

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2006 AT 7.30PM**

Present Mr Graham Morris (Chairman)
Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)
Eight Sherbourne electors

Minutes

- 1 The minutes of the annual meeting, held on 10th May 2005 adjourned to 23rd May 2005, were confirmed as a true record.
- 2 The meeting agreed to allow the minutes of the current meeting to be made public in draft.

Matters Arising

- 3 Paragraphs 14.1 to 14.12. Parish Councillors were invited to bring to the attention of the JPC those matters which had not been adequately dealt with since last year.

Report by Mr Graham Morris (Chairman)

- 4 The Chairman opened his report by congratulating Cllr Ted Scrannage on his appointment to the JPC and commented favourably upon his hard work and dedication.
- 5 His remaining observations were concentrated upon roads around the village:
 - 5.1 The Barford Bypass was well under way and the scale of the project was clear for all to see.
 - 5.2 Proposed improvement to the M40 Junction 15 by the diversion of the A46 had met with serious opposition from the village because of the perceived environmental impact. A meeting had been arranged for 27th April in the Sherbourne Village Hall at which the Highways Agency would make clear what concessions to these objections would be allowed.
 - 5.3 The history of the attempt to persuade WCC to provide a pedestrian crossing over the A429 at Sherbourne was recalled in detail and at length. Success not having been achieved, the Chairman was invited to write to WCC stating the case again.

Report by Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)

- 6 The year 2005-2006 has been busy yet again – nine routine JPC meetings, twenty Planning meetings, two Special Meetings, numerous Working Party and Officer Meetings and the three Annual Parish Meetings.
- 7 During the year Sue Dean and Graham Morris resigned and have been ably replaced by Cllr Geoff Smith for Wasperton and Cllr Ted Scrannage for Sherbourne who are both already playing a very active role in JPC activities. Unfortunately Cllr Geoff Smith has had to resign from the JPC and the appropriate measures to identify a replacement are in hand.
- 8 Barford Shop and Post Office In the summer we were pleased to learn that a suitable tenant had been found and eagerly awaited the opening. There was significant support from locals; however promised developments failed to materialize and customers became more despondent and had to continue shopping outside our parish areas. Eventually the shop closed summarily and there are ongoing efforts to find a suitable replacement tenant or purchaser. The shop and house are currently on the market and subject to a planning application to add some office units at the rear of the property. Meanwhile there are also moves afoot to launch a community venture to reopen or replace the facility elsewhere in the village, although prospects for regaining a Post Office are very limited. The old butcher's shop which was empty for more than two years has been granted planning permission for change of use to residential and the conversion is currently underway.

- 9 Barford Bypass The project is finally truly underway and the massive earthworks give a clear indication of its scale, although progress does seem to be swift. The liaison group, consisting of members of the JPC from the three villages, Barford Residents' Association and the elected representatives, along with WCC officers and the contractors, continues to meet to help ensure any problems during the build period are resolved as easily as possible.
- 10 A46 Sherbourne Bypass Proposals to improve the Longbridge J15 area with an A46 bypass were poorly received at the 2005 Sherbourne Parish Meeting and this was then replaced summarily by a completely different scheme bringing the A46 Bypass route nearer to Sherbourne but removing all traffic from the old A46 immediately adjacent to the village. The proposal was implemented to avoid disturbance of bats found on the original route and to keep the scheme within the allocated budget. The JPC sits on a Liaison Group for the scheme and has strongly represented local views and achieved a few small concessions to date, including a proposed public meeting to be held on Thursday 27th May in Sherbourne Village Hall.
- 11 Barford Byelaws After a long development period byelaws were adopted by the JPC in July 2005 and were finally enacted on 4th October. Signs have been placed at either end of the allotment and Playing Fields areas and on Barford Village Green. So far they have not needed to be invoked.
- 12 Barford Parish Plan This year the project was finally completed and the Barford Parish Plan document was published and circulated to all homes in the parish. The JPC has established a Working Party consisting of all Barford councillors and is working towards implementing or promoting as much of the plan as possible, as soon as is reasonably possible. The BPP committee will keep a watching brief on developments but have meanwhile moved on to considering a Village Design Statement to assist in future planning in the area.
- 13 Play Areas These are under constant review and checked at least weekly by a Parish Councillor. The surface under all the equipment has been thoroughly overhauled and the access gates on the children's area at Barford Playing Fields have been replaced and are now an "outward-opening, self-closing, dog-resistant design" as approved by ROSPA.
- 14 Skateboard Area This continues to generate comment over noise and youth activity, and we continue to try to find ways to limit this impact on residents, albeit with only limited success so far.
- 15 The Boundary Commission Changes to WCC electoral wards put all three of our villages together with other more rural parishes (Bishops Tachbrook, Hampton Magna, Hampton on the Hill and Norton Lindsey) and we now have a single councillor, Les Caborn to represent our interests at county level.
- 16 Police Matters Our police cover has been patchy over the last year and there have been many instances where the service provision has been considerably less than might be desired. After a period without a CBO we were pleased to hear that PC Emma Matthews was appointed to our area in September and we look forward to working with her.
- 17 On Planning specifically:
- 17.1 The Oldham's' site was the subject of a mixed use planning application with part commercial B1 office use, part affordable housing and part market homes. This was approved by the WDC planners but called in by the Secretary of State as the decision was outside both local and national policies. The JPC supported the proposal, largely to get the affordable homes, but also to keep/gain employment uses and has undertaken significant lobbying to ensure that if the application is approved there will be clear priority for affordable homes for individuals with Barford connections and secondarily those with Sherbourne or Wasperton connections, ahead of all other applicants. The JPC position was ably presented at the Public Inquiry by Cllr Rob Mulgrue and we currently await the final decision.
- 17.2 An application to extend the facilities of the Glebe Hotel and incorporate one of the Church Lane residences was objected to by the JPC on the grounds of over development, traffic issues and unneighbourliness, but was eventually approved by the planners at WDC.

- 17.3 Land surrounding Barford House remained a major interest, and the agent staged a public exhibition with a scale model in July. There was much interest and a full spectrum of opinion. Since then the agent has assembled a focus group to consider possibilities for the site and we await further progress, if any, given that there is currently a moratorium on new development in WDC area.
- 18 Traffic Calming in Barford The lighting upgrade on the High Street chicane and narrowing has recently been implemented, along with replacement of damaged bollards.
- 19 Village Halls The three village halls have again been supported by JPC grants - £400 Barford, £1000 Sherbourne and £1000 Wasperton – although members have again suggested that they would wish to see more active management and fund raising taking place in Wasperton to make their hall more viable.
- 20 Allotments The JPC allotments have now been cleared and ploughed and it is hoped to get them let and into production for the current season.
- 21 All councillors have attended many meetings and served their electors well.
- 22 The Clerk/RFO has as always borne the majority of the work and pressure. Many thanks to our excellent Clerk/RFO, Mr James Johnson.

Constabulary Matters

- 23 The CBO, PC Emma Matthews, was unable to attend the meeting but asked that the following be announced:
- 23.1 Theft from parked and locked cars was the prevalent offence in the area. She urged motorists not to leave valuable in their unattended cars.
- 23.2 Telephone contact with the police should be as follows:
- Emergencies – 999
 - Crime and nuisance – 01926 415000 (and obtain an incident number)
 - Administrative and non-urgent – the CBO's mobile telephone 07931 328540

Neighbourhood Watch

- 24 It was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch was moribund in Sherbourne, but that efforts to make residents more aware of the need for security were required. To that end Cllr Mrs Gordon volunteered to distribute to every house in the village details of contacting the police (see Minute 23.2 above) and of reporting the following to WDC either by text message to 07800 000200 or on its website www.warwickdc.gov.uk/report :
- Fly tipping
 - Graffiti
 - Damaged play equipment
 - Damaged pavements
 - Potholes
 - Damaged bus shelters, street seats or street lights
 - Noise nuisance
 - Pollution (including noise, smoke, lighting, odours)
 - Suspected unauthorized building work
 - Stray dogs
 - Damaged pay and display machines in car parks
 - Damaged public conveniences

Conservation Matters

- 25 Concern was expressed over the apparently uncontrolled lopping and felling of trees in the conservation area.
- 26 There was uncertainty about the need for planning permission for satellite TV dishes.
- 27 It was thought that the enmainment of Sherbourne Brook had taken place on 1st April.

Appointment of Representative to Sherbourne Village Hall Committee

28 Mr Graham Morris was appointed

Other Matters

29 Disquiet was expressed over the lack of green wheelie-bins. It was stated that there would be no change to the status quo until the change of contracts for refuse collection in 2008 at the earliest.

30 There was anxiety about the safety of the proposed cycle route alongside the A429. The meeting was informed that Wasperton had similar fears and that a petition from the village would be presented to WCC by Cllr Les Caborn.

Appointment of Chairman for 2006-7

31 Mr Graham Morris was proposed and seconded, and in the absence of other nominations, was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure

32 There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8:36pm.