

# BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council  
held at Sherbourne Village Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Present:** Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman)  
Cllrs: Mrs P W Barlow, M P Byerley, R Clay, Mrs D S Cobb, Mrs M A Hayward,  
R G Mulgrue, S G Starkey, W Worrall, Mrs A Gordon, Dr M J Metcalfe,  
N F J Thurley, Mrs P W Wilkinson, J T Wright,  
**Apologies:** Cllrs: Mrs P L Johnston, A B Rhead,

## Opening

- 174 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 175 Three members of the public were present.
- 176 Apologies for absence were noted.

## Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 177 The following members declared a personal interest in the agenda item on the grant of a lease to Barford Village Shop Community Interest Company:
- Cllr Mrs M A Hayward
  - Cllr R G Mulgrue
  - Cllr W Worrall
- 178 The following members declared a personal interest in the agenda item on the Barford Bypass noise abatement:
- Cllr M P Byerley
  - Cllr R Clay

## Police Matters

- 179 The Chairman had attended the meeting of the WDWASNP on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and reported:
- 179.1 The vacancy for a CSO had been filled by Sam Rushton (female).
- 179.2 Caution should be exercised in the mechanical removal of graffiti to ensure that the chemicals used were not hazardous on playground equipment.
- 179.3 The team now had two bicycles; all the CSOs had been trained in their use but, so far, no PC.
- 179.4 The efforts to regulate parking in Lapworth and Bishops Tachbrook had been successful.
- 179.5 The speed camera had been reclaimed by its owners (Stratford-upon-Avon police).
- 179.6 A wide-ranging traffic speed survey had been completed and the results were awaited.
- 179.7 The speed gun was appropriate for measuring speed in 30 mph and 40 mph zones; Higher speed (as on the Barford Bypass for example) had to be dealt with by the traffic police.
- 179.8 CSOs were now empowered to issue fixed-penalty fines for littering.

- 179.9 Four of the five members of the team can drive the mobile police station. Its role was thought to be useful although from time to time it suffered a "lack of trade".
- 179.10 Opinion had been divided on the wisdom of spending some of the £10k of "Safer Neighbourhoods" money on a speed gun [and further information would be brought to the next meeting.](#)
- 179.11 It was the Chairman's impression that other villages were more content with "Safer Neighbourhoods" than was the JPC.
- 179.12 The next meetings are scheduled for:
- 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008
  - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Council 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

- 180 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

### **Matters Arising**

- 181 Minute 142. The graffiti had been removed from the children's play area and youth shelter, although more had now been noted.
- 182 Minute 144. The Wasperton footpath has been cleared and a stile installed. Waymarking was inadequate and awaited. The chairman advised that he held a supply of waymarks if WCC did not provide such marking promptly.
- 183 Minute 167. The tree in Sandy Way has not been lopped.
- 184 Minute 171. A lively interest in the future of Oakley Woods was demonstrated. It was agreed that Bishops Tachbrook should lead on this matter and that the JPC should provide support when requested. Cllr Mrs Barlow agreed to make further contact with BTPC.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

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

### **Reports from JPC Representatives to Other Bodies**

- 186 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a WCC liaison meeting with parish council representatives and gave a summary of the business conducted, which centred on the WCC Chief Executive, Jim Graham's aspirations for more and better partnership working with parish and town councils.
- 187 Cllr Mulgrue had been of a "Rural Excellence Visit" to East Hampshire to inspect affordable housing and had gleaned information and made contacts which might assist in resolving our current Barford Burrows Affordable Homes allocation difficulties.
- 189 Cllr Worrall had attended "Planning Training" at WDC.

### **Cash Balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

- 190 Members took note of the following cash balances:
- |                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| HSBC                 | £ 4,373.89 |
| Alliance & Leicester | £33,645.04 |
| TOTAL                | £38,018.93 |

## Receipts and Payments

191 Members endorsed the following:

Date	Payee	Category	Sum
3 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Postage	(14.34)
3 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(19.59)
4 Sep 07	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(189.00)
4 Sep 07	Alliance & Leicester	Bank Interest	82.36
10 Sep 07	BMHMC	Barford Post Office	(340.00)
16 Sep 07	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(407.93)
27 Sep 07	WDC	Precept	12,946.00
30 Sep 07	Hornton Quarries Ltd	Barford War Memorial	(359.55)
30 Sep 07	D M Hadley	Allotments Hire of Land	(37.50)
30 Sep 07	R J Smith	Allotments Hire of Land	(37.50)
30 Sep 07	J V Murphy	Open Spaces Maintenance	(15.88)
30 Sep 07	Jewson	Open Spaces Maintenance	(20.14)
30 Sep 07	Murley	Open Spaces Maintenance	(6.63)
30 Sep 07	WALC	Training and Seminar Expenses	(25.00)
30 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Postage	(23.88)
30 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(16.74)
30 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Employment Expenses	(593.14)
30 Sep 07	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(46.25)

## Management Accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007

192 The JPC took cognizance of the management accounts:

2007-8	Budget	YTD	FOO
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Allotment Rents	244	105	750
Allotment Water Charges	0	93	0
Bank Interest	660	374	660
Barford Playing Field Lettings	160	160	160
Concurrent Services Contribution (WDC)	1,770	1,770	1,770
Precept (WDC)	25,982	25,892	25,982
VAT prior year (HMRC)	1,000	575	575
Wayleave	4	0	4
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>29,820</b>	<b>28,971</b>	<b>29,901</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Advertising and Publicity	0	0	(150)
Allotments Hire of Land	(150)	(75)	(150)
Allotment Infrastructure	0	(2,280)	(2,280)
Allotments Maintenance	(1,000)	(50)	(50)
Audit Fees	(367)	(395)	(395)
Bank Charges	(20)	0	(20)
Barford Parish Directory (CVS)	0	(917)	(917)
Barford Parish Plan	(640)	(20)	(20)
Barford Post Office	(1,600)	(710)	(6,600)
Barford War Memorial	0	(360)	(360)
Bus Shelters Maintenance	(640)	(255)	(2,000)
Chairman's Allowance	(363)	(363)	(363)
Election Expenses	(4,500)	0	(1,500)
Employment Expenses	(12,375)	(6,043)	(12,375)

Grants: Churchyard Maintenance	(1,066)	0	(1,066)
Grants: Village Halls	(2,620)	0	(2,620)
Insurance	(930)	(922)	(922)
Legal Fees	0	0	(2,000)
Mowing Charges	(1,638)	(909)	(1,638)
Noticeboards	(200)	(25)	(200)
Office Accommodation	(555)	(278)	(555)
Open Spaces Maintenance	(1,040)	(78)	(1,000)
Postage	(384)	(129)	(384)
Printing and Stationery	(960)	(393)	(960)
Skateboard Ramps	0	0	(1,000)
Subs: Information Commissioner	(35)	0	(35)
Subs: SLCC	(125)	0	(125)
Subs: WALC	(376)	(373)	(373)
Training and Seminar Expenses	(155)	(25)	(155)
Travel Expenses	(465)	(163)	(465)
Venue Hire	(80)	0	(80)
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(32,284)</b>	<b>(14,761)</b>	<b>(40,757)</b>
<b>NET TOTALS</b>	<b>(2,464)</b>	<b>14,210</b>	<b>(10,856)</b>

193 The Free Reserve stands at £10,749

#### **Grant of Lease to Barford Village Shop Community Interest Company**

194 The Chairman briefed the JPC on progress towards completing the drafting of the lease.

195 It was agreed that once the lease was in its final form, it should be available for comment by members of the JPC who would then delegate the authority to execute it on their behalf to the Chairman and Clerk.

#### **Review of Financial Regulations**

196 A working party was formed to review Financial Regulations and report its findings to the JPC for ratification in as soon as is expedient. Its composition:

- Cllr Murphy (Chairman)
- Cllr Mulgrue
- Cllr Mrs Wilkinson
- Cllr Wright
- Clerk/RFO (in attendance)

#### **Graffiti**

197 Cllr Worrall reported that he had investigated the possibilities of using the machine for mechanical removal of graffiti held by Leamington Town Council.

198 The cost is only that of the consumables used, which is not large, but the impediment is the need to the operator of the machine to receive appropriate training.

199 It transpires that the Probation Service has received such training and Cllr Worrall intended to arrange a meeting with a representative at the Barford playing fields to discuss obtaining help from the Probation Service in removing the graffiti there.

200 He would also check that COSHH regulations allowed the use of the machine on play equipment.

### **Barford Bypass – Noise Abatement**

- 201 Cllr Clay reported that sound level monitoring by WDC showed that the noise from the bypass in the gardens of Mr Fish and Mr Reader exceeded the predictions of the environmental impact statement and may constitute a statutory nuisance. Figures will be sent to the JPC.
- 202 It had been suggested by a WDC Environmental Health Officer that the JPC could organize a letter drop to those affected by the noise nuisance to explain how to register a protest. The members decided to invite the WDC representative to the next meeting of the JPC to present his findings and recommendations and to consider issue of the letter thereafter.

### **Bus Shelters**

- 203 In the absence of Cllrs Mrs Johnstone and Rhead, this matter was postponed until the next meeting.
- 204 Cllr Thurley had produced a specification for the renovation of the Wasperton bus shelter.

### **Affordable Housing**

- 205 Cllr Mulgrue explained that the recent problems with the allocation of affordable housing at Barford which had not been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Section 106 planning agreement hinged on the WDC officers' interpretation of "need". Their interpretation produced a governing criterion that applicants must have children if their request is to be considered; those without children living at home are disqualified.
- 206 That interpretation is not enshrined in law and there is therefore no reason why it cannot be changed (indeed the portfolio holder wants change) and to that end a meeting has been arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> October with the Housing Allocation Manager WDC to be attended by Cllrs Mulgrue, Byerley, Murphy and Mrs Sawdon and a representative of WRHA.
- 207 Time is of the essence because under the present regime the houses may be let before the problem of interpretation is resolved.
- 208 The Chairman reported that he had written to the Chief Executive WDC expressing the concerns of the JPC seeking to invoke his support in achieving a satisfactory outcome.
- 209 Cllr Mulgrue stated that he had been approached by the press but was reluctant to respond on the grounds that he was not the authorized spokesman for the JPC. There was a body of opinion in the JPC which held that the press should be involved now because this could bring additional pressure to bear on WDC. Cllr Byerley volunteered to act in a private capacity and brief the press, if asked, drawing on his considerable knowledge of the background to this whole episode.

### **Mixed Communities and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

- 210 Cllrs Byerley and Mulgrue had reviewed this document and circulated to members a suggested response. This was adopted by members for onward transmission to WDC.
- 211 Cllr Mrs Gordon spoke for her colleagues when she commented most favourably upon the quality of the submission.

### **Any Other Business**

- 212 Skateboard Ramp Noise Reduction:
- 212.1 The Chairman brought bad news; the noise reduction measures had failed.

212.2 He had been advised that the ramps should be boxed (timber was the preferred material) and the box could be filled with sound deadening material if further improvement was still needed.

212.3 Only one ramp would be boxed initially to prove the technique at an estimated cost of £250 per ramp for boxing-in.

212.4 The Clerk advised that a contingency of £1,000 was in the accounts for this work.

213 Right of Way:

213.1 WCC is seeking either to effect or extinguish long-standing claims to rights of way.

213.2 Two are in the JPC area and were delegated for a response as follows:

- Barford Mill Lane - Cllr Byerley
- Wasperton Church - Cllr Wright

#### **Closure**

214 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

215 The next ordinary meeting of Council is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7:30 pm in Wasperton Village Hall.