

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council
held at Sherbourne Village Hall on Mon 10 Feb 14

Present:	Cllr J V Murphy,(Chairman) Cllr: Mrs W Barlow, I Boak, R Clay, J M Hawkesford, Mrs J L Longfield, Mrs A Gordon, T Merrygold, Mrs R Newsome, M J Metcalfe, N F J Thurley, J T Wright,
Apologies:	Cllr: S J Coop, A B Rhead,

Opening

219 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm

220 One member of the public was present.

Declarations of Disclosable Interests

221 Grants for Churchyard Maintenance:

- Cllr Murphy declared a personal interest.

222 Grants for Village Halls:

- Cllr Mrs Barlow declared a prejudicial interest (member of Management Committee) and absented herself from the meeting for this agenda item.
- Cllr Murphy declared a prejudicial interest (member of Management Committee) and absented himself from the meeting for this agenda item.
- Cllr Thurley declared a prejudicial interest (member of Management Committee) and absented himself from the meeting for this agenda item

Minutes of the Meeting of the JPC 6 Jan 14

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 6 Jan 14

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 27 Jan 14

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

Cash Book Balances as at 31 Jan 14

226 The JPC took note of the following cash balances

- HSBC £29,945.48
- Santander £37,821.32

Receipts and Payments

227 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee/er	Category	Total
10 Jan 14	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(581.87)
22 Jan 14	ICO	Subs: Information Commissioner	(35.00)
31 Jan 14	Administration	Office Accommodation	(56.35)
31 Jan 14	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(747.45)

Housing Needs Survey December 2013

228 The report on the survey conducted by Sarah Brooke-Taylor of WRCC was adopted by the JPC.

Assets of Community Value

229 Cllr Mrs Barlow reported steady progress on the listing of assets in Barford and Wasperton – Barford's submission was complete and was being processed by WDC. Wasperton's needed to be converted onto the appropriate forms and submitted.

230 Cllr Mrs Gordon informed the meeting that Sherbourne had identified only two important assets:

230.1 The Church, which was unlikely to be sold and therefore did not require listing.

230.2 The Village Hall, the occupancy of which was assured by a lease for the next ten years so that too did not require listing for the time being.

231 It was Cllr Mrs Gordon's understanding that when a listing expired after five years it could not be renewed. Doubt was expressed about this rule and Cllr Mrs Barlow undertook to clarify it.

[Cllr Boak joined the meeting]

Grants for Churchyard Maintenance

232 The JPC made the following grants:

- Barford £430
- Sherbourne £430
- Wasperton £430

[Cllr Metcalfe took the Chair]

Grants for Village Halls

233 The JPC made the following grants:

- Barford £1070
- Sherbourne £1070
- Wasperton £1070

[Cllr Murphy resumed the Chair]

Review of Financial Regulations

234 The JPC reviewed Financial Regulations and accepted them for use for a further year or until the publication and adoption of the new model set of Financial Regulations which is being drafted by NALC.

Risk Assessment

235 The JPC assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed and endorsed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.

Any Other Business

236 Playing Fields Working Party. Cllr Murphy announced an open day on 1 Mar 14 in Barford Memorial Hall from 2-5pm to exhibit play equipment information and plans. He urged a good attendance, public support for the project was very important to assist in gaining external support and funding; better a modest scheme desired by the many than an extravagant one determined by the few.

237 Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Barford.

- 237.1 Cllr Murphy reported that the WDC consultation had listed Site GT12 in Barford as a Preferred Option and had introduced a wild-card Site GT (alt)12 hitherto unmentioned. Of her own volition Cllr Mrs Barlow had written to Cllr Mrs Sawdon (WDC) and Cllr Rhead (WDC) giving reasons why the latter was entirely unsuitable. The sentiments of her letter (the text of which is at Annex A) were endorsed by the JPC. The Preferred Options were expected to be endorsed by WDC in the immediate future and this would then be followed by further public consultation thereon.
- 237.2 WDC had mistakenly stated that there is a doctor's surgery in Barford convenient for both sites. Neither site was currently being volunteered by the landowners and GT(alt)12 was not finding favour with WCC Highways.
- 237.3 Cllr Mrs Gordon suggested that rather than appear parochial by rejecting everything, the JPC might be well advised to support some proposals which were seen to be the least damaging to local neighbourhoods.
- 238 Barford House Wall. Cllr Clay had responded to concerns expressed about the safety of the perimeter wall of Barford House by having it inspected. Although declared safe, it was by no means in a good condition and demanded regular assessments of its condition.
- 239 Oakley Woods. Cllr Mrs Barlow informed the meeting that the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust had joined the Friends of Oakley Wood and WDC on the management team. The AGM would be held on 4 Mar 14

Closure

- 240 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Date of Next Meeting

- 241 The next meeting of the JPC is on Mon 10 Mar 14 at 7:30 pm in Wasperton Village Hall.

ANNEX A

I am very concerned with the sudden appearance of this site for inclusion in the executive meeting on Tuesday. This site has never been considered before and as it has the Community Orchard and hard-won River Walk on it it seems a total mockery of the idea of 'localism' and the spirit of volunteering to consider undoing all this work to create a gypsy/traveller site.

As you know this site was leased to the JPC from Warwickshire County Council (the Highway Authority) and thus to the village. It had long been a concern of the Parish Council that there was no real access to the River Avon for most villagers and this was the ideal opportunity to fulfil one of the aims in the Village Plan 2005

LEADER money was applied for and granted for 25 rare and local trees to be planted in the orchard and the river walk to be created. Over 40 villagers have worked regularly on the site over the last 3 years. This means Thousands of pounds worth of 'in kind' contributions doing the following

- Cutting back undergrowth
- Cutting and raking grass,
- Digging and planting the Orchard and 25 River Walk Trees
- Pollarding
- Learning how to prune
- Creating and gravelling paths
- Creating steps and safe slopes
- Maintaining the grass paths and cutting the 'Wild' strips.
- Mowing the Orchard and open areas
- Installing Gates and benches.

The local Heritage Group gave money for plaques and the Diamond Jubilee Oak.

Future plans include bee hives and a wild meadow area which has already been sown.

Oldham's Bank is now part of a village walk which takes villagers through the Orchard and along the River. It has seating areas (much enjoyed by older members of the community) and the walk adjoins another footpath through to the neighbouring village of Wasperton

Oldham's bank has been listed as one of our Community assets on our recently submitted 'Community Right to Bid' submission

To include this plot of land in such peremptory fashion is to ignore genuine community action and yet another loss of hard-won open space.

I hope you are able to take my concerns forward.