

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council
held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 26 April 2004
in Sherbourne Village Hall**

Present: Cllr. J. V. Murphy (Chairman)
Cllrs. M. P. Byerley, R. Clay, Mrs. A. Gordon,
Mrs. M. Hayward, R. G. Mulgrue, S. G. Starkey, W. Worrall
and J. T. Wright.

Member of the Public in attendance: Mr. T. Reece

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Mrs. S. Dean, G. P. Grimma,
Mrs. J. Jackson, Dr. M. J. Metcalfe and G. G. Morris.

259 **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

260 **Proposed Enmaining of Sherbourne Brook**

The Council considered an application from the Environment Agency to vary the main river map of the area to give it powers to exercise flood defence and land drainage functions over certain brooks. However, there was a discrepancy between the wording of the official notice and what was understood to be their intention regarding the extent of the enmaining of Sherbourne Brook; it might be necessary for them to correct any error in the official notice. It was also understood that the Clerk had not received the letter notifying the Council, as the Agency had misaddressed it.

Mr. Reece, a resident of Sherbourne, addressed the meeting to express his concern that the proposal might adversely affect the sensitive ecological management of the watercourse, including the possible loss of a valuable tree belt.

Cllr. Gordon stated that, having consulted a large number of the riparian owners, there was concern on the following grounds:

- (i) Sherbourne Brook was a small watercourse, which required sensitive management, generally just left in its natural state. The proposal would enable a heavy-handed approach, including the reservation of a 9-metre wide area on the banks for clearance work;
- (ii) occasional flooding was generally absorbed into the local water meadows and emptied rapidly into the Avon. Any problems upstream in Snitterfield must be caused by a local blockage on Bell Brook, since Snitterfield is very much higher than Sherbourne. These problems could be addressed by the District Council under existing arrangements;

(iii) the watercourse was a wildlife haven, which dredging and clearing of the banks might disturb.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gordon, seconded by Cllr. Byerley and after a vote (5 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions), it was *resolved* that the Council inform the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs of its objections to the proposal and that copies be sent to Warwickshire County Council and Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick District Councils.

261 **Application for Goods Vehicle Operator's License, Grove Fields Farm**

The Council considered an application from Clarkco Ltd. to the Traffic Commissioner for a license to use Grove Fields Farm as an operating centre for two goods vehicles and two trailers. It was noted that any representations by the Council would have to be made via the County Council.

Members considered that the use of Grove Fields Farm in this way was unsuitable on the following grounds:

- (i) the road, as a narrow country lane, was unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles;
- (ii) users of the road would be put at risk, particularly cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians;
- (iii) the rural environment would be damaged;
- (iv) Hampton Wood Nature Reserve, alongside the road, would be damaged;
- (v) the farm drive was unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles;
- (vi) the storage of plastic pipes at the farm, which might be relevant to the application, was a visual intrusion.

Resolved that Warwickshire County Council and Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick District Councils be requested to make representations against the application.