

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BARFORD
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUE 2 APR 13 AT 7.30 PM**

Present:	J V Murphy (Chairman) Twenty-five other electors
In attendance:	Cllr L Caborn (WCC)

1 **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 2 Apr 12.** The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2 **Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council Report** by Cllr J V Murphy:

2012-2013 has again been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, numerous Working Party or subcommittee meetings and the three Annual Parish Meetings and one Special Meeting this year!

Our year got off to a very difficult start with the tragedy at the weir in Barford. A young family was swept over the weir and despite heroic efforts by residents and emergency services alike a father and young child lost their lives. Whilst this serves to remind us all of the ever present danger near rivers it also reassures us of the incredible community spirit which we enjoy here – something which was noted by all the emergency services and by the coroner at the inquest.

Difficult financial times continue and all levels of government strive to achieve best value and minimize service reductions. This year we have not kept the parish element of the Council Tax at the same level. The WDC, WCC and the Police have kept their requirement level. Changes to the way Council Tax rebates were administered threatened to seriously erode our finances and a modest increase – less than £2.00 for a Band D – was felt to be appropriate to ensure that we could maintain our services and maintain our funding in the future.

As the A429 slices through our parishes we are frequently considering its impacts. Our hopes were raised early in the year when funding was allocated to our problems and feasibility studies were started. Issues of major concern included the northern junction on the Barford Bypass, the speed of traffic in Sherbourne, the safety of Wasperton junction and the speed of traffic on the A429 itself. Various schemes were proposed but all were expensive against a backdrop of in truth of very limited funding – we could only have one scheme. The Wasperton junction scheme was deemed much too expensive due to the need to buy land to allow space for a refuge, the northern bypass junction scheme was just too expensive, the A429 speed limit was deemed to be impractical and unenforceable by the Police and the WCC Safety Engineers so we were left with the Sherbourne scheme. This will extend the weight limit and impose speed limits throughout the village. The 40mph limit on Watery Lane remains controversial but is probably better than the current derestricted status. Even so some residents were not in favour of any scheme but the democratic will prevailed and the scheme will go ahead.

Last year we were successful in securing a Community Forum grant for £3000 towards the modernization and replacement of our streetlights. The latest scheme includes all the outdated lights in Barford and Sherbourne and subject to economies of scale the work should be completed this year.

Following the establishment of a Working Party to review the facilities at Barford Playing Fields there has been slow but steady progress. Several companies have now put forward proposals for modernizing the area and a new group of volunteers have proposed the provision of an all weather sports area with potential for use by the school along with young and old alike. The inspiration for this latter element came from a similar scheme in Stoneleigh village where it has been a great success. The change in plan has brought in extra delays but we think that such delay will be worthwhile if we get a much better facility.

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1043 to each and the JPC also gave grant support of £418 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations took place in all three villages and the beacon, the Riverside walk, the new Barford flagpole, the Jubilee Oaks, picnics and lunches were all a great success. Well done to all involved!

The major planning issue has continued to be the slow gestation of the **New Local Plan**. In 2011 we learnt of the intended housing numbers for our district – 550 homes per year – and in May 2012 we saw the draft version of the **Preferred Options** which indicated proposed locations for those numbers. We had been assured that the rural areas would not have significant numbers imposed upon them so we were surprised when Barford was classified as a Category One village and expected to take 100 extra homes, with 40% affordables. Inevitably we have responded to all of this and we await the next stage when the **Draft Local Plan** is released in June, all in the knowledge that the Coventry Local Plan was recently thrown out as “unsound” largely on failure of adequate numbers and failure to cooperate with adjacent authorities. All of this is indeed worrying for us.

Affordable Housing – We continued to work to with the Rural Housing Enabler and having identified the Wasperton Lane site as the preferred option for a stand-alone site we were delighted when funding suddenly became available. Things then moved on quickly and a public consultation was held in September and whilst the scheme was not universally popular we were very disappointed when in the autumn we were given the news that the landowners, St John’s College, Oxford had decided that they would not release land at “Rural Exception Site” rates. Once again there is currently no funding available and we are advised that we must rely on a market homes scheme, sufficiently large to provide our needs through the WDC requirement for larger sites to provide 40% Affordable Homes. Recently there are two such schemes on the horizon.

Proposals on **land around Barford House** advanced considerably to a Planning Application for 58 homes. The proposal addressed many of the issues identified in the 2011 BRA survey along with other issues raised relating to the site. The JPC voted to object to the scheme on the grounds that it was contrary to all current local policies and failed to meet our perceived local housing needs. The WDC Planners refused the scheme on grounds of its heritage impact, local need and impact on an immediate neighbour. The applicants went to appeal in February and the Inspector recently announced that he recommended dismissing the appeal which now goes to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles.

The site of the now closed **Sherbourne Nurseries** was also the subject of a Planning Application for 58 houses by Taylor Wimpey following a public consultation in June. This was also refused on grounds of impact on the Conservation Area, loss of the Police house and failure to meet local need. It may still go to appeal.

Through all of this the JPC had been working to develop a Housing Needs Survey to assess the requirement for both Market and Affordable homes in the three parishes. In May we had the results which confirmed our thoughts. There remained a need for about 10 Affordable Homes in Barford and two in each of Sherbourne and Wasperton, along with up to 24 market homes mostly smaller houses and bungalows. The final numbers are somewhat debatable due to the methodologies employed and whilst the WDC cannot fully accept the totals for lack of means testing they remain indicative of local need.

Over the year **Riverside land** left over from the Barford Bypass construction and taken over by the JPC has established itself well. The community orchard, a wild flower meadow and riverside walk are all looking good and are now well used.

All councillors have as always attended many meetings and generally have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. This year we have lost two councilors, one through retirement and one through failure to attend sufficient meetings. This presents the opportunity for new members to come forward and get involved in the local aspects of public life and such new members are actually quite a refreshing influence on a body such as ours, often bring fresh ideas and even an innocence to procedures. Many thanks to all for their input. Some have done much more than the expected minimum and these are particularly deserving of our community’s gratitude.

Councillor attendance records:

2012-13	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W BARLOW	9	8	89%

Cllr R CLAY	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs J L LONGFIELD	9	5	56%
Cllr S J McVEIGH	6	1	17%
Cllr P A P MORRIS	9	5	56%
Cllr D MORROW	9	7	78%
Cllr J V MURPHY	9	8	89%
Cllr A RHEAD	9	7	78%
Cllr R A SHOTTON-OZA	9	7	78%
Cllr Mrs A GORDON	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs NEWSOME	9	8	89%
Cllr Mrs P K PAYNE	7	6	86%
Cllr M J METCALFE	9	8	89%
Cllr N F J THURLEY	9	9	100%
Cllr J T WRIGHT	9	8	89%
Cllr J M HAWKESFORD	9	8	89%

4 **Warwickshire County Council Report by Cllr L Caborn:**

This is really an end of term report as we approach County Council Elections on May 2nd What has the Conservative Administration achieved in the last four years in sole control of WCC ? 0% council tax rise for past 3 years whilst taking £65 million out of cost of running WCC. Staff numbers reduced from 4088 FT to 2993 FT and 3635PT reduced to 3093 PT. (excluding schools)

Adult Social Care and Children.

Personal budgets for individuals, Extra Care dwellings for elderly and disabled, Transfer of Care homes to Runwood homes

Streamlined our Fostering and Adoption processes, though numbers in care risen from 536 to 709. Best Ofsted for safeguarding in West Midlands. Developed children's centres to embrace the whole family and reduced the need for pupil referral units by giving schools flexibility over failing pupils. A level and GCSE pass rates up.

Community

Following strategic plan turned fire service into fire and Rescue Service New road accident unit and boat unit Reduced the economic cost of fire by 50% and become the top performing fire service in U K with regards to accidental dwelling fires. Achieved with home fire safety calls and small fire units. New station for L/Spa will be delivered.

Road accidents (killed or seriously injured) down from 348 to 313

Spending on roads maintenance up from £34.75m to £35.12m

Local schemes

Still able to grit over 46% of roads and reviewing--policy to see in can improve ie around schools

Worked to improve community forums, one-stop-shops (new Shire Hall layout)

16 libraries moved to community control successfully

Recycling with Boroughs and Districts up from 43.2% to 48.7%

Shire Hall and Old Courts to be let to partner

Health and Wellbeing

Public health moved to County council

Work with partners, as health affects everyone and every age

Reduce carbon emissions through street lights-saving 3000 tons CO₂ and £500000

Future Growth is vital

Apprenticeships and support for businesses to take apprentices on LEP - City Deal -Top 60 firms in WCC area visited --

Junction 12/ 14 improvements

£8 m for Broadband especially to rural area

Rural growth centre at Stoneleigh. Small business loans. Market towns initiative.

Finally thanks to chairman ,clerk and councillors for support and co-operation. Look forward to being back

4a Matters Arising. Cllr Caborn took questions on :

- Community forum
- Super-fast broadband
- Speed limits (20mph)
- Road repairs

5 **Parish and Neighbourhood Planning** The Chairman drew attention to the innovation of "Neighbourhood Plans" whereby groups of villages, villages or parts thereof could adopt one and, in so doing, ensure that the views of inhabitants were fully weighed in determining any future development. Neighbourhood plans were however community led which is to say that, although the Joint Parish Council would play an important part, its drafting would rely upon the efforts of volunteers living locally. Creating a neighbourhood plan is both time-consuming and expensive and unless there was a conviction that both could be guaranteed there was little point in embarking on such an enterprise. He called for views:

5.1 Mr R Mulgrue made the point that the Barford Parish Plan was drawn up under similar constraints and that had been successful. The plan was however in need of updating and, given the inevitable common ground between a parish plan and a neighbourhood plan, it would be expedient to perform the two tasks concurrently. He was convinced that, just as the parish plan was for Barford only, so also should any neighbourhood plan be. Although the constituent villages in the Joint Parish Council had things in common there was much which divided them, and to try to accommodate such differences in a joint neighbourhood plan was asking the near-impossible.

5.2 Mrs W Barlow said that having attended briefings on neighbourhood plans she found it an exciting prospect.

5.3 Mr J Barrot gave his support pointing out that with its history of such things as the Barford Parish Plan and Barford Village Shop, the village proved it had the capacity and enthusiasm to take on the project.

5.4 Mr W Worrall urged that members of the younger generation be fully engaged in the scheme; it was they, more than any other age group, who needed to control development in the medium to distant future.

5.5 Mr K Hope's proposal to hold a public meeting to assess interest was widely supported and the Chairman agreed to convene one.

6 **Planning Matters, including Barford House and Sherbourne Nurseries** The Chairman drew attention to the report at Minute 2

7 **Barford Residents' Association** Mr R Scott reported:

Continuing the pattern of previous years BRA has been involved in Planning issues for much of this year.

Sharba Homes proposal was with WDC at the start of the year and was finally refused by the officers in August. The expected Appeal was announced in November and BRA had several committee meetings and even met with Chris White (MP) to organise our response. A great deal of work was done by the group and a prepared statement delivered verbally to the Appeal Hearing at the end of February. It was indicative of the feeling in the village that a considerable number of residents attended the hearing each day – some were present on all 3 days and we must have conveyed to the Inspector that there was concern about this development. The Inspector's decision to refuse the appeal came at the end of March and we all breathed a sigh of relief – until next time!

The New Local Plan was the next hurdle – The inclusion of Barford in a group of large villages which were required to each provide 100 new houses over the next 15 years was contested and concern was raised about the proposals at Gallows Hill which could significantly increase traffic through the village. Representations were made to Warwick District Council and the New Local Plan will be revised and re-issued for more consultation later this year.

As most of you will know Taylor Wimpey have made a planning application for up to 60 houses

on the Nursery Land. BRA held an informal forum in this Hall on 3rd October last year to try to make sure that as many people as possible were aware of the proposals. A good number of villagers visited the Hall and there was a clear indication that this development was also regarded as too large for the village. BRA duly conveyed this to WDC, as did the JPC, and the Planning Application was rejected – however there are still several months in which Taylor Wimpey could appeal, so we may have more work to do here.

It is likely in the present political climate that Planning Applications for large developments will continue to emerge and BRA will attempt to establish the majority view of the village on each proposal and act accordingly.

I will end with an advert - the BRA AGM will be on Monday 29th April at 8 pm. We need representatives from all areas of the village on the committee so that we can reflect the view of the whole village. If you want to be involved in how Barford develops then come and join us. Refreshments will be served after the business procedures are complete.

8 **Barford Shop** Mr W Worrall reported:

The Shop continues to thrive.
Providing a valuable facility to the community.
Valuable social contribution as a meeting point – café etc.
Corenna continues to give stalwart service.
Volunteers continue to man shifts but plenty of opportunity for more.
Unable to give any financial detail – accounts not yet audited and wrong to divulge any detail until after Shop AGM on 22nd May at 8:00pm in hall.
Open to all shareholders – if not a shareholder why not see me for details.

Proposal at very early stage to install PV panels on South facing roof of Memorial Hall
Hall has low electricity use in the daytime
Shop has high electricity use in the daytime

Discussions are at very early stage between the hall and Shop
Shop install and pay for PV panels on Hall roof.
Shop pay rental to Hall for roof space.
Shop receives Feed in Tariff payments and enjoys the use of the 'free' electricity produced.

Will require planning permission as in conservation area.
Currently planners have indicated they would not look favorably upon the installation but with suitable public support a planning application could be successful.

Further negotiations ongoing.

Comments please

9 **Barford Post Office** Mr R Scott reported that the Post Office had had a very successful year during which the opening hours had been extended from three to five afternoons each week.

10 **Barford Relief in Need Charity** Mr T Offiller reported:

The Charity is known as a "relief in need" charity and is regulated by the Charities Commission. Its income is derived from cautious investments and, to a much smaller extent, the rental on some land in the south of the county. Its income is around £10,500 per annum and has remained steady through the recent financial turmoil thanks to changes in the disbursement policy of the investment management company.

Unlike when it was established in the early 20th century, before the advent of a welfare state, the Charity has for many years struggled to spend its annual income. Since recomposition of the trustee body in 2005 there has been a strong emphasis on publicizing the help available from the Charity. In the last 5 financial years spending as a proportion of income has been 101%, 67%, 104%, 80%, and 91 % last year, helped by a widening of terms of reference agreed with the Charities Commission in 2008 to include relief of poverty, old age, sickness and the advancement of education

Cash grants for specific needs were made to 9 applicants during 2012, and a further 26 parishioners received grants of £150 to help with the cost of Christmas. Christmas grants were introduced some years ago because relatively little of the Charity's income was being taken up by specific applications for help. They have been made with no formal reference to recipients' incomes. Greater scrutiny of these cases since 2005 has seen their numbers reduce from 44 to last year's 26.

Of the 9 residents receiving grants for specific needs, 3 were for educational purposes, 1 provided a car wheelchair hoist, 1 helped with heating costs, 1 replaced domestic equipment and 3 helped with accrued debts.

To enable regular change in the composition of the trustee body, trustees serve a specific term of office. Two of the trustees appointed by the Joint Parish Council completed their terms of office in 2012. One has been given a further term and the JPC has replaced the other, who had served for more than one term. Another trustee, one appointed by the trustee body itself, completed his term of office in January and a successor has been appointed.

I am the Clerk to the Charity and its Chairman since 2005 has been Gerard Veness.

11 **Barford Community Charity** Mr J Barrott reported:

Barford Community Charity is registered with the Charity Commission and currently has seven Trustees. The Trustees are: John Barrott (Chair), Pam Harrison (Secretary), Mary Pierson (Treasurer), John Murphy, Alan Rhead, Richard Shotton-Oza and Simon McVeigh.

There is a clear distinction between Barford Community Charity and other groups such as The Barford Trust. Whilst the Barford Trusts' remit is to deal primarily with individual needs, Barford Community Charity is better suited to assist with larger projects that are community based that would have a wider and longer lasting impact on village life as a whole.

The Charity is not just about allocated funds to organisations, it is also able to assist in getting funding from other quarters.

To date, the Charity has assisted the school, church and the village shop with projects. The profile of Barford Community Charity has awareness within the village, but its presence needs to be publicised more widely. The Trustees are currently working on publicity and when complete, it will be displayed on the village website and notice boards.

12 **Neighbourhood Watch** Mr I Findlay reported:

We are looking to have a concerted effort over the coming weeks and months to recruit Neighbourhood Watch coordinators in Barford. We are hoping to sign up residents from across the whole of the village so we can have maximum coverage. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in Neighbourhood Watch or receiving news alerts from the team, then please get in touch by emailing <mailto:peter.groom@warwickshire.police.uk> The new look Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch website is also worth a quick look, as it is another source of information for all those interested in the benefits of being Involved in their local Neighbourhood Watch. Click here and take a look. <http://www.wnwa.org.uk/>

13 **Barford School** Mrs H Clay reported:

Barford St Peter's continues to thrive as a flourishing school serving the three villages of Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton and a few children from further afield.

Three years ago the admission number was increased from 17 to 20 and now to cater for that number of pupils moving up through the school an additional classroom will be built for September. A new teacher has recently been appointed for this class. The building work had started briefly but was brought to a sudden temporary halt when a main electric cable was discovered in the building line soon as this is relocated the building work will recommence.

With the admission number currently being 20 we shall be full again this coming September, if

any of the proposed building developments come to fruition then we shall have to seriously think about increasing that number, this indeed was recognized in the draft of the new local plan.

Barford pre-school is a great success, forming part of the foundation unit of the school and is now on a firm footing rather than the rather precarious situation it tended to be in when running from the village hall.

Last year I put out a plea for a new governor at the school and I am very pleased to say that several people contacted me regarding this and we were able to appoint one new governor and an associate member.

14 **Barford First Responders Group** Mr R Scott reported:

This year has unfortunately seen a reduction in members available for call out to support the Ambulance Service. There has therefore been a reduction in the number of "on call" hours members have provided.

There will be an open Meeting here [Barford Memorial Hall] at 7.30pm on Monday 20th May 2013, during which the Ambulance Service will give a presentation and a practical opportunity for villagers to have hands on experience of CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation). We are hoping this meeting will be well attended and stimulate more villagers to join the group. We need several new volunteers so that we can provide more cover for the village.

The JPC provided funds last year for the provision of a Public Access Defibrillator which as you all know is situated at the rear entrance of the shop. This is an additional resource which can be accessed by anyone through the 999 system.

Community First Responders are trained by the Ambulance Service to a nationally recognised level and may be requested to attend to medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, chest pain, bleeds, diabetic emergencies, strokes and breathing problems. Providing assistance in the case of Cardiac Arrest can be a life saver and literally 'minutes count'. In circumstances where there may be a shortfall in Ambulance Service cover, the role of the CFR can be a life saver.

Our aim next year is to recruit and train more members and endeavour to increase the number of on call hours that Barford First Responders provide.

15 **Barford Heritage Group** Mrs M Hayward gave a resumé of the Group's activities throughout the past year:

This report aims to look back on what we have accomplished during the past year whilst outlining plans for 2013.

For a variety of reasons the group has not been able to undertake quite as many major events as in previous years. Nevertheless, valuable work has been done which has been appreciated by the village.

Development Proposals

A considerable amount of time has been spent discussing the merits and demerits of 2 major development proposals in the village, both of which have been subsequently turned down by the JPC planning committee and by WDC planners. The Sharba Homes development on land around Barford House was the subject of a 3-day public enquiry. A letter, included here, was submitted to clarify the heritage aspects of the only Grade 2* mansion in Barford.

"The submission by Sharba Homes about the significance of Barford House - the only Grade 2 listed dwelling in the village - was grossly understated.*

It is its literary heritage which is of national and indeed international significance.

The young Elizabeth Gaskell, née Stevenson, attended the Miss Byerleys' School in Barford House for several years. This was a period of enormous influence on her subsequent life. She was exposed to the society of such luminaries as Wedgwood, Darwin and Dickens and encouraged to write by one of her teachers, Charlotte, herself a novelist. Indeed her first book, 'Lois the Witch', was set in Barford. Several of her classmates were free-thinking feminists who

were the forerunners of the suffragette movement.

Later in its history, Barford House became the home of the Graham family. The son, Alastair, was studying at Oxford when he formed a very close personal relationship with Evelyn Waugh – who became one of our greatest English novelists. Waugh was a very frequent visitor to Barford House and indeed had his own writing room where he penned 'Decline and Fall'. It is certain that he used Alastair as the inspiration for Sebastian in 'Brideshead Revisited'. Given that one day, perhaps under new ownership or with Lottery funding via English Heritage, the Mansion were to be restored to its former glory, it would be important to be able to present the house in its original setting. If the proposed development were to be permitted, the potentially wonderful kitchen gardens and croquet lawn would be obliterated for all time. The ha-ha beyond the Sun Temple is evidence that the land beyond was part of the originally conceived setting of the house. If this development were to be allowed, future generations may indeed look on those who permitted exploitation of this sensitive site as philistines."

CRO visit

On February 29th a very well attended visit to the County Record Office in Priory Park was organized and was much appreciated. The archivist was excellent and clearly knowledgeable and passionate about his subject. Everyone commented on how marvellous it was to actually handle the early documents. We were even allowed to look inside 'The Barford box' access to which has been denied for several years. It was fascinating to see the Coronation and Jubilee memorabilia and three posters, which were new to us, of films at The Ryland Hall Cinema (behind the Peirson's) dating around 1915. The Heritage Group was pleased to fund the cost for members and their friends.

MIKE GARDINER'S VISIT

On 2 May, Mike Gardiner came to our meeting and described how, after his father's death, he had discovered his journal in which he recounted his life at Yew Tree Cottage on the Wellesbourne Road. Mike read extracts from his father's record which included details of the war years and the Barford Home Guard. Illustrated with delightful pen and ink drawings the journal was of great interest in bringing the past alive and much of it will be incorporated into our April production. Mike said that his father had known Joseph Arch who had given him a number of photos and memorabilia which he had passed on to the Joseph Arch pub.

DEREK HANLIN'S REMINISCENCE

Derek, who now lives in S Wales, sent a fascinating account of his time working on Wasperton Farm in 1948 when a boy of 14. He had lied about his age and clearly absolutely loved the experience of rural life.

TREE MATTERS

An eight year old Jubilee Oak tree was planted to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a wooden sign to identify the Riverside Walk and Community Orchard has been made by Warwick Carvers. Both tree and sign have been paid for by the Heritage Group. An old and diseased lime tree needed to be felled in the Churchyard. BHG voted to buy a replacement container grown tree which has been gratefully accepted by the PCC.

A plaque to identify the Coronation Oak in the Playing Field is to be funded by the Heritage Group.

VILLAGE WALK

A goodly number of visitors turned up for a guided walk around the village on 10th June. This had been advertised as part of the Leamington Festival which included nearby villages.

TELEPHONE KIOSK

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee year the crowns on the kiosk, which originally celebrated King George VI Jubilee, were gilded with real gold leaf. As part of our maintenance commitment, flaws and chips in the paintwork and door have been restored and the traffic film washed off so the box is a splendid feature of the street scene. In June, the Heritage Group produced an exquisite Jubilee display complete with a splendid Coronation crown. In December the BHG installed a lovely Christmas display complete with flashing lights on the tree.

The WI were the first non-heritage group to take over the task of mounting a informative display

within the phone box. They were followed by a colourful installation by Barford Drama Group. The opportunity is available for village groups such as the school, uniformed organizations etc to utilize the display area.

BECOMING BARFORD

There has been a steady stream of sales of our book especially since the price has now been reduced to £9.99. It was decided that a copy of 'Becoming Barford' should be given to every leaver from St Peter's School and this offer has been gratefully accepted by the Headteacher.

FUTURE PLANS

The War Years

A dramatic presentation based on the War Years is being staged on April 6th and 7th using the wealth of material the group has assembled. The project has involved a considerable amount of work but is proving very enjoyable and will, we hope, lead to the production of another book.

Rural Exhibition Proposal

The lead up to Autumn similarly should provide an excellent and stimulating experience. Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum is developing an exhibition for autumn-winter 2013 (17th October 2013 till January 12th 2014) that explores life in rural Warwick district from the nineteenth century until the present day. It has received funding from Arts Council England to run the project. Funds will cover an artist/designer to lead on the project and costs for exhibition materials. Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum will also provide display furniture and curatorial support. They will work with the Barford Heritage Group and an artist/designer to research, explore and interpret their past in a creative manner. The responses to the histories of the community will be exhibited alongside objects that have been collected during the research and exploration stages in a 'pop-up' exhibition that will be based in the village. There will be a focus on Joseph Arch and other significant people and events from the village. The Heritage Group is delighted to have been selected as a partner and looks forward to the project involving the whole village community

Managing our archive

Every month it seems, members are discovering new and fascinating information about Barford's past, including dipping into early documents such as Parish Records and Manorial Rolls.

From the outset we have been blessed by a multi-talented group of members who have generously given of their time and talents. Over the years, our expertise has increased and we would dearly love to infect others with our enthusiasm for discovering more about our village whose roots go back at least 3000 years. Whether it is an interest in pre-history and archaeology, researching medieval to 20th century Barford, religion, agriculture, trades or commerce in the village or genealogy there are members ready and willing to initiate volunteers into the mysteries of the Record Office and old title deeds. If research isn't your scene, then we're looking for new members who may like to help with PR, IT, including website design, script writing, recording and editing reminiscences, project management, cataloguing etc. So why not come and join us?

- 16 **Barford Allotments** Mr R Clay reported that once again all available allotment plots had been let and drew attention to the Communal Plot and its polytunnel which was available for shared use by those who wished to undertake horticulture in a minor way but for whom a full plot was excessive. It was agreed to make this facility available to tenants of the PCC allotments.
- 17 **Barford Playing Field /Equipment** The Chairman drew attention to the report at Minute 2.
- 18 **Barford Scouts & Guides** Mr R Scott reported:

The uniformed organisations are reasonably well supported at present:

- **Brownies** have plenty of girls but are in need of an additional leader.
- **Beavers** (6 – 7 year old) have 24 boys and a waiting list
- **Cubs** have about 20 members and a few vacancies
- **Scout Troop** (newly re-formed) has sufficient members. New scouts will naturally be joining from cubs so room needs to be available to accept them.

The Scout & Guide Hut is also used by the Art Group and by groups who play whist and bingo (I should say that is on alternate weeks).

The Church also hold a monthly communion service in the hut.

The building is also used occasionally for events which perhaps are more suited to a small venue in the South of the village such as children's birthday parties.

The hut has now been in use for over 20 years and has required little maintenance other than the occasional replacement window and some painting. The asbestos roof has given minor problems over the years and has been patched and re-sealed in several areas. The Supporters' Group has been planning for some time to raise funds to enable the roof to be replaced and it is hoped that the work will be carried out this Summer.

There has been some recent discussion with the Church (who lease the site to the Scouts) to establish whether it would be appropriate to create a much larger building. The leaders however were happy with the size and required the outside space for activities in the summer (should one come along) so that was shelved.

There was a suggestion that a disabled toilet would be of great benefit – if not perhaps soon compulsory - for such buildings. The supporters group is pressing ahead with this suggestion and hope to be in a position to carry out the work together with the new roof later this year.

19 **Any Other Business**

19.1 The bench near the telephone kiosk was reported to be damaged but it was agreed to do nothing until the future of that particular area had been decided.

19.2 Analysis of flood water in Wellesbourne Road revealed contamination by sewage or waste water or both. This was now an environmental health issue to be treated with urgency. Cllr Caborn undertook to take the matter up at WCC.

19.3 Concern was expressed over the growing number of vehicle drivers using Barford as a route to work during rush-hours and the deleterious effect this was having on the road surface, particularly in Debden Hollow. Cllr Caborn agreed to organize a traffic counter for High Street and to bring this matter to the attention of WCC. He also added that when the road works at the Morrison's site in Leamington Spa were finished resources would be diverted to the slip road from the M40 Junction 14 along its length to the roundabout on Banbury Road (A425) and the junction with Europa Way. These works would increase the traffic capacity on this route making it preferable to the rat-run through Barford.

19.4 The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his stewardship during the past year.

20 **Appointment of Chairman for 2013-14.** Mr J V Murphy was elected unopposed.

21 **Closure.** There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.