

## BARFORD SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Barford Memorial Hall  
on Mon 5 Sep 16

<b>Present:</b>	Cll, J V Murphy (Chairman) Cllr: Mrs W Barlow, R Clay, H Gadsden, Mrs A Gordon, J M Hawkesford, T Merrygold, M J Metcalfe, Mrs R Newsome, Mrs K E Thomson, N F J Thurley, J T Wright
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr: S Morgan, A B Rhead,

### Opening

86 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm

87 Two members of the public were present.

### Declarations of Disclosable Interests

88 None was declared.

### Public Participation

89 There was no public participation.

### Minutes of the Meeting of Council 11 Jul 16

90 The minutes were approved as a true record.

### Matters arising

- 91 Minute 71. The dairy farm in Sherbourne is changing hands and the present herd of 150 cows is to be replaced by one of 500. There is concern about the environmental impact of so many animals and it was suggested that the air quality could be monitored by close record keeping to provide a base-line for determining any reduction in air quality due to the bovine influx. Cllr Mrs Gordon reported:
- The matter had been allocated a case number by WDC Planning for monitoring purposes.
  - Setting out had started.
  - It had been discovered that something, possibly from the slurry pit, was being discharged into the river. The situation continues to be monitored, with the Environment Agency declaring an interest in the change to an intensive dairy system and baseline samples have been collected from Sherbourne Brook above and below the farm.
- 92 Minute 72. Cllr Mrs Gordon had reported that the footpath in Sherbourne from the A46 towards Norton Lindsey (Number WB16) had been rendered impassable by hedgerow trees and bushes being felled onto it and it now has grass growing through it. Repeated appeals to WDC to solve the problem had fallen on deaf ears. Eventually Mr Barnard (WCC) had taken an interest and asked to be informed when it had been cleared. To date about 70% clearance had been achieved but recently there has been no further action. The Chairman is to write to WCC.
- 93 Minute 73. Cllr Mrs Gordon had also reported that the ditch beside Fulbrook Lane running from the Dairy out of the village had been cleared and the spoil had been dumped on the roadside verge to a level about 600mm above the road surface. This is dangerous and unacceptable. The landowner had been instructed by WCC to remove the spoil but, to date, his only response had been to use an excavator's bucket to tamp down the mound. Following further contact by the JPC Chairman WCC is taking the matter up with the landowner. There has been some token clearance but the majority of the spoil has been left undisturbed. The Chairman would advise David Cross (WCC) of the situation and request further action.
- 94 Minute 74. Finally, Cllr Mrs Gordon had also drawn attention to Footpath SD138 (from opposite Corner Cottage on Fulbrook Lane, to A46 on Sherbourne Hill) – impossible to walk through as the

steep hillside section has been turned into a mud slope by constant horse-riders. This has been shown to Mr Barnard a couple of years ago, but nothing has been done to enable the path to be used. He now explained that the problem had been created by a nearby dwelling having had its boundaries extended. Attempts to contact the agent had, so far, been rebuffed and the footpath remains almost impassable. Local residents would attempt to walk the route and report back to a future JPC meeting.

95 Minute 84. Cllr Mrs Barlow had made a plea for drop kerbs to be put in on each side of the splay where Sandy Way joins Wasperton Lane and for the drop kerb on the opposite side of Wasperton Lane (leading into the allotments) to be widened. Without these improvements the current arrangement was difficult and dangerous for wheel-chair users and the elderly to cross the road here. The JPC was sympathetic and it had been agreed:

- To bring the matter to the attention of Cllr Caborn in the hope that WCC would do the work.
- In anticipation that there would be no funding available in WCC or other appropriate sources, to get a quote for the works with the intention of funding it from the JPC's reserves.

Cllr Mrs Barlow updated members on progress to date:

- As anticipated WCC has no money for the project.
- WCC had however provided an estimate of £1,862.30 as the cost of the works and would put it out to contract if the money could be provided. (Members thought this a very reasonable price and were encouraged to find a source of funds).
- The first port of call would be the Warwickshire Rural West Community Forum
- Next would be the Barford Community Charity
- If these were all unsuccessful then the JPC would consider allocating the funds from its reserves

A copy of her report is at Annex A to these minutes.

96 Minute 85. Cllr Metcalfe reported that the Forge Cottage footpath was still blocked. The Chairman undertook to report this to WCC once again.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 11 Jul 16**

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

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee**

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

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 18 Jul 16**

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

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 1 Aug 16**

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

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee 15 Aug 16**

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

#### **Cash Book Balances as at 31 Aug 16**

102 The JPC took note of the following cash balances

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| • HSBC (1)  | £112,011.52 |
| • HSBC (2)  | £470.08     |
| • Santander | £51,255.65  |

## Receipts and Payments

103 The JPC endorsed the following:

Date	Payee/er	Category	Total
1 Jul 16	Santander	Bank Interest	20.99
8 Jul 16	Countryside Services	War Memorial Wasperton	(25.00)
10 Jul 16	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(630.69)
10 Jul 16	Fortress	Contra BLIS PV032	150.48
10 Jul 16	Fortress	BLIS	(150.48)
11 Jul 16	Kirkwells	Barford Neighbourhood Plan	(240.00)
11 Jul 16	MFM Services	Mowing Charges	(398.00)
11 Jul 16	Warwick Sports Ltd	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(234.00)
13 Jul 16	Warwick Sports Ltd	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(153.60)
18 Jul 16	Craftmaster	BLIS	(660.00)
18 Jul 16	Screwfix	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(74.97)
18 Jul 16	Screwfix	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(74.97)
19 Jul 16	GWS Petrol	Open Spaces Maintenance	(40.87)
20 Jul 16	Moore & Tibbits	BLIS	(810.00)
20 Jul 16	WCC	Grants: BLIS (Gym Eqpt)	3,000.00
25 Jul 16	Moore & Tibbits	BLIS	(1,848.00)
25 Jul 16	S&D Window Cleaners	Bus Shelters Maintenance	(60.00)
25 Jul 16	Countryside Services	War Memorial Wasperton	(25.00)
25 Jul 16	WALC	Subs: WALC	(506.00)
26 Jul 16	S Pery	BLIS	500.00
31 Jul 16	Administration	Office Accommodation	(59.92)
31 Jul 16	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(806.39)
1 Aug 16	Santander	Bank Interest	21.70
4 Aug 16	WCC	BLIS	(500.00)
7 Aug 16	Smith Construction	BLIS	(246.00)
7 Aug 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(28.28)
7 Aug 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(51.26)
7 Aug 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS	(66.25)
9 Aug 16	M Flanagan	BLIS (SE Eqpt)	(179.98)
9 Aug 16	MAG Consultancy	BLIS (BSC)	(74.76)
10 Aug 16	HMRC	Employment Expenses	(630.69)
12 Aug 16	James Rose	Barford Memorial Hall	(804.00)
15 Aug 16	PC World	Section 137: IT	(39.00)
23 Aug 16	WCC	Contra RV012	(3,000.00)
31 Aug 16	Administration	Office Accommodation	(59.92)
31 Aug 16	Salaries	Employment Expenses	(806.39)

## Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme – Progress Report

104 The Chairman reported:

- Usage remains high and there is much satisfaction with the facility.
- Work on the electrical connection is delayed awaiting clarification of the identity of the title holder of the land over which the easement is required.
- The Barford Sports Club maintenance programme cost has been reduced from £6.5k to £1.5k pa by BSC volunteers forming a rota to undertake the essential weekly brushings and debris clearance.
- It is intended to invest some of the Sports England “equipment funding” in a blower and wheeled vacuum cleaner.
- More benches are to be purchased (all sponsored).
- One extra picnic table unit is to be purchased from BLIS funds.
- The provision of an outdoor gym has been researched. The funding will be £23k from grants and £2k from BLIS funds. Installation will be this autumn.
- Logs in the Wild Play area will be installed when weather permits.

## Toad Cottage Fence

- 105 The JPC endorsed the terms of its agreement with Suzanne Pery (the owner of Toad Cottage) for the installation of the boundary fence which are listed below:
- JPC will clear the overgrowth and scrub up to and including the boundary line.
  - JPC will install a fence to clearly demarcate the King George's Field/Toad Cottage boundary.
  - JPC will enhance its usual "minimalist" fence to provide a fence consisting of - – Concrete god-fathers, timber posts, timber rails and close board - 1.8m high - Plain board side on KGF side, posts and rails Toad Cottage side for security – as detailed in the JPC's letter of 17 Jun 16.
  - Suzanne Pery/Toad Cottage will make a "donation" of £500 to the JPC in recognition of the betterment of the enhanced scheme.
  - After installation, the ownership of and all responsibility for the new fence will be vested in Toad Cottage and any successor owners.
  - JPC will have no further responsibility for maintaining the KGF/Toad Cottage boundary.

### **Barford Rectory Paddock**

- 106 Further to the previous initial JPC consideration the Chairman presented details of the latest Diocesan lease proposal for use of the Barford Rectory Paddock for community amenity purposes including access to Barford St Peter's School and Community Event parking. Proposed rental is £500pa and the JPC will assume maintenance responsibilities. To facilitate school use it is proposed to install two pedestrian gates and a simple path. It is suggested that the JPC should earmark a sum to cover such modifications pending research into other fund sources.
- 107 The JPC:
- Confirmed acceptance of the proposed lease terms
  - Confirmed acceptance of legal costs of £675 for lease preparation
  - Approved an initial rental of £500pa
  - Made a budget provision of £2,000 for modifications
  - Made a budget provision of £500 for annual maintenance

### **WDC – Withdrawal of financial support to JPC**

- 108 As a cost saving measure, WDC proposes to reduce the Concurrent Services Contribution and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Rebate to half in 2016-17 and zero in 2017-18. The resulting loss of income to the JPC is £1,853 in each of those years.
- 109 Cllr Phillips (WDC) said that WDC was the only local authority in the whole of Warwickshire which still provides this support to parishes.
- 110 WDC had put the matter out for consultation but JPC members recognized a lost cause and, reasoning that any protest would fall on deaf ears, authorized the Chairman to respond, lamenting the loss of income but accepting the inevitable.

### **Any Other Business**

- 111 Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP). The referendum for the BNDP takes place on 6 Oct 16. Barford councillors were urged to do all in their power to ensure a large turnout.
- 112 Barford Telephone Box. It is to be replaced in mid-October.
- 113 Barford Village Shop. Cllr Thurley was concerned for the safety of shop staff during the recent robbery there. He was assured that all staff receive the requisite training as part of their induction and this stood them in good stead during this incident in which nobody was harmed.
- 114 Sherbourne Road Name Plates. Cllr Merrygold reported eventual success in his efforts to persuade WCC to provide the correct number and type of road name plates in Sherbourne. Members congratulated him.
- 115 Temporary Closure Watery Lane, Sherbourne 26 Sep 16. Members noted the notification of the closure and expressed concern that Vicarage Lane is probably inadequate to cope with rat-running traffic diverted from Watery Lane, giving rise to concerns for safety.

[Afternote: Mr Aaron Corsi, Streetworks Coordinator, WCC responded to a request from the Clerk and changed the terms of BT's permission to limit the closure to 1000hrs to 1500hrs thus keeping the road open during the normal rat-running hours.]

**Closure**

116 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:40pm

**Date of Next Meeting**

117 The next meeting of the JPC is on Mon 10 Oct 16 at 7:30 pm in Sherbourne Village Hall

**Barford Youth and Community Centre (aka The Scout Hut)**

The current Scout Hut is no longer a viable building as it is leaking, unhygienic, too small, cold, draughty and has no disabled facilities.

It still has to be used, however, by some 70-80 children in uniformed groups, a weekly coffee morning for some 30 elderly/vulnerable/isolated adults, a sewing group and Art Group. It is also used as a social venue for all kinds of activities particularly as the Memorial Hall is very heavily booked.

Village fund raising has been going on for some time and currently stands at the sum of £20,000. The fund raising Group have also a promise of £3000 from 'Barford in Need'. This is an initial sum and does not preclude further grants.

The Barford Scouts and Guides Supporters Group have so far achieved the following:

- Gained Charity Status
- Are progressing along the process of obtaining a 25-year lease from the Diocese on the land
- Have suitable building plans in place
- Held 3 consultation sessions with villagers
- Held conversations with 3 modular building firms (and currently waiting for firm quotes)

The supporters group is a strong committed group within which we have people with specific skills. We have formed sub-groups to focus on the building, local fund raising and Grant application. Our grant application leader is currently applying for a number of awards using information from a village questionnaire.

Our target for the re-build is £250,000 and we feel that this project fits the criteria of young people in rural isolation, needs of the elderly, the vulnerable and disabled.

Barford has wonderful facilities for the fit and well but this group is concerned about the less socialised, less capable, less vocal, less confident folk who quite often do not have a lot of money to get out of the village or indeed attend village events.

We need the Joint Parish Council to be aware of this project and to give their backing to it.

We hope to be able to replace the existing building in the Summer of 2017 – but this will depend on our success at gaining large grants.

We will keep the JPC up to date with developments