

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

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)

Cllrs M P Byerley, R Clay, Mrs S Dean, Mrs A Gordon, Mrs M Hayward,
K S Hope, D H Hunt, R G Mulgrue, S G Starkey, W Worrall, J T Wright.

In attendance: Cllrs R G Butler (WDC), Mrs J Compton (WCC), Mrs M B Haywod (WCC).

136. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G P Grima, G G Morris, Mrs C Sawdon (WDC).

137. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The following interests were declared:

Cllr J V Murphy – Personal - agenda item no. 23 Barford War Memorial – wife member of Barford PCC.

Cllr R Clay – Personal and prejudicial – agenda item no. 11 Grant aid to Barford School – wife JPC's representative on schools governing body.

Cllr R Clay – Personal – agenda item no. 12 Barford School Governing Body – Appointment to Vacancy - wife JPC's representative on schools governing body.

Cllr Mrs M Haywood - Personal and prejudicial - agenda item no. 11 Grant aid to Barford School – husband representative on schools governing body.

Cllr Mrs M Haywood - agenda item no. 12 Barford School Governing Body – Appointment to Vacancy - husband representative on schools governing body.

Cllr W Worrall- Personal and prejudicial - agenda item no. 11 Grant aid to Barford School – representative on schools governing body.

Cllr W Worrall – Personal - agenda item no. 12 Barford School Governing Body – Appointment to Vacancy - representative on schools governing body

138. Representations by Members of the Public.

No representations were received.

139. Matters for the Constabulary

It was reported that PC R French had been successful in his application for a transfer to other duties. Until such time as a replacement was appointed the constabulary would make temporary arrangements to police the area.

Resolved: that the Councils thanks be conveyed to PC French for his excellent service during the period of his appointment to the Councils area.

140. Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on 20th October 2003 were confirmed.

140. Reports from Representatives Appointed to Serve on Other Bodies

Members reported on their attendance at the following meetings:

Cllr Mrs M Hayward reported that Cllr R G Mulgrue and herself had attended a meeting of Warwick South Division Electoral Panel at which the main subjects had been “Racing to get there – a Community Transport Project” and a report on the developing Barford Parish Plan.

Cllr Mrs A Gordon reported that she had attended the Annual Planning Consultation meeting held by Warwick District Council for Parish and Town Councils at which the Planning Officers had drawn attention to the forthcoming publication of the Draft Warwick District Development Plan.

The District Council proposed to publish the draft Plan on 5 December 2003 following which there would be a consultation period of six weeks. Mrs Gordon suggested that a special meeting should be held in December to consider the proposals.

Cllr J V Murphy reported on his attendance at a meeting held by Warwick District Council to discuss the review of their scheme for reimbursement to Parish and Town Councils of Concurrent Services.

Cllr Mrs A Gordon reported on her attendance at the annual general meeting of WALC at which one of the principal speakers had outlined the Quality Parish Councils scheme.

Cllr M P Byerley reported that he had been in contact with Judy Steele from WDC who was forwarding copies of leaflets which outlined ways of promoting the use of allotments.

141. Quality Parish and Town Councils

It was noted that the Rural White Paper, 'Our Countryside: The Future. - A Fair Deal For Rural England' published in November 2000, set out a number of measures to give local people the opportunity to become more involved in the development of their communities.

The paper stated that the Government believed that Parish and Town Councils, as the tier of government closest to local communities had central role to play in improving local quality of life. Central to the initiatives proposed in the White Paper was the introduction of the new concept of Quality Parish Council. The Government wanted to encourage all parish councils to reach the standards of the best and, in doing so, to demonstrate their status as the local representatives of their communities. Its aim being to help them to work more closely with partners in the delivery of local services.

The Government had now produced a document explaining the Scheme and its benefits a copy of which had been provided to each Member.

Members were asked if they wished to commit the Council to achieving Quality Parish Council status.

Resolved: that consideration of this item be deferred until the February 2004 meeting of the Council to enable Members to examine the detailed requirements of the scheme.

142. Office Premises for the Clerk of the Council

A proposal was considered that the Council should provide premises from which the Clerk of the Council could deliver his services to and on behalf of the Council rather than working from home as at present.

Resolved: that the proposal be not pursued at the present time.

143. Representation/Numbers of Councillors

At the October 2003 meeting it was resolved that the Council should move towards more even representation of electors in the three parishes. Members were asked to discuss possible modes of change and approaches to it with a view to firm proposals being brought to a future meeting.

As a starting point the Chairman had set out proposals for Members consideration.

Resolved: that proposal no.5 be accepted and Warwick District Council be requested to approve a change to the composition of the Council with effect from the next parish council elections to be held in May 2007 as follows:

Barford 10 Members
Sherbourne 3 Members
Wasperton 3 Members

144. Estimates and Precept for 2004/5 financial year

It was noted that at its meeting in January 2004 the Council would need to approve its estimates of income and expenditure for 2004/5 and advise the Warwick District Council of the precept it intended to levy for the year. In previous years the former Consultative Committee, along with the Clerk/RFO, had framed the estimates for consideration by the Council. Members were asked to determine the procedure by which the estimates are to be framed for submission to the Council at its meeting in January.

Resolved: that a Working Party be appointed comprising Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman), Cllr D H Hunt (Vice-Chairman), and Cllr G G Morris (Chairman of Sherbourne Parish Meeting) to frame the estimates prior to their submission to the January 2004 meeting of the Council.

145. Grant Aid to Barford School

A letter from the Chair of Governors for Barford School was considered which explained that the School intended to embark on building work costing £310,000 to provide and improve its educational facilities. As a voluntary aided school it has to meet 10% of the cost itself. A sum of £12,500 remained to be found by the end of the summer term 2004. The School asked if the Council would consider providing grant assistance towards their costs.

Resolved: that consideration of the application be deferred pending provision of additional information from the School including a copy of their annual accounts.

146. Barford School Governing Body – Appointment to Vacancy

It was noted that at the meeting in July 2003 the Council was informed that Mrs H Clay's term of office as the Council's representative on Barford School's governing body would end on 30th November and that the governors had sought its extension for a further year. The Council was unable to do this since amended regulations no longer permitted such an appointment by the Council.

It was now clear that the change in regulations affecting the JPC's powers would not affect the governors' powers until next year and the Council could appoint someone to represent the Council until then.

The Clerk to the Governors had now written to say that they wished to make a temporary appointment until their constitution was changed next year. They said that, at this time of transition, they would prefer it to be someone familiar with their workings and responsibilities who did not need training to become an effective member of their body. They therefore asked if the Council would recommend Mrs H Clay to continue as its representative until their new constitution becomes operative.

Whilst noting the Governors request for Mrs Clay to continue it was felt that to enable more frequent and direct reports to be submitted to the Council it was preferable to nominate a Member of the Council to serve as a Governor.

In error Cllrs R Clay, Mrs M Haywood and W Worrall were excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item and a decision made to appoint Cllr Byerley. It was subsequently realised that they had declared a personal interest only. The meeting agreed that the decision should not stand and the matter was re-discussed in their presence and a new decision made as set out below.

Resolved: that Cllr M P Byerley be appointed as the Councils representative to replace Mrs H Clay.

147. Affordable Housing in Barford

A letter received from Warwickshire Rural Housing Association was considered in which they confirmed their interest in supporting the Councils wish to see affordable housing provided in Barford.

The Association advised that the Berkley Group had an option on land off Wasperton Lane that expired in May 2004. Accordingly it was possible that this site would be open for offers. They asked if the Council considered this to be a suitable site to enable them to pursue the matter. The Association indicated that they were also writing to Warwick District Council Planning Department to ascertain their initial views regarding development of the site for affordable housing.

Resolved: that the letter from the Association be noted and the matter again be considered when the views of Warwick District Council Planning Department had been received.

148. Warwick District Local Plan – Consultation
It was reported that Warwick District Council would shortly place ‘on deposit’ its draft Local Plan providing a planning policy framework up to 2011. A copy at that time be sent to the JPC. It was anticipated that the 6 weeks prescribed by law for receiving comments would be from 5th December 2003 to 16th January 2004.

It was noted that WDC had offered to have an officer meet with and discuss any concerns the Council may have on the Plan.

It was noted that the JPC’s next scheduled Council meeting was on 12th January 2004 which might not provide adequate time to enable consideration of the draft Plan.

Resolved: that subject to receipt of the consultation documents a special meeting of the Council be held on Thursday 11 December 2003 to consider the draft Plan.

149. Community Transport Strategy for Warwickshire
It was noted that the Warwickshire County Council was seeking to establish a strategy to ensure that the Council, external agencies and communities developed a coordinated and collaborative approach to community and voluntary transport. It was inviting countywide consultation and asked if this Council wished to participate. The County Council had provided a copy of its draft strategy and consultative questionnaire.

Resolved: that the Council participate in the consultation and Cllrs Clay, Hope and Mulgrue be appointed to consider the draft strategy and submit a response on behalf of the Council.

150. Members Allowances
At their last meeting Council decided not to adopt the allowances payable under new regulations but to continue to reimburse members costs actually incurred in fulfilling duties on the Council’s behalf. However, Members agreed to consider the allowances payable by Warwick District Council to its members at a subsequent meeting. A copy of WDC’s Scheme for Members’ Allowances had now been obtained.

Members indicated that they would wish to adopt the District Councils scheme for payment of travelling allowances as set out in Schedule 3 paragraph A – TRAVEL. Concern was expressed however that the new Regulations for payment of allowances to Members would require the prior approval by the District Councils Regulatory Committee together with a requirement to contribute to the costs of that Committee.

Resolved: that consideration of this matter be deferred to the January 2004 meeting of the Council to enable it to be ascertained if the prior approval of the District Councils Regulatory Committee was required

151. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
It was reported that the Council’s membership of the Trust lapsed in 1998. Renewal invitations had not been received since that date. The Trust had now invited the Council to renew that membership at a cost of £60 for a year’s subscription.

Resolved: that the subscription be not renewed.

152. Supply of Sand for Flood-Defence Sandbags
At its meeting on 20th October Council was informed of the availability of (unfilled) sandbags from Warwickshire County Council’s Emergency Planning Unit. Cllr R Clay reported that 30 sandbags had been delivered. He would undertake to identify properties needing sandbags and arrange for them to be filled and distributed.

Resolved: that the above be noted.

153. Dene Valley Community and Sports Centre
At the last meeting Cllr Clay reported on his attendance at the Stour Area Community Committee on 15th October at which Wellesbourne Parish Council’s bid for the provision of a Sports Centre was considered. The Centre would provide a sports hall, 25m swimming pool, fitness suite,

ancillary community hall and bistro type area. A feasibility report commissioned by the Parish Council suggested costs in the region of £3.25m to £4.5m.

The proposal was to be considered by Stratford-on-Avon District Council on December 8th.

Wellesbourne Parish Council had requested the JPC to continue the support it had already expressed by writing to the Chief Executive of the District Council urging it to support this project of importance to the area and its communities.

Resolved: that a letter expressing support for the project be sent to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

154. Briefing Sessions for Councillors and Clerks

It was reported that the Warwickshire Training Partnership had arranged the following briefing sessions:

‘The Role of the Chairman, Meeting Procedure and Parish and Town Councils’ Employment Responsibilities’ on Tuesday, 2nd December.

‘How to Respond to Planning Applications’ on Wednesday, 10th December

Both sessions would be held at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa from 7.00pm to 9.30pm and the cost in each case was £15.

Resolved: that Cllr R G Mulgrue be appointed to attend the briefing session to be held on 2 December.

155. Public Transport Information

It was reported that, in line with its on-going aim to provide roadside public transport information at all Warwickshire bus stops, the County Council had now provided timetable cases at several bus stops in the JPC’s area. One exception was the bus stop southbound at Wasperton Turn. As there was complete timetable information for Wasperton residents travelling in both directions in the case inside the bus shelter, WCC did not propose at this stage to install a case on this pole.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

156. Barford Traffic Calming

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from WCC subsequent to acceptance of their proposals. The letter indicated only minor matters of clarification but the writer advised that he was unable to provide any firm date for implementation.

Resolved: that a letter be sent for the personal attention of Mr J Deegan the County Councils Director of Planning and Transport expressing the Councils concern at the delay in implementing the proposals.

157. Barford War Memorial

The Chairman reported that the majority of the works were now complete. Only relaying of the plinth remained to be completed. The restored Memorial had been re-dedicated and used on Remembrance Sunday 9 November. The Chairman also reported that further donations towards the restoration had been received amounting to approximately £1000.

Cllr Worrall reminded Members that the Friends of War Memorials who were providing grant assistance towards the restoration had requested that the Memorial should be registered with the Imperial War Museum.

Cllr Byerley suggested that on final completion the Memorial should be treated with a water sealant.

Resolved:

- a) That the Chairmans report be noted.
- b) The Memorial be registered with the Imperial War Museum
- c) The suggestion re the application of a water sealant be discussed with Mr A Mayes Warwick District Council Conservation Architect.

158. Bank and Building Society Balances
The following were noted - As at 6th November 2003
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|----------------------------------|-----------|
| | £ |
| Bank Account | 16.84 |
| Building Society Deposit Account | 37,667.67 |
159. Payment of Accounts
- a) The cheque signatories' action in making payment of the following accounts was approved:
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| | £ |
| MFM – mowing fee for September | 153.00 |
| Inland Revenue – PAYE quarterly income tax payment | 102.78 |
| Mr T Offiler – October salary (£203.13) and expenses (£192.02) | 395.15 |
| Playground Management Ltd – Safety inspection of play equipment | 150.40 |
| Walters Management Services Ltd - P Walters' JPC telephone calls | 21.21 |
- b) Payment of the following was approved:
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| Mr D H Hartwell – fee for November | 166.66 |
| Mr T Offiler – November salary (203.13) office accomm.(41.66), postages reimbursement (14.84 as per register), telephone qtr to 31/10 (27.69) | 287.32 |
| Hornton Masonry Company – provision of large memorial with inscription and cleaning existing small tablets (price as quoted) | 4,021.26 |
| Viking Direct – Fax machine and copier paper | 96.23 |
160. Signs erected at Debden Hollow, Barford
It was asked if the large signs erected at Debden Hollow, Barford indicating Wenman Mobility required planning permission.
- Resolved: that Warwick District Council be requested to advise if the signs required planning permission.