

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BARFORD
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON MON 13 APR 15 AT 7.30 PM**

Present:	J V Murphy (Chairman) Thirty-two other electors
In attendance:	Cllr L Caborn (WCC) Cllr A Rhead (WDC)

1 **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 7 Apr 14.** The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2 **Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council Report** by Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman):

2014-2015 has yet again been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, three Annual Parish Meetings one Special Meeting, numerous Working Party meetings and several public “events”.

Difficult financial times continue and all levels of government continue strive to achieve best value and minimize service reductions. Last year we took the brave step of a 33% increase in the parish element of the Council Tax. Of course 33% of a modest amount was a very small real increase - but it has allowed us to do much of what we would wish and importantly has allowed us to produce a balanced budget this year whilst avoiding any further increase on your parish element of the Council Tax charges.

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1140 towards general maintenance each and the JPC also gave grant support of £432 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards. In a new initiative the JPC also determined to financially support the Barford Scout Hut with a £570 grant in recognition of the excellent role it plays in accommodating our community well beyond its initial “uniformed groups” remit.

This has been a really, really busy year for the **Playing Fields Working Party**. A full and very professional business plan has been produced and is being used to apply for funding from many major bodies with some considerable success. We held an Open Day consultation in March, further consultation at the School Fete and later in the Memorial Hall and presented final options at Barford Village Show on August Bank Holiday. This was then followed by a “Play Drop-In” over the weekend of 6/7th December when we presented our “preferred provider’s” proposed scheme. This was greeted with near universal delight and the ever-present question of “when”. The question remains, but as funding proceeds it all gets clearer. Currently the scheme is seen in three parts and we really need to see a way of funding all three parts before we can trigger any start, but the ultimate answer must be “perhaps” in 2015 but hopefully certainly all completed before the end of 2016.

The **New Local Plan** has continued to be a major theme over the year - and after a bumpy ride over housing numbers (12900) and G&T sites the Draft Local Plan was finally adopted by WDC in January and is currently awaiting Examination In Public.

After two years of hard work and consultation the **Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan** group published the Draft Plan and this was circulated to every household and other interested parties in “Consultation Summary” format with the full version available on-line or directly to those that wished it. Minor amendments did come forward and the final “Draft Plan” has now been submitted to WDC for conformity checking and further consultation prior to going to “examination” and hopefully coming back for a Referendum, to finally become “planning law”. All a very long and difficult process but thanks to the hard work of many we will end up with a useful document to control and direct any development in the parish in the future.

And, just in case that was not enough of plans - we have had to consider the tail-end stages of county wide waste proposals - and we have the return of the **County Minerals Plan** to look forward to. The former has minimal implications for us but of course the latter effectively surrounds and divides our parishes so we will be taking a very keen interest.

Affordable Housing – We continued to liaise with WRCC but as the developer pressure has

become so great it would seem we will now get more Affordable Housing than is required for our parishes' immediate needs and that the extra units will be occupied by those in need across the WDC area. We are hopeful that WDC will ensure that they remain preferentially available to those with local connections in perpetuity.

The revised proposals for 58 homes on **land around Barford House** remained high profile and having been refused, on similar grounds to the original but additionally on failing to meet the mix indicated by our HNS, went to a four day Appeal at the end of September. It was further complicated by duplicate and simultaneous applications to demolish parts of the front wall on safety grounds, one of which demolition applications went to appeal at the same time. Both Appeals were dismissed and the landowner has been required to reinstate the wall. Safety fencing was erected around the wall in question, completely obstructing the pavement on the east side of Wellesbourne Road and has only recently been removed and a resolution to restore the wall put in place by WDC.

A revised proposal for 60 houses on the site of the now closed **Sherbourne Nurseries** was also the subject of a further Planning Application by Taylor Wimpey with access via demolition of the Police House. This site which had been agreed acceptable in negotiations on the WDC New Local Plan and within the development of the Draft BNDP - has now been granted permission and preliminary works are currently underway.

An application to build 32 homes on land between Wilkins Close and the river came and went - but is expected to return in the very near future, apparently with strong officer support for approval – watch this space.

The 40mph limit on Watery Lane, Sherbourne, remains controversial and the WCC has been asked to review the situation.

Having secured funding support from both Barford Community Charity and Warwick Rural West Community Forum we have taken advantage of the WDC lighting improvement scheme and replaced many of the ageing lights in both Barford and Sherbourne along with installing some much needed additional ones in Sherbourne.

We were able to agree to add an extra name to Barford War Memorial this year – Harry Conlon, who had spent time in Barford and had somehow been overlooked on previous occasions. The name will be engraved and painted as soon as weather is suitable.

Councillors have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. Over the year we have seen some changes in Barford Councillors. Early in the year Scott Coop resigned due to work conflicting with meeting times and recently Ian Boak resigned due to work pressures. In the mid-year Richard Shotton-Oza left us due to family pressures. Meanwhile Harry Gadsden, who cut his teeth on the Playing Fields Working Party where he has done sterling work on our funding applications, joined us as a full JPC member in July. Meanwhile the bulk of the work has had to fall on the stalwarts able to make meetings and dedicate considerable amounts of extra time to pursue our various activities and other commitments. Many thanks to all for their input.

This is of course an election year and in May we all step down as parish councilors. Some, hopefully many, will stand again to serve our community. There is however a need for more members to get us up to full strength and there is of course the benefit of new blood. The job is relatively easy but it does require interest and commitment. It is definitely not just a case of turning up for a monthly meeting – there is plenty to do between meetings. Obviously plenty of background to assimilate and then we need to keep up to date with current and emerging legislation – we cannot afford to be out of date or act illegally. But if you have the interest and commitment and can dedicate some time, do come and join us – it is actually very rewarding.

Councillor attendance records:

2014-15	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W BARLOW	10	8	80%
Cllr R CLAY	10	10	100%
Cllr Mrs J L LONGFIELD	10	9	90%
Cllr P A P MORRIS	10	6	60%

Cllr J V MURPHY	10	9	90%
Cllr A RHEAD	7	3	43%
Cllr H GADSDEN	6	6	100%
Cllr Mrs A GORDON	10	10	100%
Cllr Mrs NEWSOME	10	9	90%
Cllr M J METCALFE	10	7	70%
Cllr N F J THURLEY	10	10	100%
Cllr J T WRIGHT	10	10	100%
Cllr J M HAWKESFORD	10	8	80%
Cllr T MERRYGOLD	10	8	80%

3

Warwickshire County Council Report by Cllr L Caborn:

Budbrooke Division: Parishes of Barford, Bishops Tachbrook ,Hampton Magna, Hampton on the Hill Norton Lindsey.Sherbourne, Wasperton

Budget ---- Following on from last year's 4 year financial plan, WCC set a budget at 1.9% increase.headlines within the budget put an additional £2million into safer environments around schools to be spent over the next 2 years and I will be part of the team dealing with it.This is in addition to our dangerous school routes funding and will work together. All schools will be assessed and works done in partnership with schools.

We also put £4million to changing to LED street lighting to. increase savings over the £600k we have saved by turning off lights. There does not appear to be any change in crime through this measure.

The formerly money allocated by area to Districts has been divided between Councillors for highway safety works. This gives me £32k to spend on capital funding. However this is top sliced to deal with particular safety concerns in Warwick District area including Watery Lane. The balance of £26k is for my discretionary use but I have schemes and bids from residents and parishes amounting to £97k before I allocate for rural gullies additional cleaning out to help recent road flooding.

In addition I have put £4k into the Warwick West community forum grants fund.

We have won the contract for supplying Audit services to Worcestershire County Council as part of our work to obtain outside contracts on a commercial basis.

WCC continues to increase its participation and influence in the working of the Local Enterprise Partnership to gain economic growth and funding for Warwickshire. We do not support the moves to build a large economic area based on Birmingham as our growth area based on data and facts covers from Leicester to Banbury/Oxford. We are looking at working with our Shire Neighbours as we already do with Coventry in the joint LEP.

Highways are going out to tender on a contractor for our highways work as Balfour Beatty do not wish to exercise their option to extend the existing contract

I thought I would use this opportunity to run through some of the areas I cover in my role as cabinet member for Community Safety:

- Fire and Rescue continues to spend around 60% of its time effecting rescue. This means the reorganisation going on is vital to ensure full cover to our residents and to maintain full training for our firefighters. Projects being carried out to achieve this are a new hot fire trading facility, refurbishment of HQ, Introduction of day crew plus at Alcester and Stratford .new fire delivery unit at Gaydon, all within this year.
- Trading Standards--- very successful with national recognition for fake cosmetics being imported via Coventry Airport , Wellesbourne Market goods, Holiday time share scams and prosecutions in Warwickshire for faulty garage work and unsafe used cars.

- Flooding. As WCC is now the Statutory Flood Authority(SFA) we are working with communities to help them prevent flooding by local intervention .We also are the statutory consultee with the planning authorities .We have also secured approx £6m for flood schemes from EA?
- Priority Families unit are nationally top of the results tables meaning Warwickshire has been awarded a further 4years funding to expand the service. In the past 4years we are credited with turning around 1000thousand families with major problems with crime, school attendance and unemployment. Alongside this the Youth Justice Service we provide continues to have one of the best rates of stopping reoffending nationally.
- Drugs and Alcohol teams work with people with all alcohol related problems and drug usage as well as working with Trading Standards on prosecuting retailers who break the law. 6---Road Safety operates speed cameras on WCC controlled roads working with the Police .We also carry out road safety in schools and do driver training for private companies alongside our Speed awareness work with drivers.we support villages in their own speed recording work.

Unfortunately road accidents have increased over the last year in line with national trends, including motor cyclists so we are relaunching our be aware campaigns.

Following the Boundary commissions review of WCC for the 2017 elections this division will have added to it Hatton and Shrewley as it has been declared as overrepresented on numbers of residents per councillor.

Finally I have arranged a one to one meeting with the new Chief Constable and will be expressing to him my concerns on the above and particular rural issues about policing , speeding etc.

Thank you chairman and councillors with your clerk for your help and support this year.

4

Warwick District Council Report by Cllr A Rhead:

- First I would like to place on record that it is an honour and a privilege to represent you as one of your two District Councillors; I am standing again in the forthcoming elections;
- Over the last year I have been chair of the Planning Committee and also lead the impetus on procurement so as to bring about better value for money and better management of all contracts; I am also on the Finance & Audit Committee scrutinising all projected expenditure.
- The Council has, for the fourth year running, frozen the Council Tax and has continued to provide a surplus against last year's budget;
- The District Council has further cost savings to make for future years but as a result of 'Fit-For-The-Future' and other long term plans, cost savings to date have not resulted in any loss of services provision;
- The Council has been successful in encouraging new businesses to relocate to Warwick District. Since 2010 young people seeking job seekers allowance has been reduced by 70%; the District is particularly pleased to have encouraged TATA Engineering to relocate their UK headquarters here to Leamington Spa, creating 200 new jobs; also an Office Furniture Manufacturer is re-locating from London to the old Ford Foundry Site bringing still more jobs to our District.
- The emerging Local Plan continues to be the single most important item taking up a lot of the Council's time and energy. Clare Sawdon and I are continuing to monitor this plan. While I am a keen advocate of more housing, particularly for the younger members of our society who need affordable housing I have voted against the emerging Local Plan as it exists. I have

done so for 7 main reasons:-

1. When we last debated it in Council last February there was serious doubt about the validity of the 5-year land supply;
 2. There was then, and still is, serious uncertainty about the sites for Gypsies and Travellers;
 3. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan was, and still is, far from settled;
 4. There was, and still is, a potential for having to accommodate the housing needs from neighbouring Councils, none of which has been adequately catered for in the Plan as submitted;
 5. I have concerns about a lack of proper account having been taken of our local population's views;
 6. There was not an alternative plan if the Gateway Commercial Park development proposal was refused by Central Government. That is now the case and we still are unsure about the consequences of this decision;
 7. Finally the Plan ignored the latest ONS population growth estimates which predicts lower population growth than the earlier forecasts and against which the Plan was formulated.
- On the Infrastructure Delivery Plan I cannot subscribe to a Plan which will create a situation where additional roads, schools, hospitals, GP surgeries all have to wait until the new housing is not only built but occupied in significant proportions, all of which will only add to the congestion and air pollution already too high at this time. If I am re-elected in May I will continue to lobby for a better solution to our District's needs.
 - I have supported applications from Village organisations for funds from either the Forum or Rural Initiative Grants. It is important that community organisations remain aware of these funds which are available for worthwhile community projects.

5 **New Local Plan and Gypsy & Traveller update** Report by Cllr J Murphy

The Plan is in its final phases of being approved but the location of the G&T sites remains unresolved. The Stratford Road solution is a non-starter and the alternative in Harbury Lane is by no means certain. The good news is however that if it too is unacceptable the search will not return to the original Barford sites; instead green belt sites will be examined.

6 **Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan** Report by Mr G Harrison-Hall

Last year I told you about the Plan and the framework within which it is produced.

We have made progress.

At last year's Parish Meeting we were waiting for the District Council to make Designate our area as one for a Neighbourhood Plan. The decision to designate the area was finally made in August 2014.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was published last October. A copy of the draft was seen by the Inspector who heard the Sharba appeal.

Many of you responded to the Draft Plan. Thank you. As a result of comments received, we amended the Plan. The amended Plan has now been submitted to the District Council who have published it for wider consultation. This is the last week of that consultation process. Please look at the Plan and let us know of any representations. The current plan has a similar format, but last October's was entitled "Draft" plan, and the current one is "Submission Version".

After this consultation, the next stage will probably be the appointment of an examiner. The examiner checks the plan against policies and emerging policies. Assuming we get over that hurdle, there will then be a referendum in which you are all encouraged to vote. I should like to be sure that the Plan is approved by the majority of the village, not just the majority who choose to vote.

7 **Barford Allotments (PCC) Report by Mrs W Barlow**

Contrary to rumours, all the St. Peter's Church allotments are tenanted, well cultivated and used for their intended horticultural purpose. As usual we have a waiting list. During the year the allotment holders gave good support to the Fruit and Vegetable Show, and the short Harvest festival service held on site in the autumn. There is real sense of community in this area of the village. Rents – are collected annually and have been paid in full for many years. A 'standard' plot costs £28 per year, with an increase likely in September.

8 **Barford Allotments (JPC) Report by Mr R Clay**

- All plots taken
- One on the waiting list
- All rents paid

9 **Barford Community Charity Report by Mrs M Pierson**

The Barford Community Charity exists to support village projects. It is a registered charity It is always keen to receive applications from projects within the three villages of Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne.

Currently there are 6 Trustees.

John Barrott (chair)
John Murphy
Mary Peirson (treasurer)
Liz Harrison Hall
Alison Gadsen
Alan Rhead.

During the year two Trustees retired – Pam Harrison and Richard Shotton-Oza. We thank them for their hard work. If anyone else is interested in serving as a Trustee, please get in touch.

Recently, we have supported the following projects:

- Lighting in Sherbourne
- Chairs for the Barford Church
- An initial commitment of £30k towards the Barford Playing Fields Project.

We are also working with the Playing Fields project so that donors can make their donation to us, designated for the project. We are in apposition to reclaim the gift aid, thus increasing the value of the donation by 25%.

We are also proactively investigating measures to improve river safety and awareness of river issues.

The charity currently holds uncommitted funds of £30k, having received £20k during the year from the Shop, for which many thanks.

10 **Barford Relief in Need Charity Report by Mr T Offiller**

The Charity is known as a 'relief in need' charity and is regulated by the Charities Commission. Its income is derived from cautious investments and, to a much smaller extent, the rental income on some land in the south of the County. In total it amounted to a little under eleven and a half thousand pound in 2014.

Unlike when it was established in the early 20th century, before the advent of a welfare state, the

Charity has for many years struggled to attract applicants and spend its annual income. Since re-composition of the trustee body in 2005 there has been a strong emphasis on publicising the help available from the Charity and, with Charity Commission support and advice, widening of the Charity's scope. The trustees aim has been to use all income if possible to help needy residents who meet the Charity's terms of reference and avoid the large under-spending in years prior to 2005

Numbers of residents being helped has increased and in 2014 we did spend our full year's income.

The Charity's terms of reference are the relief of poverty, sickness, old age and the advancement of education and in 2014 the trustees used these powers to help in the following areas:

- fees for a saddle and bridle making course
- expenses for three young athletes
- purchase of new glasses
- driving lessons to improve employability
- provide outside table and bench for residents of elderly peoples
- flats to use and meet at.
- debt clearance.
- taxi fares to hospital
- stair-lift maintenance
- lap top computer for MSc course.
- winter heating costs

A modest grant is also given to a number of residents each year to help with Christmas celebrations.

The trustees of the Charity, who are appointed for a term of 4 or 5 years, are Gerard Veness, its Chairman, Rev David Jessett, Philippa Mitchell, Rob Mulgrue, Lorraine Sayers, Philip Swallow and Philippa Wilson. I and my wife Barbara act as Joint Clerks to the trustees.

11 **Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme** Report by M Griffin

Mr Griffin delivered a PowerPoint presentation detailing the remarkable achievements of the project, which enjoyed considerable support from the community, and charting the way forward to a successful conclusion.

12 **Barford Residents' Association** Report by Mr R Scott

The aim of BRA, stated in its Constitution, is to conserve the village of Barford and its environment and the rural character of the area and to represent the interests of the Residents in these and related matters.

BRA has been active this year and I hope reasonably productive.

- We organised a petition to oppose the Gipsy & Traveller Site proposals.
- We objected to the size and housing mix of the Taylor Wimpey development – not much of a win there but there are 5 bungalows in the housing list which we are told is a much larger % than normal in this type of development.
- Sharba –we represented the village views at the 2nd Appeal at which the decision to refuse the proposed development was upheld and an order to repair the Wellesbourne Road wall was made.
- Barford Residents Association web-site – obtained, transformed and used for the BNDP.
- Land behind Wilkins Close – this application was withdrawn – but we believe it will re-appear we have been active in the background to oppose this.

You will undoubtedly be aware that the BRA AGM will follow this meeting and we are hoping to break last year's record of 14 minutes for the quickest AGM. I feel confident many of you will stay on for a short time to hear more about BRA.

13 **Barford St Peter's Primary School** Report by Mrs S Ransome:

The school continues to develop and flourish. It now has 138 pupils who are taught in five classes of which four are mixed ages. A new classroom has been built and was officially opened by Bishop Christopher July 2014. The Pre-School has 32 places and continues to be very popular.

Every year the school is oversubscribed for the Reception year. With this in mind, it is to increase the PAN (Pupil Attendance Number) from 20 – 30 in Reception from September 2015. The plan, in principal, is for Barford St Peter's to eventually become single form entry.

- For the past 2 years the school has received an extra grant for PE. This has allowed it to pay for extra coaching in netball, tennis, tag rugby amongst other sports. The school aims to ensure every child leaves Year 6 able to swim at least 25 metres.
- From September 2014 all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils have been receiving a free hot school meal.
- School had an Ofsted inspection in November 2014. The inspector spent two days in the school, observing lessons, talking to children, staff, governors; everyone and every process was included. The excellent report can be found on the school website (the latter launched a new site September 2014) which gave the School a grading of 'Good with Outstanding features'.
- Another inspection then took place in March 2015. This was SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Churches). The grading this time was Outstanding for which all are to be congratulated. The children are given a broad education in terms of other faiths; this included a recent visit to the Sikh Temple.

14 **Barford First Responders Group** Report by Mr G Williamson

The local Community First Responders unit exists to assist West Midlands Ambulance Service in Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton.

First Responder undergo training from the Ambulance Service so that you have the knowledge needed to respond to an emergency situation. This training – which takes about 15 hours – enables you to assess the situation safely and decide on the correct course of action. It covers the use of the defibrillator and the pulse oxi-meter, Oxygen and oxygen masks, blood pressure monitor, bandages, and other equipment contained in our kit.

First Responders are a back-up to the ambulance service who may be able to attend an emergency before an ambulance or paramedic arrives.

It is a well-known fact that in the event of a cardiac arrest the first few minutes after the initial attack are crucial as within eight minutes brain cells which cannot be renewed start to die if there is a lack of oxygen. The CFRs can also gather important information to assist the ambulance staff when they arrive and calm the patient by confirming further help is on its way.

The system works in the following way:

When the ambulance service receives a 999 call their first action is to despatch an ambulance or paramedic. If the situation warrants immediate response – or the ambulance service cannot readily attend, then a call may be made to a local First Responder if one is 'on call'. If one is available (and willing and able to respond) then details are given and the Responder puts their kit in their car and attends the incident.

Barford First Responders have 2 sets of kit and to go 'on call' one of the Responders (with one of the sets of kit) phones the ambulance station and 'logs on'. If there is a potential problem – eg 'breathing difficulties' you may get a text message to alert you. If this develops then a phone call may follow.

At the end of the time when you are available – you ring in again and 'log-off'. The kit is passed around during the week so that different people can share the 'on call' rota as convenient. Our problem is that we have only a few trained Responders and cannot give as much coverage as we would wish. Recruits are always welcome for this satisfying and worthwhile contribution to village life.

If you would like to help or require further information please contact our local coordinator Gordon Williamson on 01926624917 or e-mail weeg5@sky.com

15 **Barford Heritage Group Report by Mrs W Barlow**

Our contributions to the "Green and Pleasant Land" exhibition at Leamington's Museum and Art Gallery met with high praise from the Senior Curator who would like to work with us again one day.

A major focus of the year's activities was the setting up of a new Heritage Website under Kirsty's expert leadership. After much research, the Heritage Group decided to appoint 'Community Sites' as our web designers. This was made possible by £3000 worth of funding from the Community Forum to top up our financial contribution. Community Sites undertook the training of six editors who theoretically should be able to upload, edit and publish 'posts'. Anyone with access to a computer will be able to contribute to what will become an organically evolving resource for the village. Over the years, we aim to upload our huge archive of photos, reminiscences, documents etc. Do check it out at: <www.barfordheritage.org>

In June it was with great sadness that we suffered the loss of our dear friend and founder member Brenda Barber. She was a lovely lady with incredible creative energy and skills that she was always willing generously to share. Her inspiration will remain with all who knew her and she will never be forgotten.

Throughout the year marking the centenary of the start of WWI, members undertook in-depth research in preparation for a major exhibition on Remembrance Sunday. It soon became clear that considerable tenacity was called for in finding out about those young men who had served 100 years ago and in trying to get a feel for life on the Home Front. Most of the war records were destroyed by fire in the bombing and of course there is no-one still alive to interview. Any reminiscences were from people who were only children at the time. We are incredibly grateful to all those who shared information and lent us artefacts. Highlights which spring to mind were the POW cap hiding a rock-hard chunk of black bread lent by Deryk Powers, the early 1900s map of Barford locating the homes of people in the 1911 census, the fearsome, weighty WWI rifle and bayonet, the drum which probably formed part of Barford's Fife and Drum band before being carried into battle and the memorable 'River of Blood' which referenced the installation at the Tower of London and was created from hundreds of poppies made by the sewing ladies of Barford. Members of the Heritage and Drama Groups had recorded readings of reminiscences interspersed with poems by some of our best known war poets. These were played together with music from 'The Armed Man: a mass for peace' by Karl Jenkins. Over the 5 hours of the exhibition we had over 160 visitors who were unanimous in their appreciation. A collection was made for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal and there was very good press coverage of the event. Part of the exhibition featuring 'The Fallen' was transferred to the church until Christmas.

Future plans

Expansion of our new website and the cataloguing of our archival material will of course be on-going. We also hope to continue collecting reminiscences from a variety of age groups. People now in their 40s are being sought out and encouraged to record their experiences about life in Barford.

2015 will be the year of the book! Provisionally entitled 'Barford Remembers' it will now include both World Wars as they impinged on the village. We plan to launch the publication on Remembrance Sunday.

New members with an active interest in Barford's history are always very welcome.

16 **Barford Scouts & Guides Report by Mr R Scott**

The individual groups are well supported with Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and a Scout Troop operating from the Scout Hut. A guide company would be an advantage – so if there is anyone here with a desire to help the youth of Barford and a couple of hours a week to spare – talk to me or the Leaders afterwards.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the present Scout Hut and we are marking the occasion with a short service at the Hut at 12.15 on Sunday 26th April. This will be followed by something for the youth members to do while adults look at some photographs and memorabilia from the last 25 years.

We are also providing some refreshments (tea or coffee) and sustenance (a BBQ) for all those present.

The Supporters Group are planning to replace the hut in the near future with one more suited to the needs of the groups and the village. Improved facilities both for the disabled and for adults, a better kitchen, more insulation an improved heating system and more storage (oh and a roof that does not have asbestos or leaks).

We have been motivated by the prospect of a £250,000 grant – we applied but failed - and by a recent visit to Shipston Scout hut. There are grants available for this project, the youth groups deserve a better venue and the village could use an additional community building.

I hope that next year I will be able to report the opening of the new Scout Hut!

17 **Barford Shop Report by Mr W Worrall**

The Shop continues to go from strength to strength. Again we were able to make a sizeable donation to Barford Community Charity.

The volunteer roll reflects a wide cross section of the community, whilst our manager, Ms. Corenna Jennings, continues to achieve the impossible by keeping over 70 disparate souls in some sort of order, our customers happy, fully stocked shelves and making a profit in these difficult retail times.

Shareholder numbers have recently been boosted by a 'sales campaign' and now stand at 556.

18 **Post Office Report by Mr R Scott**

Barford Post Office now has 6 staff on the payroll. This enables us to cover holidays and illness much more flexibly. It has also meant that our support for Charities (from the Post Office Salary) has increased and our contributions are presently worth about £4,500 per year.

My thanks are due to the team who have worked hard on the training needed to operate the system – and finding the patience to deal with some of the customers.

19 **Barford School Trust Report by Mr W Worrall**

Barford St Peter's School Trust is a charity established under the Charity Commissioners Scheme No 528671 on 22nd July 1997 and combines two former charities, the Dugard and Mills Endowment created in 1667 and Barford School Trust created in 1836.

The charity owns land and buildings, namely The Old School and The Old School House, for the purpose of furthering education for the children of the parish.

There are 7 trustees, 6 are appointed on a rolling term of five years.

The Trustees are namely:

- Rev David Jessett as incumbent is Ex-officio
- William Worrall - Chairman
- Helen Clay – Secretary
- Jonathan Partridge – Treasurer
- Ian McBeath
- Robert Jordan
- Jenefer Heap

When vacancies occur they are advertised through Plurality and the village notice boards.

The trustees meet twice a year on a regular basis with special meeting as and when required.

The trusts income is derived from the rental of the two properties mentioned above and from capital investments in stock market based funds and fixed rate deposits.

During the last financial year up to 31 Dec 14 a total of £11793.00 was given to school (part share of the boiler house refurbishment and enhancement of school recreational area), £7354.00 was spent on maintenance of The Old School House (new French doors, veranda canopy and new cooker in the kitchen) with smaller sums on property insurance and trustee indemnity insurance.

The trustees have, after discussions with the Head Teacher, agreed to make a donation to the enhancement of The Playing Field.

In addition a new canopy to the outside resources area at school has been entirely funded by the trustees. The boiler and central heating system at The Old School House has recently required expenditure in excess of 4 figures, the garden wall between The Old School House and school playground was unsafe and required sympathetic restoration and upgrading of the yard area

outside the back door agreed. Exterior painting is planned for later in the summer.

20 **Neighbourhood Watch Report by Mr G Veness**

Having been employed by Warwickshire Police as a PCSO, I have taken an interest in the NHW scheme and now volunteer to support the work of PCSO Paul Coleman from Warwickshire Police Rural West Team to promote the NHW scheme in Barford.

Unfortunately the NHW scheme in Barford has struggled to maintain 100% coverage of the village. We now require an additional five co-ordinators to increase membership. Although we currently enjoy a low crime rate in Barford, the Police recorded that generally crime in our area comprises breaking into vehicles and outbuildings and some burglary. It is important not to be complacent and rest on our laurels. Crime may increase in the future and we need to be a purposeful united NHW village.

The success of a NHW scheme is a cohesive approach where villagers look after each other by reporting to the Police suspicious incidents; keeping an eye on your neighbour's home when they are away and perhaps parking a car on their drive and having a key to remove post from inside the front door, especially if the door has a glass panel.

It is the intention this Summer for a further campaign to take place to increase the number of co-ordinators and member participants in the scheme from the current 263 homes. The last recruitment campaign was in June 2014 and an additional 50 new members joined. Paul Coleman will be giving me some dates when the campaign will take place.

The Police intend to have a stall at the Barford St Peters School Fete this year when the NHW scheme will be featured, as well as a new property marking kit. This system marks property items with a postcode and then a special varnish ensures the marking cannot be removed.

The effectiveness of the scheme relies on the vigilance of residents and participation by way of new co-ordinators and members.

21 **Appointment of Chairman for 2015-16.** Mr J V Murphy was elected unopposed.

22 **Any Other Business**

22.1 Traffic. Concerns were expressed about the volume of traffic on Church Street and High Street.

22.2 Broadband. There was eager anticipation for the introduction of faster broadband in the village.

22.3 Community Website. It was suggested that the time was ripe to review the community website with aim of improving and modernizing it.

22.4 Car Parking. A small but persistent number of people insisted upon parking cars on footpaths, a habit which increased the danger to pedestrians.

23 **Closure.** There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.