

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the special meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Sherbourne Village Hall on Monday 27th February 2006

Present: Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)
Cllr R Clay, Cllr R G Mulgrue, Cllr S G Starkey, Cllr W Worrall, Cllr G P Grima, Cllr E G Scrannage, Cllr Mrs Sawdon

Apologies: Cllr M P Byerley, Cllr Mrs M A Hayward, Cllr K S Hope, Cllr Mrs A Gordon, Cllr Mrs J A Jackson, Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe, Cllr G F Smith, Cllr J T Wright,

Opening

- 295 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 296 Thirty-eight members of the public were present.
- 297 Apologies for absence were noted.

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 298 Cllr Murphy declared a personal interest in the item on Barford Allotments

A46/M40 Junction 15 Improvement Scheme

- 299 Junction 15 of the M40 is a roundabout carried over the motorway carriageway on two bridges. Traffic arrives at it from:
- The north, A46 Coventry
 - The south, A46 Stratford-upon-Avon
 - The west, M40 Birmingham
 - The east, M40 London
 - The north-east, A429 Warwick
 - The south-east, A229 Stow
- Sherbourne village lies to the south-east of the junction in the segment between A46 Stratford-upon-Avon and A429 Stow.
- 300 The junction is heavily used and was prone to gridlock. This was ameliorated by relief works completed in the past year, but queuing still happens at the entries to the junction at peak times.
- 301 Models predict ever growing volumes of traffic, far in excess of the present capacity of the junction. The Highways Agency (HA) sought to prevent the resulting congestion by providing traffic on the A46 performing Coventry to Stratford-upon-Avon and Stratford-upon-Avon to Coventry trips with an alternative route avoiding it. The scheme intercepted this traffic at points on the A46 well to the north and south of the junction and joined them with a new road with an alignment to the west of the junction.
- 302 The proposal was strongly opposed by the residents of Sherbourne on the grounds of inadequate consultation and adverse visual impact. The dispute did not however reach a resolution because the HA, having identified a large roost of bats on the proposed alignment, unilaterally abandoned it and substituted another route. The alignment of the substitute was governed by the single criterion that it should not come within 200 metres of the roost. It could have gone even further to

the west (which might have won the approval of Sherbourne) but in the event a route further east was chosen, bringing it and its accompanying noise and pollution even closer to the village.

- 303 The aim of the meeting was to reach a consensus on the appropriate response to this proposal. Following a detailed briefing by Cllr Scrannage, standing orders were suspended and members of the public invited to comment. There was a high degree of harmony and the principal points to emerge from this exchange of views were:
- Inadequate consultation over the actual line to be adopted
 - Inadequate notice of the exhibition
 - Inadequate concern for the impact of the proposals on the environment of Sherbourne and the health of its inhabitants
 - Considering bats over people
 - Considering savings over people
 - Appearance of a "done deal" with no local input
 - Acceptance that J15 needs to be improved and to do nothing to is not an option
 - Lack of comparative environmental impact study information
 - Lack of comparative health impact study information
 - Concern that "orders" will be issued next month [March]
 - Absence of measures to protect Sherbourne village from rat-running
 - Tendentious arguments against considering a more westerly line, which would have wide benefits and few obvious drawbacks, apparently largely based an early proposal which crossed Hampton Road
 - Mixed stories of projected future traffic flows
- 304 Standing orders were restored, and members crafted a statement to draw the strands of opinion together; it read:
"The Joint Parish Council rejects the Highways Agency's preferred alignment (Option 11) in favour of a route with the same or similar design on an alignment to the west of the A3 proposal, taking fully into account the impact of noise and traffic-generated pollution on the health and well-being of Sherbourne residents and the visual impact of the works in this sensitive area."
- 305 A motion to embrace and support this statement was put to the vote and passed nem con.

Barford Allotments

- 306 The Clerk reported three contractors had visited the site and their estimates were awaited. Conscious of the need to expedite the works members delegated authority to the Chairman and Clerk to appoint a contractor to have the work completed as soon as possible within a financial limit of £750.
- 307 A joint response from four allotment holders who had received the letter from the Clerk (Minute 292) made their opposition to surrendering their plots apparent. The response having clarified which plots had been allocated; there was no longer need to take them back into the JPC's control.
- 308 It was agreed that the rents for the allotments and the annual uplift should be decided at the next meeting.

Any Other Business

- 309 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

- 310 The next ordinary meeting of Council is on Tuesday 21st March 2006 at 7:30 pm in Wasperton Village Hall.