

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BARFORD
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON MON 10 APR 17 AT 7.30 PM**

Present:	J V Murphy (Chairman) Twenty-two other electors
In attendance:	Cllr L Caborn (WCC)

1 **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 11 Apr 16.** 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):

2016-2017 has been an incredibly busy year! – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, three Annual Parish Meetings several Special Meetings, numerous Working Party meetings and several public “events”. The King George’s Field improvement scheme came to fruition and perhaps demanded just a little less JPC attention however other things surfaced to make great demands on our time and attention.

Difficult financial times continued and the correction we made a couple of years ago, coupled with increasing revenue from the number of new houses in Barford has continued to allow us to produce a balanced budget this year, once again avoiding any increase on your parish element of the Council Tax charges. All this despite a progressive reduction, to zero over three years, of the Concurrent Services support grant and the loss of Council Tax Reduction Rebates. These effects will continue for some time – effectively until we stop adding new houses, so our finances should at least remain secure although increased resident numbers may well lead to an increased demand for services...

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1176 towards general maintenance each and the JPC also gave grant support of £445 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards. The JPC also awarded £588 to support Barford Scout Hut funds in recognition of its important role providing essential community facilities, in addition to its more conventional role with the uniformed groups.

The King George’s Field scheme, whilst still not finished due to technical and legal issues, was largely complete in time for over 800 people to attend our Celebration Day on Sunday May 1st and then many more came to the royal opening with HRH The Duke of Kent on Wednesday May 4th. All this generated much publicity and visitors came from far and near to try our new facilities. We became a victim of our own success and parking became an issue and managing the amount of rubbish deposited in our litter bins became a challenge too. Working with neighbours and the WCC Highways we came up with plans to encourage more considerate parking and they have largely been successful, especially as the “honeymoon period” began to fade.

Prior to opening we were having problems and extra drainage installation was urgently needed if we were to lay the safety surface in time for the opening. The extra bill was large and our funding was getting stretched so we had to beg for extra funding and thankfully Barford Community Charity was able to help and provided an extra £10,000 towards the additional funding needed.

Once opened, it became apparent that “dog fouling” was a bit of a problem and an informal scheme of marking with neon-pink was embarked upon to warn people of the risk but most importantly to enable us to quantify the problem. Thankfully after the first few weeks the problem seemed to reduce and is now at relatively low levels, although Barford Sports Club and the JPC is still vigilant in watching - and identified offenders will be challenged and if appropriate reported on to the Dog Wardens for further action.

Extra funding was raised from National Grid and from Warwick Rural West Community Forum and this enabled us to instruct Outdoor Gym equipment in the autumn. Donors also came forward and kindly funded extra benches and seats completing provision around the field.

In October, we were finally able to take on a lease for the Rectory Paddock. This will be used as an occasional car park for school/church/KGF/village events and will also provide a secure pathway from the school to KGF for school-day BUFC use.

Maintenance of the whole site is now a mixture of contractors and voluntary efforts and this combination saves several thousand pounds worth of parish Council Tax every year and also

ensures that we take a very close interest in the condition of our field – a win-win situation, we think.

The WDC **New Local Plan** was found to be unsound at its examination in public last year and after some debate was “suspended until May 2016” whilst housing numbers were reviewed with particular reference to Coventry overspill and windfall sites accounting. This necessitated a further review of available sites and in the latest proposals Barford was expected to take a further 75 houses – split over two sites (off Wasperton Lane <H47> and inside the Barford Bypass <H48>) in addition to those previously proposed or granted permissions through the planning system. When the examination was resumed an aggressive proposal from Gladmans, on behalf of St John’s College, suggested increasing H47 up to a total of 135 houses. Thankfully the JPC submission on the revised Draft Plan almost predicted the Inspector’s recommendations – remove H47 (hopefully finishing any chance of the Gladman proposal), fewer houses south of Warwick and Leamington, more within Greenbelt areas and nearer to Coventry. H48 remained in the plan and has now become a live planning application. The consultation on the Inspector’s modifications will run until May 5th and then the Inspector, after considering any comments, will finalise his recommendations which should then come back to WDC for adoption.

Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan - after largely favourable findings by the Inspector and very modest changes the BNDP was taken to Referendum on October 6th 2016 and was approved by 97% of those who voted on a 45.2% turnover. The plan was then promptly “made” by WDC and is now a part of planning law, HOWEVER, its powers are limited until we have the New Local Plan finalized and a 5-year land supply in place, but it still carries a small amount of weight.

County Minerals Plan - Wasperton Hill Farm and Glebe Farm sites 4 and 5 continue to be included in the WCC Pre-Submission Draft Mineral Plan and after a further round of consultation over the Dec-Jan period we wait to see what finally goes to new WCC after the May 2017 elections. If WCC adopts that plan then it will go to a Public Inquiry and there may be further chance to challenge the proposals. Any challenge at that stage is likely to be much more demanding and expensive and hence the recent launch of a Sand & Gravel Action Group to raise funds and lead the battle.

Barford Village Green has had a make-over recently with the installation of a bonded rubber mulch surface around and under the play equipment and bordering much of the pathway near the Barford Village Shop. This will make the area much cleaner to use and improves the appearance greatly. The project was funded by Barford Village Shop and WDC Rural/Urban Fund.

Land around Barford House - a scheme submitted for eight houses on the southern portion was approved last year and has since been sold on to Kendricks who have applied for some variations and started work. There has been considerable concern as all trees on the front of the site have been removed despite some being retained in the original plans – WDC have not taken enforcement action as the trees have been deemed of “poor” quality and others will be planted within the scheme. The entire frontage wall was removed, contrary to permissions – part was to be retained on heritage grounds and the rest set back for visibility. WDC are enforcing reinstatement of the wall.

There has been great progress on repairs to the walls fronting Wellesbourne Road, slowly but surely the brickwork has been replaced, though to Inson’s Yard. We look forward to the cappings being replaced in the near future.

The **Sherbourne Nurseries** site, Nursery Meadow, built by Taylor Wimpey is now largely complete and many new folk, and some we already know, are settling in well. Some have already erected PD extensions and conservatories and one has a current planning application for a significant extension. At last the Heritage Group telephone box has re-appeared on Wellesbourne Road after a couple of winters at the back of the site.

The land between **Wilkins Close** and the river is now being built by Spitfire builders with 25 houses of various sizes and tenures. Regrettably bad organization by the developer and lack of appropriate conditions being imposed by WDC meant that the early part of the build caused traffic chaos with workers’ vehicles parked all over the road and delivery lorries queuing over the bridge, often on the wrong side of the road. Thankfully things have improved with some parking now available on site but we will see how it goes as they eventually work-out of the site.

Proposals to build more houses, accessed only via Bremridge Close has added to the already real concerns about traffic and safety at the Bremridge/Wellesbourne Road junction. Issues are made worse by vehicles from or visiting Country Car and those related to Barford Exchange.

Vehicles are frequently parked up to junctions and often on the pavements adding to the chaos. Country Car are already co-operating with us and it is hoped that we can get support from Barford Exchange and WCC to see how the situation might be improved for all.

In addition, as many of the extra houses are going west of Wellesbourne Road there is some pressure to look at a signalized crossing for safety, especially during the peak morning and evening traffic flows.

In February, Sherbourne was inundated with an encampment of **Gypsies and Travellers**, occupying land off Watery lane and adjacent to the Sherbourne Bypass roundabout. Combined actions from WCC, WDC, Police and Highways England eventually encouraged them to “move on” but not before considerable damage had been done on and around the site, in addition to causing considerable alarm to local residents. This encampment and several others in the area have spurred the authorities on to be more prepared for future events and also WDC has proposals in hand to make many of their sites less accessible to such encampments. This may displace the Travellers and make other non-WDC more vulnerable/attractive so views are being taken on how best to protect our vulnerable sites and prevent future issues.

Councillors have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. Vacancies do still exist for Barford councilors and we will be looking to co-opt others as time moves on. Meanwhile, once again, 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. Over the last two years and particularly the last year this effort has been strongly supplemented by many individuals supporting the JPC through Barford Sports Club in both official and volunteer capacities. Many thanks to all for their input.

JVM
05/04/2017

Councillor attendance records 2016-2017:

	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W Barlow	9	9	100%
Cllr R Clay	9	9	100%
Cllr H Gadsden	9	5	56%
Cllr J V Murphy	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs A Gordon	9	9	100%
Cllr T Merrygold	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs R Newsome	9	8	89%
Cllr M J Metcalfe	9	6	67%
Cllr N F J Thurley	9	8	89%
Cllr J T Wright	9	8	89%
Cllr A B Rhead	9	3	33%
Cllr J M Hawkesford	9	6	67%
Cllr Mrs K E Thomson	9	6	67%
Cllr S Morgan	9	4	44%

3 Warwickshire County Council Report by Cllr L Caborn:

Budget

We have faced up to the challenges of reducing budgets by ensuring the county council is efficient as can be and have reduced directors from 10 to 4, and heads of service from 58 to 16 whilst reviewing every post. We share work with and work for other authorities.

Council tax set at 1.99%. +2% ring fenced for social care for 2017-18

We have straightforward objectives:

Building Warwickshire's economy by supporting and attracting business to grow jobs and investing in skills and education.

Looking after those who are vulnerable, by supporting people to be as independent as they can be for as long as possible .

Children's and Adult care and safeguarding

Opened MASH . The multi agency safeguarding hub pulls together police, health, social care and all partners to safeguard and protect all by operating together
Recruiting 40 additional children's social workers to reduce caseloads
Formed Children's Transformation Board to give seamless support to children and families from 0 to18
Built extra care housing for supported living for the vulnerable
Transformed domiciliary care to give more contact time
Formed joint enablement service with SWFT
Received £20 million over 3yrs from government extra funding for older people

Education

Invested extra £1m in home to school routes
89% of schools judged good or outstanding by ofsted
Pupil performance in most areas better than national average
More SEN pupils educated at local schools
School estate being expanded

Infrastructure

Investment fund for infrastructure and town centre regeneration
Additional parkway stations at Ricoh, Nuneaton, Stratford and Kenilworth
Junction 12 improvements at Gaydon
Stanks Island Stoneleigh junctions improvements
Gritting routes maintained and pothole repairs
WCC apprentice hub rated in top 100 in U.K.

Road Safety

I have used my Councillor road safety budget for works in Budbrooke ,Norton Lindsey, Bishops Tachbrook ,Barford.
This will continue for 2017-18.

Health

We have launched our zero tolerance to suicide strategy
Redesigned and retendered our children's mental health services
Instigated white board - our 24/7 mental health help service for over16
Living Well with Dementia has achieved over 13000 dementia friends.
Redesigned our school health and wellbeing service.
Responsible for drugs, alcohol and smoking quitting and support.

Combined Authority

We are still an associate member working with but not part of CA

Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The STP is designed to get all partners in the health system working together , and reduce escalating costs to make health and social care affordable longer term.
So far in Warwickshire a difficult start but progress is being made somewhat slowly.
WCC is a vital partner in this along with our boroughs and districts.

4 **Warwick District Council** Written report by Cllr P Phillips:

I want to report back on three major initiatives within Warwick District over the last year.

The first one is the Local Plan Examination In Public. With the Inspector having previously indicated he would reject the original proposal as being "unsound", WDC made amendments to the original plan, largely to meet the "unmet need" of Coventry. In total more than 4,000 houses were added to the Plan and it through its Examination In Public in Autumn 2016. The Inspector has now advised the Council of some suggested amendments – mostly of deletions of sites within the Green Belt, including deleting H47 land south of Wasperton Lane in Barford. Currently these amendments are out for public consultation until the 5th May and all residents are welcome to put their comment in. Full Council will probably be asked to approve the revised Local Plan in September 2017. I do have some specific comments as it relates to Barford later on.

The second major initiative is the investment of £15 million in upgrading the St Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centres. Both Centres were getting towards the end of their useful life

and this new investment will provide modern leisure centres meeting the needs of the communities for the next 30+ years. They will also be managed by a company called "Everyone Active", who have successfully tendered to run the centres for the next 10 years, and who will be very attuned to meeting the needs of the community to remain healthy and fit. Facilities in Kenilworth will be for review later, probably in 2018.

Thirdly: There have been considerable issues around unauthorised encampments by travellers. Extensive camps over Christmas, the New Year and since then notably at our neighbours in Sherbourne, have led to considerable public disquiet about the mess left behind. We have been working with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, to develop a Countywide approach as to how to handle these sites, but in the meantime as a District Council we have agreed to invest £180,000 into hardening our public spaces to make these areas less prone to these encampments.

In respect of Barford this has been a year dominated by planning matters. Firstly we have had the WCC minerals strategy plan, which I will continue to lobby against. Secondly the plethora of applications for additional housing, both in and not in the Local Plan are understandably causing considerable disquiet and disruption in the village, notably the opportunistic proposal from Gladman for south of Wasperton Lane. I continue to welcome comments and concerns from residents so that I can feed these back into the Council and ensure that your voice is heard. And it is because of these comments and concerns that in combination with your Chairman, John Murphy, we have increased the pressure on ensuring the Council takes action to enforce planning conditions. We are in a better position than in January, but I would prefer to reach the situation where Planning Approval in the first place are picking up issues as change requests come in, meaning that we do not need to get Enforcement involved at all.

Looking to the future, key areas for the year ahead for WDC include:
Conclusion of the Local Plan as outlined above.

The development of a new car park strategy for Warwick and Leamington as Linen Street and Covent Garden Multi-Storey Car Parks reach the end of their useful life.

A new and smaller set of council offices will be built alongside the Covent Garden car park, enabling the current Riverside House (WDC's HQ) to be replaced by additional housing.

And proposals for a new football stadium for Leamington Football Club along with community facilities on the Europa Way/Gallows Hill site.

As always, myself and Alan Rhead are happy to take calls or emails throughout the year, and to meet residents at Parish Council meetings, to discuss any issues or questions that they may have."

5 **Barford Allotments (JPC)** Written report by Mr R Clay

- All plots but one taken
- There is a waiting list
- All rents paid

6 **Barford Allotments (PCC) Report** by Mr P Swallow

Collection of Allotment Usage Charge (often erroneously referred to as Rent) due for the Year ending September 2017 is up to date and this has been carried out most efficiently by Mrs Jane Stamp. The ad hoc committee of the Reverend David Jessett, Mrs Jane Stamp and Philip Swallow decided during the Year to move progressively to 'Usage Charge in Advance' rather than 'in Arrear'; thus where an allotment is taken on by a new holder it will in future be charged 'in advance' for that holder. Usage Charge is now £30 per standard unit. There are 39 plots but 10 are not full size. At this time, all the allotments have been allocated to Holders except one half Plot. No 'waiting list' as such is presently kept. Persons who wish to have an allotment have generally made themselves known to committee members and have been accommodated. The allotments generally look to be in good shape though some are cultivated better than others! The aspiration to construct a new Scout and Guide Hut should not adversely affect the Church Allotments.

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

Barford Community Charity exists to provide financial assistance to projects which develop the villages of

Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton for the benefit of the whole community. This can be for the provision, improvement or maintenance of facilities, or to make provision for groups with a particular need. Since its inception in 2008, the Charity has provided financial support totalling almost £100,000 for the following projects:

- Launch of Barford Community Shop,
- King George's Field,
- Piano for Barford Primary School,
- Flagpole on village green,
- New chairs and disabled ramp for St Peter's Church,
- Street lighting for Sherbourne, Barford
- Football team match kit,
- Village Directory printing

The Charity can also be used as a temporary repository for charitable funds raised in the villages. As a Charity we are usually able to reclaim Gift Aid on these funds.

During 2016/17, the Charity has

- banked and subsequently donated with gift aid money for benches on the playing field, together,
- supported Barford United Football team with £845 towards their initial purchase of kit, and
- banked and subsequently donated with gift aid, the money raised at the Christmas sponsored walk to the Scouts and Guides Group and to the Barford Sports Club

Applications can be made to the Hon. Treasurer, Mary Peirson, marypeirson46@gmail.com or to any of the Trustees: John Barrott, Alison Gadsden, Liz Harrison-Hall, Sue Jessett, John Murphy, Sue Partridge or Alan Rhead.

8 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 over eleven thousand pounds in 2016. Eligibility is confined to Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton residents.

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 publicizing 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 since then and in 2014 we did spend our full year's income. In 2015 we spent 90% of our total income and 75% in 2016. On 11 March this year we readvertised the Charity to every household in Barford and have arranged for a regular notice in Plurality.

The Charity's terms of reference are the relief of poverty, sickness, old age and the advancement of education and in 2015 the trustees used these powers to help in the following areas:

- Contribution to a student's fundraising for a School Trip to South Africa.
- Cost of pupil's outdoor activity school trip.
- Contribution to university student's trip to Tanzania in aid of 'Childreach'
- Payment of half rent while seeking full-time re-employment and grant towards initial costs of taking it up.
- School uniform costs on starting secondary education.
- Conversion of front garden to hard landscape area for elderly couple too frail to continue its maintenance.
- A modest grant is traditionally 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, Anne Braithwaite, Rebecca Fraser, Rev. David Jessett, Philippa Mitchell, Rob Mulgrue and Philip Swallow. I and my wife Barbara act as Joint Clerks to the trustees.

9 Barford Leisure Improvement Scheme Report by M Griffin

The club was formed just over a year ago as a sub group of the JPC to manage use and facilities at King Gorge's Field and to liaise with the community. The Committee has 12 members all of who attend regular meetings since the facility was opened almost 12 months ago.

Members of the committee have still been involved in ensuring that all of the final works have been completed satisfactorily. The last remaining work which is connectivity and use of the store, kitchen and toilets will be finished in coming weeks.

The first year of use of the new facility has been one of settling in for the public. The use of children's play area is extremely popular especially after school times and numbers have well exceeded use of the old facility. It is noticeable that use has continued throughout the winter too.

The monthly monitoring of bookings and use of MUGA and tennis/netball courts have also shown usage being well above original forecasts submitted to funders. Total individual uses are approximately 1,000 per month including school sessions. This is almost twice the initial estimates and not including folk who turn up for casual play. 12,000 uses in a year is an extremely positive total in the first year.

Ten School sessions are pre booked each week and the facilities are made available free of charge for after school sessions. There has been very strong feedback from school with children reportedly enjoying the wider recreational opportunities which they enjoy between lessons. They look forward to getting out into the fresh air!

There are regular groups booking the facilities for tennis, dads football , bowls and netball.

There are 20 ladies playing netball every Thursday with a coach , all started from the Celebration Day. Ladies have played throughout the winter and unfortunately had to use school playground over winter due to lack of lighting. Hopefully this summer will see more newcomers and maybe a few matches too. The ladies have requested consideration of lighting for early evening use in winter as they pursue the "back to Netball " campaign for ladies to play sport again.

There are approx. 35 people playing social bowls mainly through summer and autumn. The weekly session has seen significant interest from a wide section of the community with " a little more time on their hands". The committee were able to support the bowls section with £600 of bowls equipment for community use enabling newcomers to turn up and play. A very popular addition to BSC as the MUGA sees this new group taking up this activity for the first time.

Tennis is played regularly by all ages and abilities. A group of 10 ladies play socially from April and most are beginners. They aim to get support for some coaching this year so that they can improve skills. They were forced to stop over winter due to lack of lighting and have requested BSC to consider provision for early evening use.

In November BSC were approached by a group of village residents who were keen to set up a junior football team. After huge amount of work , meetings and fundraising Barford United Football Club became a reality and in only a few months is a thriving self contained section of BSC. A separate report follows but this group of children , families and coaches really have been an inspiration to see junior football played on the Field and enjoyed by many.

Other ad hoc use includes weekly dads football and fitness sessions for workouts during day and early evenings. BSC secured a £10k grant for sports equipment from Sport England to provide a broad range of equipment for the community. The purchase of this kit ensures that BSC has sufficient range of equipment for many sports to be played by the public. The new cricket bowling machine has seen weekly attendance at winter nets double every week and increase participation from new members. Hopefully the results of Barford Cricket Club will make the same improvement this season.! The aim is to make this kit available for use over the year and the public are invited to help us achieve that.

The return of lighter nights has already seen the number of people visiting the Field increase. Through the winter the Field facilities were pretty much unused after 4pm due to unavailability of lighting. Members of the football teams , netball ladies , and tennis either ceased playing over this winter or trialled temporary facilities elsewhere. Next winter BUFC are planning to raise money to fund the hire of an all weather pitch in Warwick to train early evenings but this will cost approx. £1500 for the winter period for essential training. BSC will continue to monitor the drop in levels of use of the facilities over winter months.

The BSC aims to be self sufficient financially. The club will hold several events each year to encourage community use of the Field and raise money. This June sees Barford Field Festival supported by a grant from Big Lottery. A weekend of activity and evening of music, food and entertainment is planned for June 9 and 10th for all of the community to enjoy. Last year's Celebration Day was the catalyst to start the various club activities mentioned above and we aim to build upon that. We also raised over £450 at the Xmas walk at the Field enabling a donation to be made to the Community Building project.

In November members of the BSC Committee attended a gala awards ceremony at Lords cricket Ground at the invitation of Fields in Trust. King George's Field was named winner of "Best Have a Field Day" in 2016 and came runner up in the award for most Improved Field 2016. This is huge recognition of all the work by the community and Barford really can be proud that it has received from national recognition.

The plan this year is to produce a regular newsletter to go free to all households to promote news about what's going on at the Field. This will be paid from fundraising activities by BSC and miscellaneous sponsorship.

We have now experienced almost a full year of the new look Field. This has meant having to try and keep the Field clean, tidy and well maintained especially with heavy autumn leaf fall. We are extremely grateful to a team of 20 volunteers who have formed a rota to give a few hours of their time each week to keep the Field in good order. This has helped save thousands of pounds in maintenance costs and ensures that the Field is litter and leaf free. We would like to thank all those who do their bit to ensure the Field remains in top order.

The courts are free to use and a specialised booking system allows public to make a booking with confidence. It enables BSC to manage all bookings easily, utilise the database of over 200 users and coordinate facility diary. We are extremely grateful to Barford Village Shop for their sponsorship of this essential resource which means that courts can be booked easily with confidence.

We would like to formally thank all sponsors, funders, sponsors, volunteers, residents in nearby houses and members of the public for helping us have a great first year in the new look King George Field. We regularly receive feedback from the public, often more positive than not, and the BSC are committed to ensuring that the Field is a safe and pleasant environment for all members of the public to enjoy sport, leisure and recreation throughout the year. Anyone is welcome to contact us via the website with their suggestions of how to get involved and continue to look after our popular "park".

The final word of thanks needs to go to Barford Community Charity without whom this project would never have been delivered. The support and commitment to assist us in providing a safe and sustainable facility has been magnificent and is hugely appreciated by all those involved in this project

10 **Barford United Football Club** Report by M Griffin

Barford United Football Club was established in November 2016 thanks to the support of Barford Sports Club and the Parish Council in allowing the use of King George's Field for home matches and providing financial support to enable the purchase of equipment.

BUFC currently runs an U11 team which is made up of a squad of 12 children including 1 girl. 2 further children train with the match-day squad. Three quarters of the children live in Barford, Wellesbourne and surrounding villages.

BUFC is affiliated to the Birmingham County FA and plays in The Mid-Warwickshire league.

Both of the Club's two coaches are FA Level 2 licensed coaches.

With a borrowed kit, the club's first match was played away at Kenilworth Wardens on 4th December which the team won 7 -3.

From very modest beginnings, donations from Patrons and, most importantly, the very generous support of Barford Community Charity enabled the club to purchase it's own kit and attract further significant sponsorship from PlumbSave in Leamington. The club is now self-financing.

As matters stand, the club has cash reserves of around £1,500 and it hopes to use these monies to be self-sufficient in order to grow the club in future. This may be for such things as :

- To contribute to maintenance of Field for items over and above JPC contracted services
- To fund replacement kit
- To help develop coaches and team through training courses
- To help pay for ad hoc club activities and create a reserve fund
- to purchase temporary floodlights to enable it to train in Barford next autumn / winter as opposed to having to pay to use facilities in either Wellesbourne or Warwick. The club have already booked winter pitches under lights in Warwick for winter 17 at a cost of approx. £1200 which will all but use the total reserves per year

On the pitch, the team have played 11 matches - winning 8 and losing (only) 3. Goals scored total 39 compared to 20 conceded. The team also boasts the League's leading goal-scorer. Yesterday's very narrow defeat came in injury time against the runaway league leaders Racing Club Warwick so an extremely credible result.

The car parking arrangements at Barford school works well on match days to reduce numbers of cars parking in Church Lane.

The parents and friends of the club are highly committed raising much needed monies for home games from selling home made cakes , hot drinks and refreshments and raffles. The availability of kitchen and toilets will be hugely appreciated by everyone associated with the club. Notably visiting teams have

commented on the high quality facilities at Barford and the warm welcome which they receive when playing on King George's Field.

Finally, the club is very proud to have reached the Cup Final in it's first season, which will be played against Warwick Juniors on 30th April.

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

BRA has been limited over the last 12 months by a lack of funds and has concentrated on ensuring that regular e-mail bulletins and the web-site keep the members advised of proposals that are likely to have an effect on the rural nature of our village.

Delivery of printed information to every house is expensive although a couple of mailshots have been carried out the cost of these have mainly been borne by individuals. This does mean that information from BRA unfortunately does not reach residents who do not have e-mail or internet access.

BRA has sent out over 20 e-mails on issues such as the Local Plan, the BNDP, Minerals extraction, large planning applications (Gladmans and Taylor Wimpey) and other matters. Generally the e-mails merely advise readers of the issues and direct them to websites (including the BRA website) for more information

12 **Barford Residents' Association Sand & Gravel Report by Mr R Scott**

The Warwickshire County Council Minerals Plan has proposed 2 sites just South of the village for extraction of Sand and Gravel. a small group of people have held a community meeting to inform residents and are working together as an action group to represent the villages. It is obvious that significant amounts of money will be needed to employ specialised professionals to oppose these proposals if they are adopted. Technically these extraction sites are in Wasperton so at the BRA AGM (Wednesday May 10th in the Scout Hut) it is proposed to amend the Constitution to extend the membership of BRA to residents of Wasperton and Sherborne. Fundraising has started and in anticipation of the change of Constitution one of the BRA bank accounts is being used to collect funds securely. Many villagers were involved in the previous campaign by BRA against proposals to extract sand and gravel thirty years ago so will be aware of the scale of operation required.

SAGAG Fund – over £5,000

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

Barford St Peter's has had another busy, exciting and rewarding year—there is never ever a dull moment!

We currently have 159 children on roll and we have 6 classes. Our Preschool is full, we have single form classes for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, mixed year classes for the remainder of the school until Year 6 who are also single form. Sadly, due to budget constraints, of which you will be aware of from the local news, National news, that all schools are facing tightening belts. Therefore, sadly we will not be able to go Single Form throughout the school this September. It is however still our aim to achieve Single Form but this will only be achieved when we can balance our books

We have a very dedicated and happy team of staff who work extremely hard and the outcome from this was the Local Authority advising us that we are category A for attainment & progress and we received a letter from Nick Gibb the Minister of State for School Standards to congratulate the staff on the very high standard of achievement in the Phonics Screening test. Lynda Wardle also recently celebrated 25 years' service with WCC! So now all staff & Governors are currently enjoying a well-earned break for two weeks for the Easter Holidays!

The children are always busy learning and love coming to school, our attendance is over 97%. We held our annual Public Speaking competition, held our First ever Barford Bake Off for Children in Need, KS2 Debating Competition, Nativity Plays, Class Assemblies, we have had fabulous school trips to the Think Tank & the Transport Museum to name a few. Our children are also possibly the fittest in South Warwickshire! We are extremely lucky to have the full use of the facilities at King George's Fields — all years from 1-6 are taking full advantage of them! Our children are also swimming, playing netball, winning Cross Country awards, taking part in competitions, enjoying Moreton Morrell college students working with them to teach basketball and of course we are supporting Barford United where many of our children are star players. We also help by allowing our school carpark to be used to help with parents parking.

To assist the parents and to ease traffic congestion we have since September allowed a staggered arrival time into school. We recognize that the number of cars has increased with our numbers and with children from outside of Barford joining us. We are always mindful of our impact on the village and we were pleased when the school won the vote for the Rural West Police patrols around pick up time. This was

supported by members of the community who voted, thank you. We are constantly communicating to our parents to be mindful of their parking behaviours.

We have received support from our Diocese with a new cooker (the old one was condemned!) and our extremely supportive and considerate Trustees. FABS recorded record profits after last year's Bonfire & Fireworks event, again so much support is received from within our community to which we are truly grateful and do not take for granted.

We are always supported by our Church community, Reverend Jessett & Ann Fawcett and I was delighted to see so many faces at our Passion Performance last week where Year 6 brought alive the Easter story. Look out for our updates in Plurality where we like to give you a quick update on what we've been doing.

We have had two new governors join, Paul Preston from Sherbourne and Wendy Barlow who many of you know. They are a terrific addition to our Board.

For a small Church school, there are many challenges facing us going forward but we will continue to work hard to ensure we keep aiming to be outstanding!
Thank you for your time

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

Main events this year - 2016

16 meetings have been held this year.

At the May event for King George's Field the group manned a stall with Heritage material on it. Historic field pictures (thanks to Ann McDermott and Carol Whitely), our Heritage books. We also talked to villagers and raised the profile of the group.

The Heritage Group was represented by Wendy Barlow and Maggie Hayward at the opening of King George's Field by the Duke of Kent in May. A copy of 'Becoming Barford' and 'Barford Remembers' was presented to the Duke. Heritage Group pictures were on display in the Memorial Hall.

The Heritage Quilt made by the sewing group was raffled at the Village Show. Though this was not Heritage led we would like to congratulate the village sewing Group and Ann McDermott.

A Heritage weekend was held in October. A DVD of the original 'Living History' was presented to a very appreciative audience of approx. 60 on the Sat evening.

Maggie presented a very successful power point presentation of the newly vamped 'Village Trail' on the Sunday morning. This was presented under thematic headings.

A very successful weekend and much appreciated.

Research

Maggie Hayward has been working on the latest Trail version. This will be developed into a booklet.

Doug Warne has been working on the census forms, the Hunt and Carter families and is continuing with the Hadley family. Ann has been working on 'Barford Lads' from the last century, the amazing stories of the Penn/Malin families, also the Keyte family.

Church Pictures

Have now been framed and some replaced. An excellent job by Carol and Hilary Maynard. They have now been handed over to the church wardens to be hung.

Website

A group started off the year as the 'Webbers' due to the resignation of Kirsty Healey. This group uploaded street scenes, school photos and Scouts and Guides work by Carol Whitely.

Individuals since this period have started putting on their own contributions and Ed Kirkby has very kindly offered to upload info/articles onto the website if it has been checked and edited by members.

Many thanks to Ann McD who has taken over the difficult and time consuming task of responding to website mail. It has been decided that we start a new 'Red disc' which will be for member's access only. Ann has finished cataloguing photos and needs assistance identifying villagers.

Storage

We have sorted out our resources over the year.

Carol W. has most of our artefacts, maps etc. in her garage which is dry and clean. Much of it has been put in plastic boxes. It is all catalogued and numbered. Thanks to Maggie for having stored it for years. Electrical equipment is held by WB, Ann, Carol.

New equipment

We have bought a new 'easy to use' scanner and are currently buying new 'easy to use' recording

equipment.

Telephone Box

After a great deal of visits to Taylor Wimpey the telephone box is now back in position .Many Thanks to Gerard Veness who followed this up and has ensured it is back in place looking really good.

Miscellaneous

Canon Price Road, Gaskell Way, Twigger Close are now part of the Nursery Fields development.

Maggie Hayward has written to Rosemary Davis' family re Joseph Arch cottage.

There is concern about the condition of the Joseph Arch Way. The Joint Parish council is also concerned.

Maggie has a contact to follow up concerns

Future Plans

Doug is writing about scouting and guiding in the village. This will form a booklet the proceeds of which will be donated to the new Youth and Community Centre. Launched in Aug .2017

Joseph Arch Centenary-possible DVD production

Women of the village which includes our latest research on Harriet Hewitt.

Study of Trees .An ongoing piece of work- hopefully involving villagers and children from the school.

The New Village Trail

Visiting speaker in October

Archaeological dig feed back

We were very sad to hear of the death of one of our early members. Vic Cheshire was a fount of information and had many anecdotes –all told with a twinkle in the eye. He will be much missed.

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

Most of you will know that there is a plan to replace the old Scout Hut and garages with a Youth and Community Centre and Purpose built storage unit.

The preliminary work been completed

- we are now a registered charity
- the church allotment land has been registered with the Land Registry
- a 30 year lease with the diocese is prepared and just needs signing off
- We have consulted widely with the existing hut users and the residents of Barford on their requirements.

We have had several plans proposed for the new building – the first was too small so we have negotiated an informal agreement with the adjacent allotment holder to enable us to get access to the garage. The second was too expensive – mk3 is in process.

The storage building is a simpler project and we have identified a suitable building and placed an order. We are in the process of applying for planning permission and drawing up the various plans, maps and notices that are required.

We hope to be able to remove the present 2 garages and replace them with the storage building in the summer.

16 **Barford Shop** Report by Mr G Williamson (on behalf of Mrs A Griffin)

The Shop continues to thrive providing a valuable service to the 3 villages and wider community.

As I am sure you all appreciate The Shop is owned by some 550 shareholders and it is to them that the board are answerable therefore I do not intend to divulge any detailed financial information tonight. As I am sure most of you are shareholders you will have to come to the AGM on Wednesday 17th May here in the Memorial Hall where the accounts will be presented for scrutiny.

Bearing in mind it is now nearly some 9 years since opening, there is an understandable increase in maintenance requirements. During the year there has been substantial cost incurred in the provision of new air conditioning units and following the second attempted break-in last August, we took the decision to install electric door shutters and window grilles.

We also took delivery of a new computer system last October funded by P&H, our main wholesaler, saving the shop around £6000. It has caused many headaches and retraining of the volunteers who have been wonderfully supportive and have adapted well. They are still the lifeline to the success of the shop.

In addition to these capital spending's and without going into detail I can advise you that the Board were able to give a further donation to The Barford Community Charity as well as to the JPC as a contribution towards the resurfacing of the play area in front of The Shop on the village green.

For those of you who are unaware last April The Shop was highly commended in the Countryside Alliance awards, 'Rural Oscars', coming second in the Community Shop category and representatives from The Shop were very honoured to visit the House of Lords to collect the award.

We were also very privileged to welcome His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent to The Shop last May, when he came to the village to re-open King George's Field.

Finally, I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to our manager, Corenna Jennings. Her good nature, unflappable temperament and joyous smile when faced with 70 plus volunteers keeps us all on track. The new system especially has given her many challenges and she has worked tirelessly to get to the bottom of everything, putting in many additional hours. We are very lucky to have her.

This concludes my report and I will be pleased to answer any questions.

17 **Barford Post Office** Report by Mr R Scott

Unfortunately, the most significant event in the last 12 months was the armed robbery on 5th August 2016. This is always something that you hear about – but could never happen to you. It did and those involved can be very proud of the way they conducted themselves that day. Ann McDermott was threatened by the robber but kept calm (outwardly) and minimised the amount of money the robber was able to take. Corenna had the presence of mind to take photographs of the robber and the getaway vehicle (their own car so the number plate was a help) and Rachel Murdoch who came down to the office and took over from Ann who was in fact much affected by the robbery. Other staff did what they could from the safety of a beach in Wales!

We should be aware that the events of that afternoon will never be forgotten by those who were involved and thankful that their actions avoided what could have been a much more serious situation. The 2 men involved have now been found guilty and sentence is due to be passed on 9th May.

Apart from that the office has been getting increased business – especially banking and returns of on-line shopping. We have negotiated an increase in opening times (opening at 2.45 from next month) which will increase the amount we can donate to charity and spend on staff training.

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

Barford St Peter's School Trust is a charity established under the Charity Commissioners scheme No 52861, sealed 22nd July 1997, and combines two former charities, the Dugard & Mills endowment created in 1667, and the Barford School Trust created in 1836.

You will see from these dates we have a substantial history going back well over 300 years. Indeed, this year is our 350th anniversary, however, don't worry, no wild celebrations are planned.

There are 7 trustees, 6 of whom are appointed on rolling terms of five years.

The Trustees are namely:

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

Two trustees 5 year terms finish in July. One has indicated he will not be offering himself for reappointment, the other has agreed to be reappointed for a further 5 year term.

A new trustee, Mrs Jan Grewal, has been appointed for a 5-year term from July 2017.

The charity owns land and buildings, namely the Old School and The Old School House.

The objectives of the charity, funded by the income from the two properties, can be summarized as: *Offering financial assistance with the education of young people up to the age of 25 who are or have attended Barford St Peter's School.*

You will see from this that our remit is not limited to pupils currently attending Barford St. Peters but extends up to 25 years of age. The proviso being that they must have attended Barford School.

Financial assistance can be, but not limited to, grants for books, equipment, the provision of bursaries, scholarships, exhibitions, maintenance allowances and even assistance with travel expenses in connection with their education.

Whilst in the past it has been that our funds have been exclusively directed to the village school the Trustees are keen to receive applications for financial assistance from any young person who fill the criteria.

During the year 2016 the trust has helped with finance towards a replacement for the condemned kitchen cooker, emergency repairs to a leaking roof and a number of minor repairs and replacements at The Old School House.

Regular discussions take place with the head teacher, Mrs Annette Delaney and several areas where we may be able to offer financial assistance are currently under discussion.

If you would like further details of the Trusts objectives and accounts these can be found on The Charity Commissioners web site.

That concludes my report and I will be pleased to answer questions.

19 **Appointment of Chairman for 2017-18.** Mr J V Murphy was elected unopposed.

20 **Any Other Business**

20.1 Traffic. Concerns were expressed about the speed and volume of traffic in the village.

20.2 Parking. The Chairman was urged to write to the Police urging greater attention to disregard many drivers in the village had for yellow lines

20.3 Bus Stop. Considerable concern was expressed about the relocation of the bus stop northbound, mid-Wellesbourne Road remotely from the bus shelter.

Closure.

21 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:40 pm.