

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 14 APRIL 2014 AT 7:30PM**

Present: Mrs Antoinette Gordon (Chairman)
Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman of the Joint Parish Council)
Nineteen Sherbourne Electors

Opening

- 1 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present including the new residents Mr and Mrs Harben.
- 2 She obtained the meeting's approval of a change of the order of business to allow the police representative to deliver a report before returning immediately to her duties.

Police Report

- 3 Beat Manager Manjit Sidhu addressed the meeting:
 - Crime is low in the village.
 - She encouraged the reinvigoration of Neighbourhood Watch in the village and explained how the police would participate by setting up an electronic (email, voicemail and telephone) reporting system to receive reports from the public and to broadcast warnings and also information by newsletter.
 - A blank application form for membership of Neighbourhood Watch was distributed.
 - The police point of contact for Neighbourhood Watch matters is T: 01926 684397

Minutes

- 4 The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 Apr 13 were approved as a true record.
- 5 Matters Arising:
 - 5.1 Parish Councillors. Mr Tony Merrygold had been coopted to serve as a Sherbourne councillor on the JPC

Report by Chairman of the Parish Meeting

- 6 Mrs Antoinette Gordon reported:

1. The Parish Council: Sherbourne (163 electors) is represented by 3 Parish Councillors - Antoinette Gordon, Rachael Newsome and Tony Merrygold (from 13.5.13). There have been 9 JPC Meetings, 16 Planning Mtgs, and extra meetings for New WDC Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. JPC Planning Meetings (Sherbourne items):

W/13/0249/LB. The Manor House – removal of internal brick oven. Granted.

W/13/0307. Sherbourne Park – erection of 3 stables & storage. Retro, granted with conditions.

W/13/0564 & 0565/CA. 2 Sherbourne Court – replacement with UPVC windows. Withdrawn.

W/13/0623. Priors Garden, Watery Lane – erection of single storey rear extension. Granted.

W/13/0700/AG. Sherbourne Farm – re-siting of existing livestock barn. Permitted development.

W/13/0845. Sherbourne Estate Office, Church Rd – change of use to residential. Permitted dev.

W/13/1403. Sherbourne Farm – demolition & change of farm bldgs into wedding venue. Refused.

W/13/1735. Sherbourne Farm – change of use of Ag. Bldg to flexible use. Permitted development.

W/14/0239. Sherbourne Farm – change of use of barns to restaurant/assembly. Permitted dev.

W/14/0130. Park Lodge Cottage – additional ground & first floor rooms and new garage. Outstanding

3. WCC Traffic Management Scheme for Sherbourne 2013/2014:

Old Stratford Road (old A46) – 40 mph signs & new weight restriction signs

Watery Lane (D5571) – 40 mph signs & new weight restriction signs.

Moat Green – 30 mph sign, covered by weight restriction.

Vicarage Lane (D6001) – 30 mph signs & new weight restriction signs.

Fulbrook Lane (D6002) – 30 mph signs.

Church Road (D6003), from Fulbrook Lane to All Saints Church – covered by 30 mph.

Scheme funded from Warwick Area Cttee grant, supported by Cllr Les Caborn.

4. WDC Rural Footway Lighting improvements in Sherbourne:

Moat Green – WDC have replaced 3 old concrete lamp-posts with ‘Victorian’ style, matching the existing village lamp-posts; costs supported with a JPC contribution.

Additionally 3 new lamp-posts have been installed to reduce significant dark patches; funded through grants: Warwick Rural W. Cmnty Forum (£3,000,) Barford Cmnty Charity (£3,450), JPC (£1,620).

Total number of rural footway lighting lamp-posts now 27, all regularly checked/reported for outages.

5. Village Assets and general maintenance:

Village Hall: JPC Grant of £1070.

All Saints Church: JPC Grant for Churchyard maintenance of £430.

Bus shelter: part of JPC regular maintenance.

Public Footpaths: W91c - Old Stratford Rd to former New Barns Farm - walkable; W91b/W91 - not clear;

SD138 - Fulbrook Lane to A46 - blocked; Fulbrook Lane across to Court Farm - not clear;

A429/M40 Longbridge footbridge/cycle crossing - clear, but needs major litter clearance.

Cycle Route: Sustrans National Route 41 and the Stratford-Sherbourne Tirathalon Loop - in regular use.

Verges/hedgerows: regularly maintained by volunteers, i.e. mowing, trimming back and litter picking; supplementary tree and bulb gap planting needed. Village road name plates in need of maintenance.

6. Community involvement:

Sincere thanks are due to all the residents who help to keep the Village looking attractive and who remain vigilant and who are prepared to make useful contributions on issues that arise.

7 Matters Arising:

- 7.1 Rural Footway Lighting. The new lamp standards will be fitted with embellishments appropriate to a conservation area by the end of May after which all street lamps, new and old, will be repainted during the summer months.

Up-date on Village Roads:

- 8 The Old Stratford Road has been renumbered D5571
- 9 Road nameplates are in need of refurbishment and repair.
- 10 Grateful though they were for the introduction of speed and weight restrictions in the village, some at the meeting felt that further measures were required, in particular the introduction of a 20mph limit in Vicarage Lane. The Chairman explained that the police would veto the imposition of any speed limit which they felt they could not enforce and, until the effect of the new restrictions had been measured over time, any pleas for change would probably fall on deaf ears.

Up-date on Buses

- 11 Bus services remained good.
- 12 The bus shelter was kept in good repair apart from leaves in the rain gutters.

Report by Village Hall Committee

Mrs Peta Wilkinson had submitted the written report below:

Dear Friends and Neighbours

Isn't it lovely to see sunshine and spring flowers! Such a change from rain and a little more rain!

We are having our AGM on 29th March at 10.00am in the village hall, do come along, refreshments are available and you will be able to hear our exciting news. Whilst it has been a difficult year for us in terms of bookings and events due to the poor state of the toilets, we have put a lot of work into obtaining grants to undertake their refurbishment. We have now secured the support of the Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne Joint Parish Council and Warwick District Council to support the refurbishment and enhance the functionality of the hall. All thanks go to both supporters, for these much needed funds, it will make such a difference to the hall and what we can do for local people.

Our landlord is mending the roof and in the next few months we will be beginning the renovations, so very soon we will have toilet facilities that compliment our beautiful hall. We cannot get the work done quickly enough as we have a lot of interest from people wanting to hire the hall.

As you know we have recently distributed a questionnaire about the village hall and how people want to use it. This included questions scoping where people wanted a hall sited in the future after the current lease runs out.

We had a great response rate of nearly 50%, but comparing answers like for like has been difficult because all people did not answer all the questions. On this basis I have summarised the responses in percentage terms based on the number of people answering the question. I hope this is clear.

- **62% of People (who answered the question) had attended an event in the hall in the last two years**
- **54% of People (who answered the question) were interested in attending village hall events**
- **26% of People (who answered the question) were prepared to help organise events**
- **26% of People (who answered the question) were interested in hiring the hall for their own events**

We asked people about the Hall and its location

- **62% of people felt that a new hall would not be used more frequently than the present one** – people commented on cost of build, maintenance and up keep. They also made reference to not wanting green spaces to be built upon
- **89% of people (who answered the question) would not be prepared to help maintain a new hall**
- **70% of people (who answered the questions) would not support the development of another hall in Vicarage Lane or on a site of the A429** - comments were linked to Sherbourne being a conservation area and not wanting further development.

Thank you to all of you who responded we are very grateful. We will be having a meeting in the village hall from 2-4pm on Sunday 11th May for people to talk further about where the village hall will be positioned at the end of the lease period (2022). Do feel free to come along as we would like everyone's views, refreshments will be available.

Our proposals for this year's programme of events includes:

- A summer supper
- Monthly village lunches
- Musical evening
- Information surgeries
- Christmas event

We look forward to welcoming you all. Do let us know if you have time to help with planning or delivering events.

Very best wishes
Peta, Vera, Nicky, Mike and Gail

Report by Parochial Church Council

- 14 Rev David Jessett reported:
- 14.1 Phase 2 of the church development plan, the construction of a kitchenette/servery, was complete and the result was an unobtrusive and exceptionally useful addition to the church facilities.
 - 14.2 The drainage had cost £20k to install; rather more than might be expected for just a kitchenette but the system included capacity for lavatories which were the next phase of the development.
 - 14.3 Later in the year a Flower Festival is planned.
 - 14.4 September sees the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church and a weekend of celebration is planned with a party on 20 Sep 14 at 6:00pm.

Report by Sherbourne Member of the JPC

- 15 Cllr T Merrygold reported:

Warwick District Council's Draft New Local Plan suggests that Sherbourne will be relatively immune from future development on a large scale. It had not been thought necessary therefore to join in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan jointly with Barford (which is far from immune) but it would be a wise precaution to understand the processes involved so that in the event of a change of circumstances Sherbourne would be poised to react. For that reason Cllr Merrygold has joined the planning group for the Barford NDP with observer status.

Report by Chairman of the Joint Parish Council.

- 16 Cllr J V Murphy reported:

2013-2014 has again been another busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, numerous Working Party or subcommittee meetings and the three Annual Parish Meetings and three Special Meeting this year!

Difficult financial times continue and all levels of government strive to achieve best value and minimize service reductions. This year, for the second year, after several years of no change, we have increased the JPC Precept. Last year's modest increase helped us cope with changes to the way Council Tax rebates were administered, which threatened to seriously erode our finances. This year with steadily increasing demands on our resources we have taken the brave step of a 33% increase in the parish element of the Council Tax. Of course 33% of a modest amount is a very small real increase and hopefully will be seen as excellent value. Amongst beneficiaries from the new financial regime are improved lighting schemes in Barford and Sherbourne, Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan, relaunch of Neighbourhood Watch, improvements in Sherbourne Village Hall, maintenance of Wasperton War Memorial and funds to defend our parishes in the face of the emerging New Local Plan.

The Sherbourne traffic scheme to extend the weight limit and impose speed limits throughout the village came into operation but remains contentious and councilors are still working with WCC officers to refine the scheme to better suit our situation. In particular the 40mph limit on Watery Lane remains controversial.

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.

After a very slow and frustrating year the Working Party to review the facilities at Barford Playing Fields has begun to make real and steady progress. We were hoping to get the

Diocese to agree some arrangement to include the Rectory Paddock within the scheme but it seems they prefer to view it as a long term investment despite every offer to deal with this in a flexible manner. The Open Day on March 1st saw over 100 visitors to Barford Memorial Hall to see various proposals and possibilities. There was great support for all sorts of facilities, covering, access drive improvement, car parking, 5-a-side football, mini-rugby, all-weather pitches and courts, tennis courts, adult fitness equipment and perimeter pathways. After further analysis of the questionnaire returns the WP is drawing up a business plan and will get solid quotations before launching into major fundraising.

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1070 towards general maintenance each and the JPC also gave grant support of £430 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards. Additionally the JPC also supported Sherbourne Village Hall's project to renovate its toilets with a further £2675 grant for that specific project.

The **New Local Plan** has continued to be a major theme over the year. The Preferred Options stage was revised and relaunched as the Revised Development Strategy which moved Barford to a slightly less sustainable category but only marginally reduced the number of houses we might be expected to accept. The Draft Local Plan, which was expected in June 2013 is now likely to appear in May 2014 after considerable extra work has been carried out on total numbers, cooperating with neighbouring authorities, and in particular for us on the Village settlement Boundaries and numbers. The new settlement boundary for Barford will more realistically represent the current developed state and incorporate the areas of land deemed appropriate for future development, whilst giving considerable protection to areas outside that boundary.

After last year's Annual Parish Meetings it was agreed to explore Neighbourhood Plans and Barford finally agreed to go ahead. Although Sherbourne and Wasperton could not get sufficient support to undertake them. The Barford group have worked extremely hard and the process is now well underway and will be reported elsewhere.

In mid-2013 the Gypsy & Traveller Consultation was launched to run parallel to the NLP process. Alarm took hold and we rapidly arranged a public meeting with a 300+ attendance where WDC officers explained the situation and residents asked sensible and probing questions, in particular relating to sites within and near our parish. The public response was enormous and it was not until February 2014 that the Preferred Options paper was produced targeting the vast majority of sites into the non-Greenbelt area and again several near Barford. The consultation of POs will run until May 5th.

Affordable Housing – We continued to work to with WRCC and have conducted a further "official" Housing Needs Survey" to accurately measure both affordable and market needs. This produced slightly reduced numbers compared to previous surveys which is perhaps to be expected but still demonstrates the need to find appropriate sites in the near future, although given the loss of the Wasperton Lane site these will now almost certainly have to come on the back of private market home sites built within the emerging New Local Plan.

Proposals on **land around Barford House** remained high profile. The Planning Application for 58 homes was refused by WDC and was refused at Appeal. A revised application has also been refused, on similar grounds to the original but additionally on failing to meet the mix indicated by our HNS. It is pending going to Appeal but meanwhile there is a proposal to demolish the front wall on public safety grounds...

The site of the now closed **Sherbourne Nurseries** was also the subject of a further Planning Application for 60 houses by Taylor Wimpey with access via demolition of the Police House. This has now been withdrawn but is expected to re-appear after negotiations on a revised or new access.

Over the year **Riverside land**, community orchard, a wild flower meadow and riverside walk have continued to thrive and mature but were currently the centre of a proposal for a G&T site although latterly it has been removed and only the adjacent private paddock is being promoted.

The Localism Act brought various powers including the "Community Right to Bid" which embraces the "Assets of Community Value". This gives a modest window of time for

community action to raise a rescue attempt in the event that a community asset is likely to be lost or sold. The work to list and evaluate these assets has been quite involving but is now largely complete pending final WDC approval.

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. Many thanks to all for their input.

Councillor attendance records:

2013-14	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W BARLOW	9	9	100%
Cllr R CLAY	9	8	89%
Cllr Mrs J L LONGFIELD	9	8	89%
Cllr P A P MORRIS	9	4	44%
Cllr J V MURPHY	9	9	100%
Cllr A RHEAD	9	5	56%
Cllr R A SHOTTON-OZA	9	4	44%
Cllr Mrs A GORDON	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs NEWSOME	9	7	78%
Cllr M J METCALFE	9	8	89%
Cllr N F J THURLEY	9	8	89%
Cllr J T WRIGHT	9	9	100%
Cllr J M HAWKESFORD	9	9	100%
Cllr T MERRYGOLD	9	9	100%
Cllr I BOAK	5	4	80%

17 Matters Arising:

17.1 Gypsy & Traveller Sites:

- The Chairman reminded the meeting that Stratford-on-Avon District Council had already approved one such site immediately adjacent to Sherbourne.
- She went on to urge those present to respond to Warwick District Council's consultation (either on the web or in writing) by the closure date of 5 May 14

Report by County Councillor

18 Cllr L Caborn submitted the following written report:

BUDGET
 County council set budget @ 1.99% rise to minimise saving need. At this level the council needs to find savings of £92 million over 4 years. This will be achieved through review of staffing, premises but mainly redesign of services and concentrating on front line services and our most vulnerable citizens. ie adult services, safeguarding, children and disabled services, though none exempt change.
 With savings of £65 million taken out over past 3 years, it means our central government support is down by over 30% These changes will be delivered through our One Organisational Plan which sets the way forward for delivery of services.

ECONOMIC development
 Looking for growth through being part of LEP. Partner in Strategic Economic Plan which bids for regional funding for infrastructure ie Nuckle, Junction 12 M40
 Partner in City deal for Warwickshire and Coventry WFRS Commencing consultation on Transformation Programme designed to deliver savings and improve operation. Includes 2 new fire delivery points.
 New training facilities, but most important better response times of target of 10minutes urban and rural. Achieved through rostering firefighters especially full time to cover busiest periods for call out. 60% calls rescue,40% fire nowadays

HIGHWAYS
 No cuts in gritting or pothole repairs .extra £2 million won from central government for winter repairs Area funds spent by District on small schemes ending after 2014

GENERAL Rise in numbers of looked after children Old Courts likely to be run in house as business and cost centre Still not supporting HS2 Gravel plan expected soon Community

forum continues to be partly funded by my £5000 member allowance for division.

UNITARY

Following debate council will continue to explore unitary.

Thanks to clerk and chairman for support and help.

Any Other Business

- 19 Mrs Newsome drew attention to the number of frogs and toads being killed on village roads and asked that signs be posted at the appropriate time to warn drivers to exercise caution.
- 20 Elder trees growing in road verges in the village were now scratching passing cars.
- 21 Church Road.
- 21.1 Mr R Smith-Ryland drew attention to the problems of car parking in Church Road. This gave rise to an animated debate. The Chairman summarized the position thus:
- Church Road is a public highway and cars may be parked anywhere along its entire length without impediment (save for the voluntary good-neighbourliness of not blocking access to driveways to houses).
 - The self-help signs seeking to control parking had no force in law.
 - Those same signs were probably illegal in a Conservation Area.
 - Concerns about matters arising through the use of the hall should be addressed to the Village Hall Committee.
- 21.2 Complaints were made that the use of this narrow road for tractors and horseboxes is causing a problem, as well as the large number of cars coming through in connection with events at Sherbourne Park, which should all directed to the main entrance to Sherbourne Park.
- 22 Mr R Smith-Ryland also gave a summary of his views on the future use of the Village Hall. He was given a polite hearing but because it was beyond the power of the Annual Parish Meeting to decide upon his suggestions and requests he was advised to air these views to the Village Hall Committee.

Appointment of Parish Meeting Representative to Village Hall Committee

- 23 The appointment of Mrs Antoinette Gordon was confirmed.

Appointment of Chairman for 2014-15

- 24 Mrs Antoinette Gordon was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure of the Meeting

- 25 There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:16pm, thanking those who had attended.