

BARFORD SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council
held at Barford Memorial Hall
on Mon 9 Jan 16

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

Opening

- 172 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 173 No members of the public were present.
- 174 The "Protocol for the Reporting at Meetings of the Council or Committees" was taken as read by members of the JPC, and drawn to the attention of the public attending this meeting by means of printed leaflets.

Declarations of Disclosable Interests

- 175 None was declared.

Public Participation

- 176 There was none.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 14 Nov 16

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 14 Nov 16

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 5 Dec 16

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 19 Dec 16

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

Cash Book Balances as at 31 Dec 16

- 181 The JPC took note of the following cash balances
- HSBC(1) £83,009.60
 - HSBC(2) £ 2,152.10
 - Santander £51,320.10

Receipts and Payments

- 182 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee/er	Category	Total
9 Nov 16	Santander	Bank Interest	21.02
10 Nov 16	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(630.69)
13 Nov 16	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(502.00)
13 Nov 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(34.50)
13 Nov 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(292.80)
13 Nov 16	Smith Construction	BLIS	(336.73)

13 Nov 16	WDC	Grants: BLIS (BSC)	350.00
13 Nov 16	Administration	Postage	(38.27)
13 Nov 16	Administration	Travel Expenses	(35.30)
22 Nov 16	Cricket Direct	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(98.95)
22 Nov 16	Grant	Grants: BLIS (BSC)	1,970.00
29 Nov 16	SLCC	Subs: SLCC	(157.00)
29 Nov 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(19.30)
29 Nov 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(65.45)
30 Nov 16	Administration	Office Accommodation	(59.92)
30 Nov 16	WCC	BLIS	(1,159.56)
30 Nov 16	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(806.39)
3 Dec 16	Santander	Bank Interest	21.72
4 Dec 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(31.50)
4 Dec 16	HMRC	VAT	884.40
4 Dec 16	HMRC	VAT: BLIS	3,395.51
5 Dec 16	Harbury Marquees	BLIS (BSC)	(500.00)
9 Dec 16	Style Seating	Barford Memorial Hall	(4,569.60)
9 Dec 16	Net World Sports	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(47.94)
9 Dec 16	Direct Soccer	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(186.08)
10 Dec 16	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(630.69)
12 Dec 16	Smith Construction	BLIS	(27,805.52)
19 Dec 16	WALC	Training and Seminar Expenses	(30.00)
31 Dec 16	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(806.39)
31 Dec 16	Administration	Office Accommodation	(59.92)

Management Accounts as at 31 Dec 16

- 183 The JPC took note of the Management Accounts at Annex A
- 184 Sinking Fund. The JPC agreed to contribute £5k each year to a sinking fund for the future maintenance of the facilities on King George's Field.

Budget and Precept 2017-18

- 185 The Clerk reported that JPC finances are on a stable footing and in the past year it had been possible to continue funding:
- Rural footway lighting in Barford and Sherbourne
 - The Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme
- 186 The funding had been improved in 2016-17 by a voluntary contribution of £1,415 (£1,148 less than in 2015-16) from WDC as a Council Tax Support Scheme, but for 2017-18 that has been further reduced by one-third to £943 and will reduce to zero after two more years. Similarly, the Concurrent Services Contribution from WDC has been reduced from £2,290 in the current year by 50% to £1,145 for 2017-18.
- 187 It is increased by the change in the Tax Base from 852.50 in 2016-17 to 868.37 in 2017-18. This 1.9% addition makes good, in part, the 2% erosion of the value of the precept by inflation in the past year, but not the reduced Council Tax Support Scheme and Concurrent Services contribution. This notwithstanding, there is no requirement to increase the parish element of the Council Tax and it can remain at £50.19 for a Band D dwelling and pro-rata for the other bands (which is below the national average) whilst maintaining a safe discretionary reserve.
- 188 The JPC adopted the budget for 2017-18 (see Annex B) and set the precept at £43,583

Renewal of Mowing Contract 2017

- 189 The JPC has a running contract with MFM Services for grass cutting.

190 The quote for 2017 is shown in the table below:

Task	Max No	Unit cost	Total
Mow Barford Playing Field	22	£37	£814
Mow Barford Village Green	22	£23	£506
Mow Margins (paths and tennis court)	22	£30	£660
Strim Playing Field Perimeter (incl ditch)	8	£35	£280
Mow River Walk (paths and open spaces)	22	£51	£1,122
Mow River Walk (conservation area)	2	£130	£260
Spray Children's Play Area	3	£45	£135
Mow Rectory Paddock	8	£45	£360
			£4,225

191 On a like-for-like basis the prices have increased by 2%, matching the annual increase in RPI.

192 This contractor has a history of coming in under-budget.

193 On the strength of this record, the JPC approved the continuation of the contract without seeking competitive quotes

194 In reaching its decision the JPC was aware:

- The existing contracts were let following full competition in accordance with Standing Orders and was competitively awarded
- The new work is similar in nature and extent differing only with additional tasks created by BLIS.
- The rates for the new work are directly based on the existing contracts
- The likely benefit of further competition would be outweighed by either the administrative cost or the delay or both and the interests of the Council will not be compromised by the negotiation.

Barford Village Green Project (BVGP)

195 The protective surface on Barford Village Green around the children's play equipment, which was placed some years ago, is no longer fit for purpose. It has sunk below the grass and surface water run-off deposits mud on the footpath which is unsightly and dangerous. WDC will finance half the cost of scheme to provide artificial grass and proper drainage. The total cost of such a scheme is £20,286 (which includes a 15% contingency). The JPC was invited to agree the provision of half the total cost. The window of opportunity was narrow; the application had to be lodged with WDC on 10 Jan 17.

196 The JPC resolved: "That the JPC covenants to provide the 50% match funding required to qualify it for a grant from Warwick District Council to finance the refurbishment of the drainage and surface at Barford Village Green, at a cost of £20,286."

197 The Chairman announced a contribution of £7.5k toward this project promised by Barford Village Shop.

[Cllr Wright joined the meeting]

Workplace Pension Scheme

198 Under the Pensions Act 2008, every employer in the UK must put certain staff into a pension scheme and pay into it. This is called "automatic enrolment". The JPC has one employee who was automatically enrolled.

199 The Clerk described what actions had been taken to ensure that the JPC (as employer) meets all the requirements of the Act. Currently it has no need to create a pension scheme.

Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme

200 The Chairman gave a report:

- There is ongoing good use of the facilities, despite the bad weather.
- Active maintenance teams have been established.
- Barford United FC has played its first game there. It enjoys the support of the Barford Community Charity.
- The Christmas fundraising walk raised over £400 which has been shared between Barford Sports Club and the Barford Youth & Community Centre Project.
- Utilities: there would be road closures for the installation of water and electricity supplies on 28 Feb 17.
- Still awaiting resolution of the problem with the surfacing installed by Miracle.
- Now scheduling the last items for the outdoor gymnasium
- The Tim Barlow memorial tree has been planted.

Warwickshire Minerals Plan

201 Further to the JPC's decision to convene a working party to formulate its response to the WCC's proposals (vide Minute 142 of the JPC Minutes of 10 Oct 16); the Working Party met on 20 Oct 16 and again on 2 Nov 16 and its report is at Annex C.

202 The JPC endorsed the contents of the report and cleared it for submission to WCC.

Barford Youth and Community Centre

203 An update from Cllr Mrs Barlow:



Barford Scouts & Guides Supporters Group
Youth & Community Centre Project
locally known as the New Scout Hut Project
BSGSG Registered Charity Number 1166022



UPDATE FOR JPC - 9th January 2017

Main Building
Simplified building with tighter specification for roof. Exterior cladding, interior finish out to quotes – 2 quotes received –awaiting 3rd – prices suitably reduced,

Storage Building
This will be built first and we have located a suitable local supplier (Warwick Buildings of Southam) – They are suppliers of garages, garden rooms, garden offices etc. They have asked us to sketch out our requirements and they will give us a cost Triple unit quote – satisfactory – move on to Planning

Lease
Draft Lease satisfactory - minor queries on some conditions. – Responded late December – waiting reply from Diocesan solicitors.

Planning Permission
Pre-Application meeting identified a few points that WDC were investigating – Change of personnel at WDC has interrupted this but now communications are restored. Latest plan submitted informally with request for another meeting
Need agreement that Storage building and main building plans will be agreed to proceed with order for storage building and main building outline agreed with other matters reserved.,

Local Fund – Raising
Christmas Market planned in December raised over £1000,
Assistance with Santa Floats in December – will raise £250
Substantial donation from individual – C £800
Bike sale - £160
Balance in Fund raising account = £27,785.00

Grant Applications
RUCIS (WDC building grant) –We need to review and re-submit later in the year / next year.
Grants / Pledges so far - £3,000. It has become obvious that we cannot expect to obtain Grant Funding until we have all the other areas completed – No-one will want to commit funds unless they are certain the project will be successful. Lease, Building design, Planning Application, Local funding for matching, Identifying the sources of funds to complete the project will all need

to be completed.

Summary

Lots of progress made in last 2 months – need to work on Building design, Planning permission and grant sourcing

Gladman Land Development Proposal

- 204 Gladman Land had submitted details of its proposal to build up to 135 houses on Wellesbourne Road, Barford, and this had been circulated to JPC members.
- 205 Gladman's request to hold a private meeting with representatives of the JPC was approved and the Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.
- 206 Once these preliminary arrangements have been made, details of the meeting (including terms of reference for the proceedings) will be circulated.

Any Other Business

- 207 Cllr Rhead drew attention to the fact that all the trees on the site of the Wasperton Lane development had been felled, in violation of the terms of the planning permission. WDC's planning enforcement would make an inspection on 10 Jan 17 and if culpability were established, prosecutions might follow.

Closure

- 208 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:05pm

Date of Next Meeting

- 209 The next meeting of the JPC is on Mon 13 Feb 17 at 7:30 pm in Sherbourne Village Hall.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DEC 16

Executive Summary		
Opening Balance 1 Apr 16	169,700	
Add Excess Income over Expenditure	(39,018)	
Closing Balance 31 Dec 16	130,682	
Designated Funds		
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	72,157	Current balance
Barford Memorial Hall	367	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
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
Total Designated Funds	83,449	
Total Reserve		
	47,233	Closing balance 31 Mar 17 less Designated Funds
Risk Management Reserve		
	13,417	75% of Clerk's costs
Discretionary Reserve		
	33,816	Unallocated reserve

BLIS

	General	Sport England	Warwick District Council	National Grid	Barford Sports Club	TOTALS
Balance 31 Dec 16	46,094	1,042	3,000	20,000	2,021	72,157
Non-discretionary Spend	(43,346)	0	(3,600)	(24,000)	(100)	(71,046)
Addback VAT	7,224	0	600	4,000	17	11,841
Balance 31 Mar 17	9,972	1,042	0	0	1,938	12,952

	Budget 2016- 17	YTD	Outturn
RECEIPTS			
Allotments Rents	993		993
Bank Interest	100	167	223
Concurrent Services Contribution (WDC)	2,290	2,290	2,290
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1,415	1,415	1,415
Grants (BLIS)		72,909	72,909
Grants: Royal Visit		2,050	2,050
Precept (WDC)	42,787	42,787	42,787
Section 106		3,140	3,140
VAT (BLIS)		23,010	23,010
VAT	1,000	1,649	1,649
Wayleave	5	5	5
TOTAL RECEIPTS	48,590	149,422	150,471
PAYMENTS			
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	10
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	2,000	144,919	144,919
Barford Memorial Hall		6,180	6,180
Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan		767	767
Bus Shelters Maintenance	525	240	525
Chairman's Allowance	472		472
Employment Expenses	17,170	12,892	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	2,563	2,563
Office Accommodation	719	539	719
Open Spaces Maintenance	300	241	300
Postage	140	94	140
Printing and Stationery	300	18	150
Rectory Paddock Legal Fees		790	790
Rectory Paddock Maintenance			500
Rectory Paddock Rent		250	250
Royal Visit		1,721	1,721
Rural Footway Lighting	906	906	906
Section 137	20	97	97
Subs: Information Commissioner	35		35
Subs: SLCC	170	157	157
Subs: WALC	505	506	506
Training and Seminar Expenses	200	105	135
Travel Expenses	300	201	300
Venue Hire	170		170
War Memorial Wasperton	100	100	100
TOTAL PAYMENTS	36,511	177,205	189,489
NET TOTALS	12,079	(27,783)	(39,018)

BUDGET 2017-18

	Actual 2015-16	Budget 2016-17	Forecast Outturn 2016-17	Budget 2017-18
RECEIPTS				
Allotments Rents	979	993	993	1,000
Bank Interest	348	100	223	200
Concurrent Services Contribution (WDC)	2,410	2,290	2,290	1,145
Council Tax Reduction Scheme (WDC)	2,563	1,415	1,415	943
Grants/Donations	401,823		74,959	
Precept (WDC)	41,243	42,787	42,787	43,583
Section 106			3,140	
VAT	63,022	1,000	36,500	1,000
Wayleave	5	5	5	5
TOTAL RECEIPTS	512,392	48,590	162,312	47,876
PAYMENTS				
Allotments Hire of Land	500	500	500	500
Allotments Maintenance		150		150
Allotments Water Charges	189	160	160	160
Audit Fees	445	445	1,650	810
Bank Charges			10	
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	374,450	2,000	215,919	5,000
Barford Memorial Hall			6,180	
Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan			767	
Barford Parish Directory	36			
Bus Shelters Maintenance	495	525	525	525
Chairman's Allowance	468	472	472	481
Election Expenses	675			
Employment Expenses	17,076	17,170	17,170	17,342
Grants: Churchyard Maintenance	1,323	1,334	1,334	1,359
Grants: Village Halls	2,915	4,114	4,114	4,200
Insurance	983	1,000	2,000	3,000
Mowing Charges	3,252	3,777	2,563	4,225
Notice Board	807			
Office Accommodation	713	719	719	732
Open Spaces Maintenance	369	300	300	5,000
Public Access Defibrillator	126			
Postage	193	140	140	140
Printing and Stationery	187	300	150	150
Rectory Paddock: Legal Fees			790	
Rectory Paddock: Rent			250	500
Royal Visit			1,721	
Rural Footway Lighting	906	906	906	906
Section 137			97	100
Subs: Information Commissioner	35	35	35	35
Subs: SLCC	167	167	157	157
Subs: WALC	501	507	506	506
Training and Seminar Expenses	140	300	135	150
Travel Expenses	280	300	300	300
Venue Hire	288	170	170	170
War Memorial Barford	65			
War Memorial Wasperton	100	100	100	100
TOTAL PAYMENTS	407,685	35,590	259,839	46,698
NET TOTALS	104,707	13,000	(97,527)	1,178

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opening balance 2016-17	169,700	
Excess of Income over Expenditure 2016-17	(97,527)	
Opening balance 2017-18	72,173	
Excess of Income over Expenditure 2017-18	1,178	
Closing balance 2017-18	73,351	
Designated Funds		
Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme	12,952	Forecast Outturn
Barford Memorial Hall	367	Current balance
Barford Telephone Kiosk	200	Barford Heritage Group bond for future costs
Barford War Memorial	470	Raised by public subscription
Election Expenses (reserve until 2019)	3,000	JPC policy to reserve this early in the election cycle
Neighbourhood Watch	100	Current Balance
Rectory Paddock Maintenance	1,000	Voted by JPC
Rural Footway Lighting 2018	910	Phased payment
Provision for new mower	1,600	Purchase approved by JPC
Public Access Defibrillator	302	Current balance
Section 106	3,140	Current balance
WDC New Local Plan	1,300	Contingency for challenge
Total Designated Funds	25,341	
Risk Management Reserve		
	13,555	75% of Salary, ERNI and Office Costs
Discretionary Reserve		
	34,454	
Precept 2017-18	43,583	
Tax Base 2017-18	868	
Band D	50.19	The National Average for Band D in 2013

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council

The Council has considered whether the **Minerals Local Plan (Publication)** is legally compliant, meets the tests of soundness and complies with the duty to cooperate.

The Council considers this to be an **unsound plan** which it would like to see significantly amended. The Minerals Local Plan Publication document fails to address the issues raised during previous consultations and the Council therefore considers it is not in conformity with national planning policy and is inadequately underpinned by technical evidence.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) para.182 sets out that in order to be 'sound' a Local Plan should pass the following four tests:

- **Be positively prepared** – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.
- **Be justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.
- **Be effective** – plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.
- **Be consistent with national policy** – plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Matters which have led the Council to its conclusion include:

1. We find many of the responses to consultation comments to be stock, inadequate and dismissive. This is particularly the case in regard to sites 4 and 5 with which we are most closely involved.
2. Specifically, with regard to Site 4 the traffic comments are simplistic in the extreme. Aggregate lorries pulling out onto the A429 cannot be other than a hazard – a fact well demonstrated by the chaos caused by seasonal pumpkin sales from the same site which recently brought traffic to a standstill and has caused several minor RTCs.
3. The move to a 350m separation zone is welcomed compared to the earlier 100m version however nearby residents will still be significantly impacted and 350m should be considered the minimum separation from all residential properties, including those within the site and those situated on adjacent land south of the site (ie Glebe Farm and Seven Elms properties). The statement that *“a standoff of 250m cannot be justified”* is unacceptable and will render such properties practically uninhabitable. An assurance that *“100m.....is likely to provide adequate protection”* is contrary to most authorities' working practices where separations of at least 200m pertain.
4. The dismissive comments about “blight” are unacceptable. The blight factor is already operating and property values and prospects have already been significantly damaged.
5. The statement that *“there is unlikely to be irreversible or permanent loss of BMV land”* patently cannot be substantiated. It is widely recognised that land cannot be restored to its former quality even if sufficient inert waste were to be available. A review of the “restored” Charlecote workings, immediately across the A429 would provide a clear example of just how poorly gravel extraction sites are left. The developers should be actively challenged to demonstrate that sites can actually be reinstated to the same levels, both in terms of height and quality.
6. Previous applications on Site 4 failed on initial application and on appeal failed at law based largely on the loss of BMV agricultural land and failure to identify other more suitable sites.
7. The assurance that *“a properly managed site is unlikely to have significant impacts on rural locations”* cannot be justified given that it will destroy most of the landscape, degrade views and be restored to a different topography. Such development must *cause “material harm to the visual appearance of the locality”*.

8. The earlier Court of Appeal decision and evidence therein casts considerable doubt on the alternative restoration proposals, particularly relating to any water based features. It should also be noted that the Court of Appeal quashed the Secretary of State's decision on account of interpretation of Policy G4 of the Warwickshire Structure Plan and the subsequent interpretation found that inadequate weight had been given to the quality of the land concerned, the inevitable permanent loss to agriculture and this was balanced against the reviewed demonstrable need. We do not believe that this situation has materially changed.
9. The Council believes that there should be more transparency concerning the presumptions and parameters employed when establishing the "need" for minerals, particularly given that much aggregate use is being replaced by recycled materials and crushed rock products.
10. The Council has concerns that the WCC has a significant "conflict of interest" as the owner of Site 5 and the interdependency of sites 4 and 5. The Council is concerned that WCC may therefore be "inclined to favour" Site 4 to facilitate the exploitation of Site 5?
11. The Council is concerned that some, often more appropriate, alternative sites on less than BMV land seem to have been eliminated from consideration in favour of promoting Site 4.
12. The Council is most concerned at the proposed loss of Glebe Farm as a WCC agricultural holding, which allows small/young farmers to get started and also helps to meet home-grown food production, which with rising costs of food, increasing population numbers and post-Brexit is likely to become even more important.