5		5
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>48,590</b>	<b>51,881</b>	<b>53,016</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Allotments Hire of Land	500	250	500
Allotments Maintenance	150		150
Allotments Water Charges	160	19	160
Audit Fees	445	1,650	1,650
Bank Charges			10
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	2,000		2,000
Barford Memorial Hall		1,610	1,610
Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan		767	767
Bus Shelters Maintenance	525	240	525
Chairman's Allowance	472		472
Employment Expenses	17,170	8,581	17,170
Grants: Churchyard Maintenance	1,334		1,334
Grants: Village Halls	4,114		4,114
Insurance	2,000	1,992	2,000
Mowing Charges	3,777	2,061	3,777
Office Accommodation	719	360	719
Open Spaces Maintenance	300	201	300
Postage	140	55	140
Printing and Stationery	300	18	150
Rectory Paddock Legal Fees		750	750
Rectory Paddock Maintenance			500
Rectory Paddock Rent			250
Royal Visit		1,721	1,721
Rural Footway Lighting	906	906	906
Section 106			3,140
Section 137	20	97	97
Subs: Information Commissioner	35		35
Subs: SLCC	170		170
Subs: WALC	505	506	505
Training and Seminar Expenses	200	75	200
Travel Expenses	300	165	300
Venue Hire	170		170
War Memorial Wasperton	100	75	100
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>36,511</b>	<b>22,097</b>	<b>46,390</b>
<b>NET TOTALS</b>	<b>12,079</b>	<b>29,783</b>	<b>6,626</b>

## BLIS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 SEP 16

A	As at 30 Sep 16 the Estimated Total Cost (ETC) of BLIS was £439,331*
B	Expenditure to that date was £400,480
C	This leaves a Committed to Spend (CTS) residue of £38,851
D	The BLIS ledger in the JPC accounts has a credit balance of £104,351, but of this three grants totalling £32,767 have been designated for uses not included in the ETC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sport England £9,767</li><li>• Warwick District Council £3,000</li><li>• National Grid £20,000</li></ul>
E	The BLIS ledger therefore has available £71,584 to fund the CTS of £38,851
F	This leaves an unallocated reserve of £32,733
G	These figures confirm that BLIS is on a secure financial footing

\* All figures in this analysis are net of VAT



## WDC – Withdrawal of Financial Support to JPC

I respond on behalf of **Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council**.

The council understands the economic environment and the pressures on WDC to contain and reduce their spending.

Concerning the proposals before WDC we would comment:

### CONCURRENT SERVICES

- We recognise that WDC is one of the few remaining authorities which fund concurrent services
- Figures provided alongside the paper serve only to emphasise the uneven, possibly unfair and possibly undemocratic way in which such funding is currently spread over the area with some PCs levying very small or very large precepts and the having very variable receipts of Concurrent Funding, presumably reflective of the services they actually provide?
- We do not accept any suggestion that the concept of DOUBLE TAXATION does not exist and indeed consider that clauses 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 actually recognise its existence.
- Concurrent services funding enables rural parishes to provide some of the facilities which are usually found in the urban areas where they are much more available to urban dwellers and hence rural dwellers get relatively poor value for their taxation.
- Withdrawal of this financial support can only serve to reduce the provision of such facilities within rural communities and hence lead to greater rural isolation, rural deprivation and greater dependency on private transport due to the limited availability of suitable public transport.
- The statement at 3.1.4a suggesting that the urban areas might be more deserving of funding as they provide “destination parks” is offensive to our council given that largely by our own efforts, with some financial support from WDC, our council has provided a widely recognised recreational facility of some excellence which is now being treated as a destination in its own right with many of our visitors coming from the urban areas declaring our facilities to be far superior for their purposes and enjoyment. This greater than local footfall clearly has an impact on our maintenance requirements and costs but now we learn that we are to be deprived of WDC support for the same.
- We recognise that our individual council is possibly well placed to weather the reduction in funding given that a relatively modest (8.7%) increase in precept will replace the loss of funding however we have grave concerns for those councils which will be much more severely impacted and are perhaps less well able to respond by an appropriate increase in precept.
- We also recognise that as under the NPPF regime and the emerging New Local Plan our parish will have a very considerable number of extra houses and a large incoming population we will also have an increased parish income if we maintain our Band D requirement – We have cooperated fully in agreeing to accept this drastic increase in the size of our community, but we also believe that any and all new development s.106 Open Spaces contributions attached to our planning permissions should be spent in our parish in order that we can appropriately service our increased population and must not be hived off to the urban areas or the wider district.

### COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION FUNDING

- It is obvious that when first introduced the Government intended this to be passed on the local councils even though it was not mandatory. We are grateful that WDC agreed to do so.
- It is also obvious that although the CT Reduction Funding is no longer identified it has been assimilated into RSG which will disappear in due course.
- We accept that due to change of circumstances the numbers of claimants for CT Reduction has reduced and therefore the loss will have less impact than it may have done in the past – HOWEVER Parish Councils have absolutely no control over this situation and given our long funding cycle cannot react promptly to any such reduction in revenue or produce any “smoothing”.
- Perhaps PCs should be compensated on a Real Time basis for any income reduction based on CT discounting and such an exercise should not be too difficult given the levels of IT applicable to the CT administration.

If WDC is minded to follow the recommendations to reduce these two important sources of PC funding, then we would support the John Crosling of WALC proposal that such funding is withdrawn in a more gentle and progressive manner to give those most severely impacted a better chance to change and adapt to the situation.

## Update on Youth and Community Centre

The building Group have now received quotes for the new building ranging from £80,000 to £300,000. They are currently researching heating systems including underfloor heating which could be fitted at a cost of £25,000. There may be a grant for this from the “Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme”. They are looking to initially replace the storage garages so that at least storage will be available when the old building is knocked down.

Fund raising continues:

- Pamper Evening
- Quiz night
- Not the Music Hall
- Xmas Market

The support by villagers for this project has been amazing and it seems to have captured everyone’s imagination. Individuals as well as groups have been fund raising and the total now stands at over £13,000 – add to this the £7,500 that has been held in reserve since the present hut was built and we have over £20,000 towards our target.

Grant Submissions:

The Lottery Fund forms are well under way as is the information for RUCIS (Rural/urban Capital Improvement Grant).

We are also looking at “The Community Buildings Capital Grant Fund”.

We have made enquiries about the possibility of 106 monies. A meeting was held with Patrick Flannigan who was going to investigate possibilities. Councillor Rhead has said he will chase up this avenue as Mr Flannigan is no longer in post.