

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday, 17 June 2002 at Sherbourne Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)

Cllrs M P Byerley, R Clay, Mrs A Gordon, G P Grima, Mrs M Hayward, K S Hope, Mrs J Jackson, G G Morris, R G Mulgrue, M Peters, A Roberts, W Worrall, J T Wright.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs M B Haywood (WCC), R Tamlin (WDC),

Representatives from Warwickshire County Council Traffic Group – Mrs S Braich, Mrs N Bowen, G Dim, Mrs S Reynolds.

23. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R G Butler (WDC), Mrs J Compton (WDC), D H Hunt.

24. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Agenda item No. 4a – Traffic Calming provision Church/High Street Barford
Cllrs Mrs M Hayward and W Worrall declared personal interests prior to consideration of the above item as their properties were situated on High Street, Barford.

Agenda item 4b – Proposed Puffin Crossing A429 Barford –

Cllr J V Murphy declared a personal and prejudicial interest prior to the consideration of the above item as his property was situated close to one of the proposed locations.

Cllr A Roberts declared a personal interest prior to the consideration of the above item as his property was situated close to one of the proposed locations.

Agenda item No. 14 WCC – Parish Paths Scheme

Cllr M Peters declared a personal and prejudicial interest prior to the consideration of the above item as his property was situated close to a public footpath.

Agenda item No. 8 - Parish representation on Warwick District Council's Standards Committee

Cllrs Mrs A Gordon and J V Murphy declared personal and prejudicial interests prior to consideration of this matter as candidates for appointment to the Committee.

25. Traffic Calming and proposed Puffin Crossing, Barford (£90000)

Representatives of Warwickshire County Council Traffic Group attended the meeting to discuss the traffic calming measures recently installed in Barford and to seek the Councils view on the preferred location of the proposed Puffin Crossing on the A429 at Barford.

Over 30 members of the public were in attendance and indicated that they were present to express their concerns over the recently installed traffic calming measures in Church /Bridge Street and the location of the Puffin Crossing on the A429.

a. Traffic Calming – Church Street/High Street

i) Mr P Fox and Mr P Hunt said that they had organised a questionnaire the results of which showed that a significant number of residents were unhappy with the installations.

The raised surfaces created a noise nuisance for residents living nearby and were ineffective in reducing the speed of traffic.

Copies of the questionnaires and the results were provided to the WCC representatives and the JPC.

A number of other residents also expressed their concern at the ineffectiveness and unsatisfactory nature of the installations.

Councillors also expressed their concern that the installations were unsatisfactory and did not achieve their objective and requested that the County Council to modify the installations to ensure that they were effective.

Particular concerns related to::

The In-effective road narrowing of Upper High Street;

Poor design and location of chicane and difficulty caused by parked cars and proximity to Avon Close;

Village gateways less effective than hoped.

ii) Cllr M Peters reported receipt of a copy of a letter sent by Major A Edge of Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa to Warwickshire County Council. In his letter Major Edge stated that that he considered the chicane near Barford Hill was dangerous. He had hit the kerb with considerable force as a result of which his vehicle required a wheel alignment check. At the time he said there was no warning of the new installation ahead. He had requested the County Council to reimburse the cost of the alignment check.

iii) The County Council representatives stated that they had provided what they considered to be appropriate installations following the public consultation exercise undertaken prior to construction. They accepted that a number of design changes had been made which had not been the subject of consultation with Members.

It was resolved that :

The County Council representatives be requested to consider the representations made to them and come back to the Council with proposals to resolve the concerns expressed to them.

b. Proposed Puffin Crossing on A429 Barford

Cllr G G Morris was appointed Chairman for this item.

Following objections received to the Councils request for installation of a Puffin Crossing adjacent to the Church Street junction on Wellesbourne Road the County Council had undertaken consultation on an alternative location in Bridge Street. 25 responses had been received - 13 respondents objected to this alternative location and 12 were in favour. The County Council therefore requested the Councils views on the preferred location

Mr D Burman on behalf of a number of residents said that they objected to the location of a Puffin Crossing on Wellesbourne Road for the following reasons:

i) Potential effect on the village shop and community:

The village shop was a highly valued amenity to residents and positioning the crossing adjacent would severely reduce parking access to the shop potentially affecting business and its future.

ii) Pedestrian usage survey:

The County Councils survey of pedestrians crossing the A429 in the vicinity of the two locations showed substantially greater use of the Bridge Street location.

iii) School children safety and bus stops:

The proposed Wellesbourne Road crossing would not directly serve the bus stops. Ms S Rudge expressed concern on behalf of a number of parents that Bridge Street was a particularly dangerous crossing point for the many adults and children that crossed at this point.

iv) Residents parking:

Limited on-street parking was already difficult on Wellesbourne Road and positioning the crossing adjacent to the shop would further reduce availability. Residents directly affected by the proposal would have to park their vehicles in Church Street where on street parking was already oversubscribed.

v) Use of funds:

Concern that the Puffin crossing would not be required following completion of the Bypass and the expenditure would not therefore be the best use of public funds.

Members then discussed with the WCC representatives the various concerns. It was agreed that provision of a Puffin crossing might not be the best solution. In view of this the WCC representatives agreed to carry out further research into traffic volumes and pedestrian numbers to enable the matter to be reviewed.

It was resolved:

That a decision on a pedestrian crossing on the A429 be deferred pending the results of a survey of traffic speeds on Bridge Street near the mini roundabout and on Wellesbourne Road south of the village shop to be carried out after the fibre optic speed signs are operating.

26. Matters for the Constabulary

No matters were raised requiring the attention of the Constabulary.

27. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed:

Council	13 May 2002
Planning Committee	13 May 2002

28. Reports from representatives appointed to serve on other bodies

Cllr R Mulgrue reported on his attendance at a training seminar held by Warwick District Council on the new Code of Conduct.

Cllr Mrs M Hayward drew Members attention to the 'open day' to be held by Warwickshire Trading Standards on 6 July 2002.

29. New Code of Conduct for Councillors

It was reported that the DTLR had issued a consultation paper setting out proposals for the framework within which allegations about misconduct by Councillors could be handled by local authorities.

Alleged breaches of the Code could be reported to the Standards Board for England who would decide whether to investigate. In some cases the Standards Board would refer cases back to the local authority. Local Monitoring Officers may need to conduct investigations and local Standards Committees would need to be able to consider cases. The consultation paper proposed a framework of procedures and roles to cover local investigation and determination in such cases.

The consultation paper recognised that parish councils often do not have the resources to conduct investigations. It therefore proposed that monitoring officers of responsible district or unitary councils should have this role. Where cases involving parish councillors come to local Standards Committees the proposal was that a member of a parish council should be present on the standards committee.

Comments on the proposals were requested by 1 July 2002.

It was agreed that a copy of the consultation paper be provided to each Member.

It was resolved:

That in view of the short time scale for responding Members wishing to comment on the paper submit their views to the Chairman (due to the Clerks absence on holiday) to enable the Consultative Committee to consider and formulate a response on the Councils behalf.

30. Parish representation on Warwick District Council's Standards Committee

Cllr R G Mulgrue was appointed Chairman for this item.

The new Code of Conduct for Councillors required the District Councils Standards Committee to include as one of its members a representative for Parish and Town Councils. The District Council had therefore invited all local councils within its area to submit nominations. If more than one nomination was received a selection process would be introduced.

The District Council had now advised that it had received 5 nominations and requested Councils to nominate their two preferred candidates to enable appointments to be made at a meeting of the Standards Committee on 26 June 2002.

Each nominee had prepared a submission a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda papers.

As provided for in Standing Orders a request was made for a signed ballot. Cllr M Byerley requested that the manner in which each Member voted be recorded.

Voting was as follows:

	Cllr Mrs A Blacklock	Cllr Mrs A Gordon	Cllr J V Murphy	Cllr B Smart	Cllr R Smith
M P Byerley		X	X		
R Clay	X		X		
G P Grima		X	X		
Mrs M Hayward	X		X		
K S Hope			X		X
Mrs J Jackson	X	X			
G G Morris		X	X		
R G Mulgrue	X		X		
M Peters		X	X		
A Roberts		X	X		
W Worrall			X		X
J T Wright			X	X	
Total votes	4	6	11	1	2

It was resolved:

That Warwick District Council be informed that the Councils two preferred candidates are Cllr Mrs A Gordon and Cllr J V Murphy.

31. Standing Orders

It was reported that NALC had published a new model set of standing orders incorporating various new requirements such as those to be observed under the new Code of Conduct.

It was resolved:

- a) That each Member be provided with a copy of the new model standing orders and
- b) The Consultative Committee makes recommendations to a future meeting for the adoption of revised standing orders.

32. External Audit Appointment from April 2002

It was reported that the Audit Commission had confirmed that it had approved the appointment of Clement Keys as the external auditor to the Council. The period of the appointment was from April 2002 (commencing with the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002) to 31 March 2007 (last audit accounts to 31 March 2006).

Resolved: That the appointment be noted.

33. Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

It was noted that the Race Relations Act 1976 already made it unlawful to discriminate against someone on racial grounds.

As a result of the new legislation local councils were under a general duty to promote race equality and in exercise of their functions must have regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity; and
- Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

They did not have to produce a Race Equality Scheme.

The aim of the legislation was to incorporate this way of thinking into a councils decision making process and service delivery. A code of practice had been produced under the new legislation and courts and tribunals would take the codes recommendations into account.

NALC advised that local councils need to be able to demonstrate that they had due regard to the matters listed above.

The draft code also stated that an authority might find it useful to draw up a clear statement of which of its functions are relevant to the duty.

Certain local authorities had specific duties under the Act but for others (which appeared to include this Council) NALC had provided a suggested form of resolution.

The Commission for Racial Equality was producing a final draft guide for local councils which would be distributed shortly. In the meantime it was suggested that the Council noted the duty placed on it by the legislation and adopted the suggested resolution.

It was agreed that it was desirable to adopt the suggested form of resolution and it was:

Resolved:

a) 'Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council acknowledges the general duty placed upon it by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The Council will continue with its functions and policies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote racial equality between people of different racial groups'.

b) That further consideration is given to the matter when the guide for local councils is received.

34. Rural Bus Services

It was reported that Warwickshire County Council Transport Operations Group was undertaking its annual consultation with Parish Councils to establish the suitability of bus services in rural areas and requested comments from local councils.

It was agreed that the following comments be submitted:

a. Bus – Rail Integration at Warwick

The regular interval bus service (X18), which passes the bottom of the station approach road in Warwick, contrives to leave westbound (i.e. to Stratford), typically 2 minutes before the regular interval train service from Birmingham arrives. Only one of the 9 departures from 10.00 to 18.06 connects with the train. A small adjustment would encourage commuting by public transport. Eastbound (i.e. to Coventry) the connections are a little better, though still not ideal.

b. Consideration should be given to a new bus service from Wellesbourne to Warwick Parkway

Several Barford residents commute to Birmingham using the train (the most popular service being the 07.33 departure from Warwick, which leaves before the first eastbound X18 arrives). To encourage greater use of public transport consideration should be given

to introducing a new bus service during peak hours to and from Warwick Parkway station from Wellesbourne through Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne.

c. Carnet tickets

Although there are various cheap season tickets available on the buses, they all require use each day during their period of validity or within the immediate environs of towns. This leaves rural residents who use the buses regularly but not every day having to pay the full fares, which have been increased above inflation over the last two years. Carnet tickets would encourage bus use by those who are regular users but who do not use the bus each day.

d. Timekeeping

The eastbound X18 often runs through Barford early at off-peak times, even though Barford appears as a timing point on the timetable. Buses have been known to run through 4 minutes early and 3 minutes is common. This discourages bus use as if one just misses the bus one must wait an hour for the next one or give up and use a car or taxi. Buses running early should wait for a right time departure from each timing point shown on the timetable.

Conversely, the peak hours westbound services (16.00 and 17.00 departures ex Coventry) almost always run considerably late (up to 25 minutes and 20 minutes is common) during school term times by the time they arrive in Warwick. Timetables should allow for peak hours congestion. Non-regular travellers are left wondering whether they have missed the bus or it has been cancelled. If greater bus use is to be encouraged, timetables must be adhered to and in order to do this must be realistic for the traffic conditions.

e. Availability of Timetables

There are few timetables displayed in rural areas (in our three villages until recently only one of the 10 bus stops had a timetable and that was 2 years out of date). This does not encourage potential new users or the irregular user of public transport.

35. Warwickshire County Council Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)

It was noted that this Council participated in the County Councils Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (known as P3) in respect of the parishes of Barford and Wasperton.

The County Council had advised that it was unable to renew insurance cover for volunteers carrying out work under the scheme and had therefore made arrangements for cover to be provided under the County Councils employee insurance with Zurich Municipal. This provided public liability and personal accident cover to volunteers in recognised P3 groups.

To meet Health and Safety requirements all groups would now have to keep a record of days worked, names of volunteers working on each day, and the type of work done. This also applied to work being undertaken by individuals. It would also be necessary to meet at least once each year with a County Council Community Paths Officer to discuss the work programme and the arrangements in place.

The County requested the Council to confirm that it wished to renew its P3 agreement for a further year.

It was resolved:

- a) That the County Council be informed that the Joint Parish Council wishes to renew the P3 agreement in respect of the parishes of Barford and Wasperton for a further year; and
- b) To note the Health and Safety requirements set out above.
- c) The County Council be requested to provide information to enable consideration to be given to including the Parish of Sherbourne in the P3 scheme.

36. Bank Balances

The following were noted:

As at 10 June 2002	£
Bank Account	1748.46
Building Society Deposit Account	25461.17
17. 5 02 VAT repayment re 2001/2002 received from HM Customs & Excise	863.67

37. Payment of Accounts

a) The cheque signatories action in making payment of the following accounts was approved:

	£
D H Hartwell – March 2002 – salary & trav. exps £292.22, reimbursement of printing & stationery, Regent Print £1.00, Staples £3.98, Regent Print £29.26	326.46
D H Hartwell – April 2002 – salary & trav. exps £330.52, phone £47.43, reimbursement of postages imprest £20.61, printing & stationery; Regent Print £7.20, Regent Print £1.98, Staples £7.10, Staples £23.89, Staples £4.94, Staples £39.63.	483.30
MPM Services – Mowing Barford Playing Field & Village Green – April	150.00
Halifax Building Society – Transfer from Bank to Building Society Account	7500.00
R J Hartwell – Underpayment re 2001/2002 re play equipt insps 2001/2002	10.00
Inland Revenue –Income Tax deductions Qtr. ended 5 April 2002	22.88
Warwick District Council – Planning application fee re Multi Sports Surface	55.00

b) Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Byway & Bridleways Trust – Subscription	28.00
---	-------

38. Dogs in the Community

Concern was expressed that dogs were not being kept under control in the Wasperton area and some residents felt threatened. It was noted that similar concerns had been expressed over incidents in the Sherbourne area. In Barford there were ongoing concerns over dog fouling in public areas including the playing field.

It was resolved that residents attention to these concerns be reported in ‘Plurality’ and Warwick District Council’s Dog Warden be requested to give attention to the Councils area and invited to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the legal situation.

39. Barford Village Green

Cllr M Byerley suggested that to improve safety of the Village Green railings should be installed over the wall fronting Church Street.

- It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the suggestion and advice obtained from Playground Management Services (ROSPA) when they undertake their annual inspection in September and Warwick District Council Amenities Department.
40. Multi-Sports Surface, Shelter and Skateboard Ramp at Barford Playing Field
The Clerk reported that an invitation to submit a tender for construction of the tarmac surface had been sent to 7 companies but only 3 had responded.

The following tenders had been received:	£
Sutherland Ltd	6990.00
Warwickshire Surfacing & Construction	7540.00
Ingon Tarmac	7775.00

It was noted that at the meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2002 authority to accept the most suitable tender was delegated to the Consultative Committee. A decision on the Council's planning application was however still awaited and it was not therefore possible to proceed with acceptance of a tender.

Resolved: that the report be noted.