

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Sherbourne Village Hall on Monday 14th February 2005

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)
Cllr M P Byerley, Cllr R G Mulgrue, Cllr W Worrall, Cllr Mrs A Gordon, Cllr G P Grima, Cllr Mrs J A Jackson, Cllr G G Morris, Cllr J T Wright

Apologies: Cllr R Clay, Cllr Mrs S Dean, Cllr Mrs M A Hayward, Cllr K S Hope, Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe, Cllr S G Starkey, Cllr R G Butler, Cllr Mrs M B Haywood, Cllr Mrs C Sawdon

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

263 Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest:

- Cllr Worrall - Personal and prejudicial - Grant for Barford Memorial Hall
- Cllr J V Murphy - Personal and prejudicial - Grant for Barford Memorial Hall
- Cllr J V Murphy - Personal - Barford Parish Plan
- Cllr R G Mulgrue - Personal - Barford Parish Plan
- Cllr R G Mulgrue – Personal – Barford Relief in Need Charity

Representations by Members of the Public

264 Mr Rees remarked upon his difficulties in contacting the Warwickshire Police by telephone and his lack of success in persuading the Warwickshire County Council of the need for a means for pedestrians to cross the A429 in the vicinity of Sherbourne.

265 A number of members of the public raised the matter of the enainment of Sherbourne Brook, ranging from an enquiry for more details to opposition to the proposal. Cllr Mrs Gordon drew the discussion to a conclusion by stating that since the JPC had resolved not to object to enainment, it was now the responsibility of the village of Sherbourne to continue the opposition and that she and others were actively engaged to that end.

266 Mr Smith Ryland expressed his opposition to the ban on hunting with dogs and explained how he intended to make those views known to a wider audience by – amongst other things – curtailing public access to his lands and calling a public meeting.

Matters for the Constabulary

267 In the absence of the CBO, Sgt Mike Crust attended the meeting.

268 He reported two offences involving motor vehicles which, although distressing for the victims, constituted a good record which was in keeping with the marked reduction in crime in the third quarter.

269 Addressing speeding in Barford, he said that a survey of speed data after the installation of the traffic calming measures suggested there was no requirement for additional measures supported by the statistic that there had been no death or serious injury in Barford in the past three years. Nevertheless, at the insistence of members, he promised to deploy a speed gun with the CBO to monitor Wellesbourne market traffic early in the morning.

270 He also reported that the illuminated speed warning signs in Barford would be modified to warn of speeds only between 30mph and 50mph. This would remove the incentive of those who tried to get the signs to illuminate at the highest possible speed.

271 As to the difficulty in contacting the police by telephone; he said that when on-duty the CBO could be contacted on his mobile phone and at other times messages could be left on an answering machine in the office although there would be no response until PC Caswell

returned to duty. He acknowledged the poor record of response but promised that it would be improved. The Chairman remarked that such improvement had been awaited for at least a year.

272 With the leave of the Chairman, Mr Rees (a member of the public) intervened to complain about dogs in Sherbourne not being controlled by their owners and proving a distraction to his guide-dog, negating its training.

273 Turning to the availability of PC Caswell in the role of CBO, he said that this was his major task from which he would be deployed only to deal with major incidents elsewhere. Cllr Worrall said he understood the imperative of major incidents; nevertheless his perception was that the villages lacked a “dedicated” police presence. Cllr Mulgrue remarked that major incidents seem rather frequent and the absence of a CBO removed the visible deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Cllr Mrs Gordon said that it was unrealistic to expect an under-resourced police force to provide the level of cover the villages expected and urged members, whenever the opportunity arose, to make the case for an increase in police numbers so that “there are more Sgt Crusts and Constable Caswells” available to tread the beat.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 10th January 2005

274 Subject to the correction of minor textural errors, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

275 Minute 253.5. Cllr Mulgrue urged that a letter be sent to Post Office Ltd to explore the options for temporary manning of the post office, and Cllr Worrall suggested a letter to Mr Bussey offering the JPC’s help, where possible, to keep the business running.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 14th January 2005

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

Grants for Village Halls

277 Cllrs Murphy and Worrall absented themselves for this agenda item, Cllr Wright taking the Chair.

278 RESOLVED: That the following grants be made

- Barford £400
- Sherbourne £1,000
- Wasperton £1,000

Development on Land near Barford House

279 The Chairman reported further approaches from Mr Hawksford seeking the support of the JPC to the proposals prior to submission for planning permission.

280 It was agreed that no response should be forthcoming until the results of the survey in the Barford Parish Plan were known.

281 Cllr Mrs Gordon questioned whether the correct channels of communication were being used for this process; she felt uncomfortable that the JPC was being contacted through the Chairman rather than the enquiry being addressed to the JPC through the Clerk, and she dissociated herself from it.

Disused allotments

282 The Chairman and Cllr Byerley reported that a great deal of work (with attendant cost) was required to bring the allotments back into use.

283 It was agreed that the Barford councillors should arrange to meet on site, at a date of their choosing, to assess the task. All were aware of the constraint of completing it before the bird nesting season.

Barford Relief in Need Charity

284 Cllr Mulgrue gave details of the composition of the board of trustees of the charity and the appointment of a new clerk. Council took note.

Barford Parish Plan

285 Cllr Mulgrue tabled a report from the Barford Parish Plan Committee detailing:

- The appointment of a new chairman.
- Inventories of the current state of the parish.
- Analysis of questionnaires.
- A grant to the Heritage Group of £24,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Council took note.

Cash Balances

286 Cash Balances as at 5th February 2005 stood at:

- HSBC Current Account £ 26,198.74

Payment of Accounts

287 Council approved the payments of:

• Claridges of Warwick (Photocopying)	£103.20
• Dream Direct (Stationery)	£25.48
• Complete Tree Services (Tree surgery)	£117.50
• Inland Revenue PAYE January	£135.79
• Clerk's office allowance January	£ 41.67
• Clerk's remuneration January	£481.44
• Clerk's expenses January	£ 85.99

Bus Shelter Cleaning

288 Invitations to quote for the periodic cleaning of the six bus shelters in the villages having been sent to four firms, the Council RESOLVED to award the contract to S&D Window Cleaners Ltd of Leamington for a cost not exceeding £600 per annum.

Any Other Business

289 Members reported the following:

289.1 The traffic chicane in Barford has suffered further damage and awaits repair.

289.2 Scramble motorcycles (thought to be without tax or insurance) are using Sandy Way

Date of Next Meeting

290 The next meeting of Council is on Monday 14th March 2005 at 7:30 pm in Wasperton Village Hall