

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Barford Memorial Hall
on Mon 5 Sep 11

Present:	Cllr J V Murphy,(Chairman) Cllr: Mrs W Barlow, J M Hawkesford, Mrs J L Longfield, S J McVeigh, P A P Morris, D C Morrow, A B Rhead, R A Shotton-Oza, Mrs A Gordon, Mrs R Newsome, M J Metcalfe, N F J Thurley, J T Wright
In Attendance:	Cllr: L Caborn
Apologies:	Cllr: R Clay

Opening

- 114 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 115 No members of the public were present.
- 116 Apologies for absence were noted.

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 117 Cllr Mrs Barlow and Cllr Rhead declared a personal interest in the purchase of a defibrillator.

Minutes of the Meeting of Council 11 Jul 11

- 118 The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

- 119 Minute 78. The Chairman said that he had received an email from, spoken with and arranged a meeting with the member of the public who had expressed a wish for the play equipment on Barford Playing Fields to be improved. He had met casually with other parents too. The consensus so far was that the facilities were good but that any improvement would be welcome.
- 120 Minute 83. The Chairman had reported that preliminary markings for the proposed yellow lines had been painted on the roads at Bremridge Close, Wasperton Lane and Sandy Way and Cllr Caborn confirmed that they would be installed before the start of the school year.
- 121 Minute 84. Cllr Metcalfe reported that the footpath beyond Seven Elms was found to be blocked and he had drawn this to the attention of the local authority which in turn had written to the landowner requiring a remedy. This had been done in short order.
- 122 Minute 89. Last year the JPC (under the Local Government Act 1972 s 145) effectively underwrote the finances of the Barford Village Show by making available a grant of up to £298. In the event the show was in profit and the grant was not claimed. The request has been repeated for this year's show; this time for £350 to cover hall hire and essential printing costs, and was granted. The Chairman reported that on the verbal report of the show treasurer it seemed unlikely any claim would be made.
- 123 Minute 105. At the last meeting it had been stated that detailed plans for affordable housing would soon be available for consultation. WRHA officer Sarah Brooke-Taylor was to present them to the JPC Affordable Housing Working Party for initial comment prior to bringing them to the whole JPC or moving forward to public consultation or both. The provisional date for this is 12 Sep 11.

- 124 Minute 106. Cllr Mrs Gordon said that no apparent action had been taken to remove litter and cut vegetation at the Sherbourne bus stop. She also drew attention to the gutters which were choked with leaves. The clerk would pursue the litter/vegetation issues with WCC. The chairman would investigate the gutter matter.
- 125 Minute 110. Cllr Mrs Barlow had wondered how a householder adjacent to the public road could be persuaded to keep paths and alleys running onto the road weed and litter free. Cllr Mrs Bunker's advice had been to have a quiet "parish councillor" word with the offender and if that did not produce the required result then the Warwick District Council had the power to have essential work done and to send the householder the bill. This solved the problem.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 11 Jul 11

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 1 Aug 11

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 15 Aug 11

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

Cash Balances as at 28 Aug 11

- 129 The JPC took note of the following cash balances
- HSBC £ 1,298.36
 - Santander £35,569.09

Receipts and Payments

- 130 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee	Category	Total
2 Jul 11	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(219.00)
2 Jul 11	J F Johnson	Postage	(12.30)
2 Jul 11	J F Johnson	Travel Expenses	(23.47)
5 Jul 11	Frank Mann Farming	Open Spaces Maintenance	(486.00)
6 Jul 11	Santander	Bank Interest	2.22
9 Jul 11	TPC	Printing and Stationery	(46.87)
11 Jul 11	AED Locator (EU) Ltd	Section 137	(2,580.00)
11 Jul 11	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(542.92)
13 Jul 11	WDC	Grants/Donations	2,340.00
20 Jul 11	Clement Keys	Audit Fees	(342.00)
28 Jul 11	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(696.92)
28 Jul 11	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(52.00)
4 Aug 11	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(219.00)
8 Aug 11	Santander	Bank Interest	2.80
8 Aug 11	Santander	Bank Interest	2.57
8 Aug 11	TPC	Printing and Stationery	(28.73)
11 Aug 11	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(542.92)
15 Aug 11	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(45.00)
28 Aug 11	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(696.92)
28 Aug 11	J F Johnson	Office Accommodation	(52.00)

Purchase of Riverside Land

- 131 The Riverside Land is "highway" and not in the gift of WCC to sell.
- 132 The JPC may however have use of the land under licence:

1. A Licence pursuant to Section 142 of the Highways Act 1980 for:
 - (a) The planting of an orchard
 - (b) The creation of a wild-flower meadow
 2. A Licence pursuant to Section 115 of the Act for
 - (a) The construction of a footpath to the water's edge
 - (b) The installation of a kissing gate in the fence
 - (c) The positioning of two or three seats on the bank.
- 133 The estimated cost for preparation of these licences by WCC was £300.
- 134 In practice this may be a preferable solution. Freed of ownership the JPC would have no further legal obligations relating to the land, all of which would devolve to WCC.
- 135 Having made the offer of £300 for issuing the licences, WCC then remembered that the JPC had pledged £800 to defray the legal and administrative costs for the transfer of title resulting from the sale and increased the sum to £750.
- 136 The Clerk objected to this arguing that the transfer of title and the granting of licences were separate matters which should not be conflated. The offer of sale had been withdrawn by WCC not rejected by the JPC and so the preparation was nugatory and the costs should fall to WCC since the JPC enjoyed no benefits from it.
- 137 On the other hand the JPC may take the pragmatic view that it had allocated £800 for the acquisition of the land by purchase and could now obtain much the same benefit for £750 (or lesser sum by negotiation).
- 138 The Clerk sought guidance on the approach to be adopted.
- 139 It was agreed that the JPC should take the land on licence.
- 140 It was also agreed that the negotiations should not be allowed to fail on the issue of the fee to be paid.
- 141 Cllr Caborn said that the legal advice he received from WCC (subject to confirmation) was that the case made in Minute 136 was strong and the JPC should press for the £300 fee. Nevertheless, bearing in mind the criterion in Minute 140, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were given the discretion to negotiate to a ceiling of £750 if necessary.
- 142 Cllr Mrs Barlow gave an update on the ongoing preparations in readiness for the grant of the licence and reminded the JPC of the importance of planting the community orchard trees in the coming planting season and the very tight LEADER funding window which would expire in March 2012.

Purchase of Defibrillator

- 143 When the JPC agreed to the purchase of a defibrillator the price was £2,580. When the order was placed it was discovered there had been a price rise to £2,765, an increase of £185.
- 144 The was invited JPC to approve one of the following options:
- Fund the increase
 - Purchase a cheaper model
 - Cancel the order
- 145 Preempting long debate, Cllr Rhead informed the meeting that he recommended the purchase of a cheaper model at a net increase of only £46.80.
- 146 The JPC approved this recommendation.

Open Public Services White Paper Consultation

- 147 The JPC took note of the feedback from the discussion event held on 16 Aug 11 and decided to add no further comment but to maintain a watching brief.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

- 148 The JPC voted in favour of participating in this activity and formed a working party to research the requirements and practicalities and to advise the JPC accordingly. The working party would comprise:
- Cllr Mrs Barlow
 - Cllr Morris
 - Cllr Rhead
 - Cllr Shotton-Oza

Any Other Business

- 149 Cllr Mrs Gordon advised the meeting that the Chairman of Sherbourne Village Hall Management Committee had applied for a grant of £23k from the Big Society Fund to refurbish the hall and hoped that the JPC would be able to give any support that the application might require.
- 150 Cllr Caborn brought news that within the next two weeks meeting of WCC personnel with interested parties from the three villages would be arranged to discuss the traffic flow and speed limits in the area of the northern Barford junction from the bypass and the roads in Sherbourne.
- 151.1 On the matter of speed limits in Wasperton, the following is the text of a message from WCC:
"With regard to the concerns expressed by the Parish Council, I have re-investigated the proposed speed limit of 30mph and agree that a 20mph could be considered. Therefore, I will need to arrange for a new advert to be made advertising a 20mph. The proposed 20mph will commence at the existing 'Wasperton' village name sign, as this will ensure that drivers understand why the 20mph is there. The speed limit on the short stretch from the A429 to the village name sign will remain as derestricted."
- 151.2 It was thought that when the new advert appeared the JPC would need to make a statement of positive support. Subsequent enquiries revealed that this was unnecessary but, belt and braces, the Clerk wrote to WCC *"I can confirm that the established policy of the JPC is to support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Wasperton."* which was acknowledged.
- 152 The clerk reminded the meeting that Any Other Business could only be for the exchange of information. No decisions on policy or finance could be made. Such matters had to be agenda items and displayed on the statutory public notices of the meeting. Any such decisions made without adequate public notice were vulnerable to challenge in the courts.
- 153 It was for the reasons in Minute 152 that Cllr McVeigh's request to improve the playing fields could not be considered.
- 154 Cllr Mrs Barlow informed the meeting that the Oakley Wood clearance would start at the end of September. She gave a summary of future events there.
- 155 The Chairman enquired about progress in identifying the third Sherbourne councillor. Cllr Mrs Gordon replied that although it was difficult, progress was being made.
- 156 The Chairman had received representation from young people, users of the playing fields, on their needs and aspirations for improvement of the facilities; they were improve skate-boarding (specifically a small half-pipe, a long round-topped rail) and portable small goalposts. These should be borne in mind when considering play area improvements.
- 157 To general consternation some land near Barford House had been fenced with barbed-wire. Warnings about the danger to passing pedestrians were circulated and the landowner was pressed to have the fences taken down. Eventually this was done but the wire was left in the "spinney" (private land) where it remains a hazard.

158 There has been ill-feeling generated by Country Car's habit of parking cars outside its perimeter fence on highway land. Strong protests have been made imploring the JPC to take remedial action. The JPC has no powers to intervene but has referred the matter to WCC and the police.

Closure

159 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:31 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

160 The next meeting of the JPC is on Mon 10 Oct 11 at 7:30 pm in Sherbourne Village Hall.