

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

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

- Present:** Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)
Cllr M P Byerley, Cllr R Clay, Cllr Mrs A Gordon, Cllr G P Grima, Cllr Mrs M A Hayward, Cllr K S Hope, Cllr Mrs J A Jackson, Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe, Cllr W Worrall, Cllr J T Wright
- Apologies:** Cllr R G Butler, Cllr Mrs S Dean, Cllr Mrs M B Haywood, Cllr G G Morris, Cllr R G Mulgrue, Cllr S G Starkey,

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

291 There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.

Representations by Members of the Public

292 Mr Featherstone, in the mistaken belief that the JPC intended to debate and reach decisions upon the proposal by Malcolm Hawkesford to develop land in Barford, notwithstanding its absence from the agenda, drew members' attention to concerns he and his wife shared over the proposals. See also Minute 313

293 Mr Morris expressed dismay at the closure of Barford Post Office. See also Minute 302 et seq

Matters for the Constabulary

294 In the absence of the CBO whose baby was unwell, the Clerk read a report from him.

295 Members expressed concern not only with the number of crimes (which ran contrary to the assurances that Barford was relatively crime-free) but also as the savagery of attacks upon individuals.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 14th February 2005

296 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

297 Minute 279. The Chairman said he would have more to report under Any Other Business.

298 Minute 285. Cllr Mrs Hayward stressed that although a report on the Heritage Group had been minuted under "Barford Parish Plan", the two groups were separate entities.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 14th February 2005

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

Reports from Representatives Appointed to Serve on Other Bodies

300 Cllr Dr Metcalf reported that he has attended a meeting of the WDC Planning Committee at which the planning application for Llwyn, Wasperton had been deferred.

301 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a WALC symposium "Responsibilities of Local Councils"; the morning was devoted to "Funding Opportunities for Parish Councils" followed by "A New Terms and Conditions Agreement for Local Council Clerks" and the afternoon to workshops on the Disability Discrimination Act, Health and Safety and Youth.

Closure of Barford Post Office

- 302 The Chairman reported there had been no progress in letting a lease for the Barford Shop and Post Office and that they remained closed. In his view the rent being sought by the owners was a disincentive to potential tenants.
- 303 There was a consensus that the closure had been a painful blow to the villages and that urgent action was needed to ameliorate its effects. To that end efforts would be made to identify suitable premises in Barford (or elsewhere locally) from which a satellite post office could operate. Negotiation with Post Office Ltd for the provision of trained personnel and the necessary hardware had begun.
- 304 Meanwhile Cllr Wright undertook to give wide publicity to free travel for pensioners so that they could journey to the nearest open post office.

Crossing of A 429 at Sherbourne

- 305 The Clerk explained the circumstances under which he had written to WCC to restate a requirement for a pedestrian crossing over the A429 at Sherbourne.
- 306 A reply had been received that morning to the effect that although the WCC remained opposed to the provision of a Puffin crossing it would consider an application from the JPC for a dropped kerb crossing.
- 307 The Clerk was instructed to take up the offer, with the caveat that sufficient signage should also be provided to ensure motorists were aware of the presence of pedestrians.

Amendments to Financial Regulations

- 308 RESOLVED: That Financial Regulations be amended by the addition of a new clause:
5.5 The Council's bank may be instructed to create standing orders for the settlement of statutory payments, contractual payments and such other payments as the Council shall from time to time determine.

Clerk's Remuneration 2005-6

- 309 Council took note that under the Clerk's existing contract of employment his salary with effect from 1st April 2005 is set at Spinal Column Point 19.
- 310 The Chairman informed members that the existing contract should be surrendered and replaced with the new nationally-approved model contract (see Minute 301). First however it was necessary for the JPC to agree the terms to be offered to the Clerk and, timescales being very tight, he suggested a working party be established with that remit. Council agreed and appointed as members of the working party:
- Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)
 - Cllr Mrs J A Jackson
 - Cllr R G Mulgrue
 - Cllr J T Wright

Cash Balances as at 3rd March 2005

- 311 HSBC Current Account* £22,615.42
(*including unrepresented cheques and outstanding invoices)
Council took note

Payment of Accounts

- 312 The following payments have been made since the last meeting:
- W H Smith (Stationery) £11.98
 - Barford Memorial Hall (Grant) £400.00
 - Sherbourne Village Hall (Grant) £1,000.00
 - Wasperton Village Hall (Grant) £1,000.00

•	WALC (Training)	£60.00
•	WALC (Training)	£20.00
•	Edward Brain & Sons Ltd (Plant hire)	£173.90
•	Hadley (Allotment land hire)	£37.50
•	Smith (Allotment land hire)	£37.50
•	Inland Revenue NI Aug-Jan	£170.70
•	Inland Revenue PAYE/NI Feb	£188.69
•	Clerk's office allowance Feb	£ 41.67
•	Clerk's remuneration Feb	£481.44
•	Clerk's expenses Feb	£ 72.44
	Council endorsed payments	

Any Other Business

313 Development of Land at Barford

- 313.1 The Chairman read a letter sent to him by Malcolm Hawkesford seeking the assurance of JPC support for the development of land in Barford as a precursor to the application for planning permission.
- 313.2 Cllr Mrs Gordon reminded members that rules of procedure forbade the discussion of matters of substance under this agenda item and wished it terminated forthwith.
- 313.3 The Chairman, accepting Cllr Mrs Gordon's point, nevertheless thought this was a matter of interest to members and allowed them to air views.
- 313.4 He concluded the matter by stating that it was his intention to reply to the letter because he felt good manners required no less. The tenor of his reply would be discouraging and critical, and recommend a proper village consultation, preferably through a public exhibition, before any formal response could be offered.

314 A46/M40 Junction 15 Improvements

- 314.1 Certain members had requested sight of the scoping report on this project and had received copies from the designers.
- 314.2 There was concern from the Sherbourne members that the final design was at odds with an earlier proposal from Mr Harrison of Sherbourne and much less acceptable due to its proximity to and impact upon the village. A report was being prepared specifying their considered objections to the scheme.

Date of Next Meeting

- 315 The next meeting of Council is the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 17th May 2005 at 7:30 pm in Barford Memorial Hall