

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 17 February 2003 at Sherbourne Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)

Cllr 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, J T Wright.

In attendance: Cllrs R G Butler (WDC), Mrs M B Haywood (WCC), R Tamlin (WDC),
PC R French.

158. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J Compton (WCC), D H Hunt,
W Worrall.

159. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared interests as follows:

Agenda item No. 8 Refurbishment of Barford War Memorial

Cllr Mrs M Hayward – Personal and prejudicial – Member of Barford PCC.

Cllr J V Murphy – Personal – Wife Member of Barford PCC.

Agenda item No. 9 Land at Wasperton Lane, Barford

Cllr A Roberts- Personal and prejudicial – owner of adjoining property.

160. Representations by Members of the Public

Mr V Rees of Vicarage Lane, Sherbourne expressed his concern with Warwickshire
County Councils response in which they advised that their survey results did not justify
the provision of a crossing on the A429 at Sherbourne.

It was noted that a copy of the letter sent to Mr Rees had been provided to this Council as
a response to its own representations.

Resolved: That the County Councils response be considered at the meeting of the Council
to be held on 17 March 2003.

161. Matters for the Constabulary

PC French reported that there were no crime matters to bring to the attention of Members.

Concern was expressed regarding the continuing problem of vehicles being parked in
Wasperton Lane, Barford close to the junction of Wellesbourne Road causing danger to
other road users. PC French advised that he was unable to take any action if vehicles
were parked correctly and suggested that Warwickshire County Council should be asked
to improve the road markings to prevent vehicles being parked too close to the junction.
This was agreed.

162. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed:

Planning Committee	7 January 2003
Council	13 January 2003
Planning Committee	4 February 2003

163. Reports from representatives appointed to serve on other bodies
Cllrs Mrs A Gordon and J V Murphy reported on their attendance at a meeting with representatives of the Power companies arranged by Warwickshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit.
164. Traffic Calming Measures – Barford
The Chairman reported on the outcome of a meeting held on 30 January 2003 with representatives of Warwickshire County Council Planning and Transport Department to discuss the unsatisfactory traffic calming measures installed in Church Street and High Street, Barford.
- The County Council representatives had agreed to investigate the matters raised with them and had undertaken to provide a response by the end of February.
- Mr P Hunt and Mr R Elliott residents of Barford urged that given the ineffective operation of the installations they should be removed.
- It was resolved that the matter be considered again when the County Councils proposals are received.
165. Refurbishment of Barford War Memorial
The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Joint JPC and PCC Committee had been held on 11 February 2003. Subject to minor amendments the specification prepared by the Architect had been approved. Discussion had taken place on how funds should be raised to enable the Councils underwriting contribution to be reduced. The possibility of grants from Warwick District Council, the Regiments and War Memorial organisations would be investigated together with a village appeal.
- A further meeting of the Committee had been arranged for 20 March 2003 to consider responses to requests for funding and to decide on how the project was to be progressed.
- Resolved: That the report be noted.
166. Land at Wasperton Lane, Barford
A letter received from the Berkeley Group plc was considered in which they said that they proposed to submit an outline planning application for the development of approximately 20 affordable homes on land fronting Wasperton Lane, Barford and offered to discuss the matter with Members.
- Resolved: that the Berkeley Group be informed that the Council sees no value in a meeting since the land is not in an area allocated for development.
167. Jubilee Road Sign at Sherbourne
At the meeting of the Council held on 16 September 2002 Cllr Mrs Gordon reported that visitors to Sherbourne often found difficulty in finding the Church and Village Hall. She suggested that as it was Her Majesty the Queens Silver Jubilee Year it would be appropriate to provide one of the special jubilee post mounted road signs commissioned by Warwickshire County Council at the junction of Church Road and Fulbrook Lane.
- The cost of sign including installation was £680.00 and provision for this had been included in the revised estimates for 2002/2003.

Resolved that the purchase and installation of a Jubilee road sign at Sherbourne be approved.

168. A429 Barford Bypass

It was reported that Warwickshire County Council had notified that planning permission for the Bypass had now been granted. A copy of the formal decision notice would be circulated in the Members Envelope

Resolved: that the report be noted.

169. Warwick District Council Planning Forum

It was noted that the next meeting of Warwick District Council Planning Forum would be held on Wednesday 19 February 2003 at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa at 7.00pm.

170. Planning Application No. W1031/02CM029- Composting Facility – Sherbourne

It was reported that Warwickshire County Council had granted the above application on a temporary basis for a period of 5 years. A copy of the decision notice had now been received. The permission was subject to in excess of 30 conditions.

It was also reported that an initial response had been received from the County Councils Complaints Officer in response to the Joint Parish Councils letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of the County Council regarding the omission from their agenda papers of this Councils and other consultees responses. The Complaints Officer indicated that he was still investigating the matter and would write again.

Resolved:

- a) That the County Council be asked to clarify how it intends to monitor the operation of the site to ensure that no nuisance is caused and the conditions set out in the decision notice are fully complied with.
- b) That the matter be considered again when a full response is received from the Complaints Officer to the Councils letter of complaint regarding the omission of consultee responses from the agenda papers.

171. Barford Village Green – Request for land for an Electricity Substation

A request from Agents acting for East Midlands Electricity Distribution plc was considered in which they asked if the Council would consider selling them a piece of land on Barford Village Green to enable them to site an electricity sub-station.

Resolved: that the request not be acceded to.

172. Barford Village Green – Request by Barford Memorial Hall to locate Sewer Manhole

It was reported that the request to construct a sewer inspection hatch on Barford Village Green had been withdrawn.

173. Warwick District Council Private Sector House Condition Survey –2003

It was noted that Warwick District Council had advised that it had employed a team of surveyors who would be calling on 1000 private addresses throughout the District's area to carry out a private sector house survey. The survey commenced on 1 February 2003.

174. Warwickshire, Solihull & Coventry Local Access Forum

It was reported that Stuart Ikeringill Warwickshire County Councils Countryside Access Manager had written advising that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Section 94 placed a new duty on County Councils, Unitary authorities and National Park Authorities to establish a Local Access Forum. He advised that in essence the Forum would be a statutory body with a strategic role in advising the Countryside Agency, local authorities and National Park authorities on the following matters:

- The development of recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people.
- Improvement of the right of way network and contributing to the preparation of Rights of Way Improvement Plan(s) required under Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
- Implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to the countryside.

Mr Ikeringill stated that he had written on behalf of the Appointments Panel to invite the Council to encourage applications from suitable candidates for selection to the Forum.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

175. Oldhams and Wilcon Homes – Public Inquiry

A letter received from Warwick District Council was considered in which it advised that the Inquiry would be held at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa starting on Wednesday 19 March 2003 at 10.00am. They stated that the Inquiry could last up to 4 days.

The Council was also advised that it may appoint someone to attend and at the Inspectors discretion present the Councils views.

The District Council also advised that a copy of the applicants and its own Statement of Case was available for inspection at the Reception of Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa. The final submission would be available four weeks prior to the start of the Inquiry.

Resolved:

- a) That the arrangements for the Inquiry be noted.
- b) That no representative be appointed to attend the Inquiry to present the Councils views.

176. Draft Regulations – The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances)(England) Regs 2003
Draft Guidance – New Council Constitutions – Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances

A letter received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) was considered setting out far reaching proposals for the payment of allowances to Parish and Town Councillors. The proposed implementation date was 1 April 2003.

The ODPM proposed that, there would be a requirement for District or County Councils to create parish remuneration panels to be serviced with the help of mandatory financial contributions from parish councils. In addition each parish council would be required to publish in the local press their remuneration scheme even if the scheme was limited to the occasional payment of Councillors' travel to attend exceptional events outside the local

area. The proposals included allowances paid to the Chairman of a Council.

In addition to direct responses NALC had asked that they be informed of Member Councils comments to enable a co-ordinated response to be submitted.

Resolved:

That the ODPM and NALC be informed of the Councils concern to the proposals for the following reasons:

a) The proposals will create an unreasonable administrative and financial burden on parish councils.

b) If the legislation is proceeded with the proposed implementation date of 1 April 2003 will not allow sufficient time for the administrative arrangements necessary for the establishment of the Remuneration Panels.

c) The majority of Parish Councils will now have set their budget and determined their precept for 2003/2004. They are unlikely to have made provision for any financial contribution towards the cost of a Remuneration Panel or payment of allowances at a scale set by another body. Implementation on 1 April 2003 is therefore unacceptable.

d) Clarification be sought as to whether the reimbursement of actual expenses incurred by a Member is an option – for example serving as Chairman of the Council or when attending a meeting of another body or attending a conference as the Councils appointed representative.

177. Warwick District Parish and Town Boundary Review 2002

It was noted that Warwick District Council had advised that its final recommendations on the above were submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Boundary Committee for England in November 2002. The Council had however just received a letter from the Policy Advisor for the Review stating that the recommendations could not be implemented in time for the elections in May 2003. This was because the Boundary Committee for England was currently carrying out the periodic electoral review for Warwickshire and the Secretary of State would not consider the District Councils review until after its completion in October 2003.

The letter promised that subject to receiving approval the recommendations would be implemented on 1 April 2004.

Resolved:

To note the above and to seek clarification as to whether Warwick District Councils letter referred to the Electoral Boundary Review or the minor boundary changes.

178. National Association of Local Councils – Quality Parish Status – Seminar 18 March 2003

It was reported that NALC would be hosting a seminar on Quality Parish Status to be held on Tuesday 18 March 2003 at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London.

Resolved: That no delegate be appointed to attend the conference but NALC be asked to provide a copy of any papers presented.

179. DEFRA –Protection of Countryside Features and Amendment of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997
 It was reported that NALC had advised that DEFRA had issued a consultation document containing proposals to update and improve the laws introduced in 1997.
- The proposals included new powers to allow local planning authorities to prevent the removal of certain hedgerows that form an essential part of the essence or character of an area or region.
- The proposals sought to protect the distinctiveness of hedgerows and to make the application of the existing Regulations easier for planning authorities.
- A copy of the consultation paper has been requested. Responses to the consultation paper were required to be submitted by 18 April 2003.
- Resolved: That the report be noted and the consultation paper considered at the meeting of the Council to be held on 17 March 2003.
180. Bank Balances
 The following were noted:
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|----------------------------------|----------|
| As at 10 February 2003 | £ |
| Bank Account | 1300.14 |
| Building Society Deposit Account | 17647.46 |
- Transfers from Building Society to Bank Account:
- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 19 December 2002 | 5000.00 |
| 7 January 2003 | 2500.00 |
| 5 February 2003 | 2000.00 |
181. Payment of Accounts
 The cheque signatories action in making payment of the following accounts was approved:
- | | |
|---|--------|
| D H Hartwell – December salary & expenses £311.27, Reimbursement of Virus Protection subscription £10.50, Staples –printing supplies £29.99, postage imprest £32.69 | 384.45 |
| D H Hartwell – January salary & expenses £318.18, Reimbursement of telephone expenses £48.63, Staples – stationery £2.98 & £7.94 | 377.73 |
182. Other matters
- a) Defra – Licensing Bill
 It was reported that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had written to clarify that there would be exceptions to the licensing requirements for village halls and church halls.
- b) Warwickshire County Council – Ploughing and Cropping Campaign 2003
 It was reported that the Countryside Access Team had advised that they had set up a procedure to deal with complaints received to ensure that farmers and landowners meet their responsibilities regarding the reinstatement of paths.
- c) WALC – Nominations for attendance at Royal Garden Party 9 July 2003
 It was noted that NALC had advised that nominations for attendance at the above were required to be submitted by the 31 March 2003.

- d) Cllr M P Byerely suggested that there was a need for a dog bin(s) to be provided on Barford Playing Field. It was agreed to ask Warwick District Council the cost of provision and emptying charges.
- e) Cllr R Clay referred to the noise caused by the of the skateboard ramps at Barford Playing Field. The Chairman replied that he had requested the ramp manufacturers for advice in how to reduce the noise level and was awaiting a response.