

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BARFORD
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON MON 9 APR 18 AT 7.30 PM**

Present:	J V Murphy (Chairman) Twenty other electors
In attendance:	Cllr T Merrygold (Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton JPC) Sgt C Kitson (Warwickshire Police)

1 **Introduction by Cllr J V Murphy.** The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 10 Apr 17.** The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3 **Police Matters.** In a lively and entertaining address, Sgt C Kitson briefed the meeting on police matters which included the good news:

- The crime figures for the area are low (details below in Neighbourhood Watch report).
- Additional manpower in the person of PC Ross Kirby will be added to the team on 11 Apr 18.
- He would ensure a police presence at those public meetings to which they were invited

At the end of his presentation he called for questions, and the Chairman asked him to speak on the subject of enforcing parking restrictions in Barford. His reply was devoted largely to the difficulties, both legal and practical, of enforcement, and at the end of it the Chairman thanked him for an “interesting diversion” but asked him to move away from the general to the specific, namely the problem in Barford for which almost every effort to engage the police had been a failure. Possibly sensing a change in mood in the audience, Sgt Kitson promised to give the matter his personal attention.

4 **Report by Chairman of the Joint Parish Council (Cllr T Merrygold)**

Firstly, we have had two new councillors join the JPC this year representing Barford: Victoria Hunt and Dawna Haynes, and one resignation – Simon Morgan – which means there is a vacancy on the JPC for one more councillor for Barford.

Over the past year there has been a lot going on, much of which is covered later on in your agenda, so I want to focus briefly on five items: three mainly about development and two about our community.

Kendrick Site in Wasperton Lane. One of the challenges that the JPC has with developments in the village is what anywhere else would be called ‘mission creep’. The initial plans come to the JPC as part of the consultation process and we have the opportunity to approve, comment or accept. But once the main plans are approved developers tend to submit a series of ‘Minor Amendments’. The JPC isn’t notified about these and while some of them have been fairly minor there have been a couple of instances where we weren’t keen on the changes and when we have spotted these have taken up with WDC Planning. We have requested that we be notified of ‘Minor Amendments’ in the future but this may not always happen.

County Minerals Plan - Sand and Gravel. Unfortunately, the consultation for the County Minerals Plan are still ongoing with no resolution on what will happen to the two sites that affect us, at Wasperton Farm and Glebe Farm. The only glimmer of hope is that the plan has been revised and the total requirement for the amount of sand and gravel has reduced to 6.525M tonnes which means there is a chance that our 2 sites may not be needed. The next stage of the consultation is later this year. Sand and Gravel Action Group are continuing the fight – on agenda later.

Taylor Wimpey plans for Bremridge Close. The JPC objected very strongly to this application as did WDC initially. But as I am sure you all know TW modified the plans and permission was granted albeit with a number of pre-commencement conditions.

Three of your JPC members, myself, Cllr Barlow and Cllr Rhead have been having regular meetings with WDC and TW to make sure all pre-conditions are met and the development will go ahead with due consideration of the residents’ concerns.

The main remaining issues relate to the bats and bat barn and traffic and access. TW submitted a traffic management plan saying that all deliveries would be done without needing to use articulated lorries, although this included a caveat ‘that it could be varied ‘with prior notice in writing to WDC’.

They now accept that this is not the case and they will need to make a number of plant and machinery and drainage deliveries which will use oversize trucks. They have committed to give the residents 3 days' notice of any such deliveries.

TW have committed to keep residents informed although I must admit that this is not working as well as they have said it would.

When work does start they will have a site meeting with interested residents and the site manager will be available to resolve any issues as they arise.

Now onto more positive items which are about our community:

King George's Field. I am extremely pleased with the way the work in Kings George's Field has been finished and the amount of use that all the facilities receive from general users, Barford School and Barford Sports Club in particular. Although I personally follow a strict regime aimed at avoiding all sports injuries it is good to know that others are making good use of the football pitch, tennis courts and the MUGA. Increased use of the football pitch means that it will need some work done this year to improve drainage and reseed it and we are looking at longer term improvements although this will require additional funds from S106 monies.

Scout Hut – Community Centre. The next big project in the village is replacing the Scout Hut with a new Youth and Community Centre building. The old concrete garages have been demolished and the new storage units built and formally opened. A new lease has been signed and planning permission granted so fund raising can now get under way big time. The example of the playing fields show what can be done when the community sets themselves ambitious goals and rallies around raising funds. I am sure the fund raisers will achieve their goals and I look forward to opening the full Community Centre although can I make a plea for it to be a warmer day.

Finally, I would like all our councillors and parish clerk who have served their electors well throughout the year.

5 Report from Warwick District Council (Cllr A Rhead (WDC) and Cllr P Phillips (WDC))

Over the last year I [Cllr Rhead] have been a member of the Executive and held the portfolio for Development. My main responsibility lies in scrutinising the implementation of the approved Local Plan. Peter Phillips has also continued as a member of the Executive responsible for Housing;

In the last financial year the District Council has achieved the following:

- Continued the substantial upgrade of the leisure centres at both St Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn; St Nicholas Park has now been opened and it has been extremely well received with significantly increased membership; Newbold Comyn will be fully re-opened to the public over the summer;
- Reduced the rents for all of its Council House tenants for the third year in a row;
- Spent £2.5 million on reinforcing the safety of our 9 high rise blocks in the District following the Grenfell Tower disaster
- Through the planning system it has achieved over 37% of all housing development to be affordable housing
- Despite substantial reduction in central government funding, offset by a modest rise in Council Tax, there have been no reductions in services;
- Following the approval of the Local Plan for the next 15 years, all development is now controlled within a specified plan;
- As a result of this controlled development the landscape of the approach to the south of our towns of Warwick and Leamington Spa is changing as highway upgrades are started, to accommodate the planned new housing;
- The design process has started for a sizeable Country Park which will be created to both act as a buffer between the south of Warwick housing development and the rural settlement of Bishops Tachbrook;
- We will be providing a new football stadium for Leamington FC in the south of the town.
- A start has been made in planning for a creative quarter in the south of Leamington Spa, which will regenerate the south of the town;
- Plans for the development of St Mary's land in Warwick to include cycle ways and improved open space have been approved;

- Protected all the open lands owned by the District so as to prevent unauthorized Gypsy & Traveller encampments;
- Proposed a positive solution to regenerate the Leper Hospital and bring it back into use.
- As your District Councillors we have provided advice and support to the Sand & Gravel opposition group;
- Here in Barford I have, together with the JPC, continued to keep the latest housing development off Bremridge Close under constant review with the Planning Department to ensure that all planning conditions are met. Incidentally this development also provides suitable funds to help extend Barford School as well as contributing to the maintenance of Barford's Open Spaces and Playing Fields.
- As a result of continuing good financial management, the District has been able to continue to invest in building the capacity of the voluntary and community sectors with nearly £1million of expenditure over the next three years, unlike other local councils who have ceased to make a similar commitment for a number of years.
- Similarly, the Council continues to have a sizeable fund for rural initiative grants to aid worthwhile rural community schemes, none of which would be possible if good financial management had not been the cornerstone of the District's management. The adjoining Barford Community Shop and the King George Playing Fields are good prior examples of the contributions this grant facility has provided in the past.
- As the District's Procurement Champion, I have asked Procurement to investigate how future tender enquiries should include conditions as to how the elimination of plastics will be phased out over a period of any intended contract.

Finally, I would like to rectify fake news and misinformation on two important topics:

The Riverside House and Covent Garden Car Park redevelopment; the Covent Garden car park has "concrete cancer", has already a reduced parking capacity and, in time, will have to be completely rebuilt; at the same time the District Council's offices are neither fit for modern purpose nor economic to run; consequently, and after a District-wide search for alternative office accommodation none of which was either practical or possible, the Council approved unanimously a plan to combine the redevelopment of the Car Park with new modern state of the art Council Offices, and housing; these approved plans will now provide a car park with increased spaces, some apartments and the new smaller fit-for-purpose Council offices. In the possible future event of a unitary authority, these offices would then be easily marketed for use by others. Importantly this move, which includes the selling off of the Riverside House for housing, will save the tax payer £3million over the next ten years.

Newbold Comyn Golf Course. The contractor has pulled out of the contract for running this golf course and the Council is looking at options on how to best use and enhance this area. However it is grossly misleading by some to assert that the Council was about to set this area aside for housing. It is categorically not the case and never has been. Not only is this untrue, it would be impossible since it is Green Belt and the Council is currently consulting on the best continuing use of this important open space facility.

6 The meeting received other reports and updates as follow:

Developments in Barford

Details of current developments in Barford:

Spitfire	Hewitt Road	near complete	26
Taylor Wimpey	Nursery Meadows	complete	60
Kendricks	The Cedars	near complete	8
Taylor Wimpey	Bremridge II	just starting	63
Waterloo	Westham Lane	advanced	9
Country Car		PP extant	8
Total in Local Plan period so far			174

Sand and Gravel Action Group

Date for presentation to the Cabinet has been put back from May 2018 to June 2018. The following was provided to explain the delay:

The County Council has received a significant amount of feedback on its minerals local plan consultation. The authority is listening to the concerns of local communities and carefully considering what has been presented particularly on the sites. Local elections are being held on the 3rd May 2018, in Rugby Borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and there are a number of sites being promoted in the minerals local plan in the Rugby area.

The authority thinks that in this situation it would be sensible to delay consideration of the next stage of the Minerals Plan until the Cabinet meeting on the 14th June 2018. We need to get this right. The authority apologises for any inconvenience this may cause. Further updates will be placed onto the WCC web pages as and when they become available.

Activity	Draft timeline
Report to Cabinet on revised plan and any other relevant information	Jun 18
6-week consultation period	Sep18 – Oct18

Reasons for WDC refusing Gladman's development are the same reasons we are using in our argument, namely: Landscape and Biodiversity. Following is an extract from the Decision letter:

The proposed development will have an adverse impact on the rural character of the area by introducing large scale, built development on a greenfield site. The landscape assessments carried out as part of the Local Plan Review whilst not specifically relating to this site, did identify the surrounding area as being in an area of predominantly high landscape sensitivity. The proposed residential development would adversely affect the rural character of the site and in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the proposals would cause unacceptable landscape harm and could not be satisfactorily mitigated.

The County Ecologist has carried out a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) and has calculated a significant loss of biodiversity on the site as a result of the development. As this has not been addressed the proposal is therefore contrary to the NPPF, Circular 6/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and Local Plan Policies NE2 and NE3.

We are optimistic that WDC will be writing to WCC to explain why they refused the Gladstone development and the same concerns apply to Sand and Gravel extraction.

Hedgerow Regulations: Some of the hedgerows on the site fall into the category of protected hedgerows due to their age. They appear on a 1686 survey map. We have requested a survey of the affected hedgerows to present to WCC.

Banners: Following a complaint from residents the Highways authority have removed all the signs from the Wellsbourne road. We are disappointed as the signs were put up to raise awareness and help with fund raising. We have a meeting arranged with highways on the 12th to discuss the matter.

Inert Fill: There is definitely a question mark as to whether there will be sufficient inert fill to return the site to its original state.

Barford Sports Club

The facilities at King George's Field have had another year of busy use by the community. The Barford Sports Club Committee meets approximately every quarter to oversee and manage the facilities and activities on various groups which have been established since refurbishment two years ago.

Activities

The netball group play most Thursdays with an active group of approximately 20 players. The focus has been on social practice and several new residents have joined over the last year. The group have played throughout most of winter due to use of training lights. The group raise subscriptions to meet some running costs and aim to have friendly matches later this year with a new group at Wellesbourne. Thanks to Ellie Lees for being the driving force behind this group as new players are always welcome.

Adult football talks place most Monday evenings again under lights over winter. Regular bookings are made from local businesses at Barford Exchange for after work recreation all on the MUGA.

Barford United Football Club is now in its second year. The under 11s were cup winners last May in their first season and currently sit top of the league in the current under 12 competition. Strong parent and coach support has led to under 8s and 9s being formed who practice on Saturday mornings. Both sides aim to play league matches at KGF from next September. Thanks to Chair Mark Edwards and all the parental support for fundraising, coaching, baking cakes and helping out with training etc and making it a strong club with good foundations for the future.

BUFC has secured sponsorship from Plumbsave in its first season with Cinnamon Arch and Steve Haynes Forestry Services confirming shirt sponsorship for next season. The demand for junior football has been generated from new residents moving to Barford as well as the reputation of a well-run local club. A.C Lloyd from Warwick are sponsoring Barford Sports Club for three seasons to help with running and equipment costs. The club make a financial contribution to JPC for use of pitch and are grateful for the local community support over the year.

Barford Cricket Club held a very successful 6 a side tournament on the MUGA last summer with over 40 players taking part. It helped raised the profile of cricket to local spectators and will be repeated again this July.

The children's play area is very popular all year round. It has been noticeable that the area is widely used during colder months by children braving the elements. School have block bookings each week on tennis courts and MUGA for lessons and after school clubs.

Social

The club ran a successful festival weekend last June. This helped raise funds and encouraged activities across a range of sports over the weekend. The classical concert and live bands saw over 300 take part and despite the poor weather was voted a big success by those attending. The event will take place on 22nd June thanks to grant of £1800 by Big Lottery to fund the marquee and advertising and equipment costs.

The seasonal sponsored walk was hampered by snow at Xmas with a low turnout. Despite this it raised some funds and saw brave locals venture out for a few hours walking in the snow.

Report on Project

The committee prepared a detailed "debrief" report on the Field refurbishment project. This was submitted to JPC as a formal record following completion of the work and covered key information such as financials, lessons learned, usage and other recommendations on all aspects of the KGF improvement plan. This was completed within budget and the sinking fund is managed by JPC clerk. The committee currently has 3 vacancies and we encourage new residents to Barford who are active with an interest in sport and recreation to join our committee by contacting Chair Mark Griffin or any other members of the committee.

The paddock adjoining Field is under management of JPC and has been used for several private events for supervised parking only.

The facilities require a booking system which continues to work well. We are grateful to Barford Village Shop for sponsoring this as it is an essential way of the public being able to make court bookings.

Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter has been published to promote the facilities and any news associated with KGF to our community. It is free distribution and goes to 1200 individual households, businesses, schoolchildren, sponsors and shop. It is funded by sponsorship from Tesco's Bags of Help Fund which has made 2 grants each of £1,000 this year. Some advertising and fundraising also helps with cost of production and it has been positively received as a way of encouraging use of the Field facilities. Distribution is done by a core of volunteers around three villages for speedy circulation.

Volunteers

There is a group of over 20 local residents who volunteer to help on the maintenance rota. Mainly during autumn and winter this group makes an enormous difference by leaf blowing and clearing, litter picking, bin emptying and keeping the Field clean and tidy to keep maintenance costs to a minimum. It also ensures we keep the equipment in a good state of repair all year round.

Looking ahead

The community have now got used to the facilities and BSC have gradually become accustomed to fulfilling its role in making sure that it remains a safe and pleasant place for all members of the public to enjoy. The club generates any income from grants and sponsorship and continues to support qualified coaches with costs of training to ensure that we comply with "Safeguarding Policies" where adults are supervising children.

The increased use of the Field playing area is seeing more wear and tear of the pitch. The Committee are looking at a longer-term improvement plan for drainage and surface area to ensure that the field remains in good condition and is useable most of the year round.

We invite anyone to contact us to make use of the extensive range of sports and play equipment which we have access to for community use.

JPC Allotments

Against all predictions and in spite of Brexit this has been another good year for the JPC Allotments:

- All plots are let out.
- For the first time for many years all existing tenants have renewed for another year. There has been no turnover of tenants. Strong and stable comes to mind.
- There is currently one person on the waiting list.
- The water system has continued to work well but valves etc are due for an overhaul this year.
- We seem to have less of a rat problem possibly due to the reduction in the numbers of chickens.
- Problem trees have been dealt with during the year.

Barford Community Charity

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 public amenities or recreational 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 2017/18, the Charity has paid for the legal costs of the lease on Rectory Field which is used as additional event parking for the village. The Charity has also met with representatives from the Scouts and Guides Supporters' Group in order to understand the project better and to advise how we might be able to help with funding in the future.

During the year John Barrott who was the founding Chair of Trustees stood down. We are grateful to him for the support he gave the charity.

Barford Relief In Need Charity

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 twelve thousand pounds in 2017. Eligibility for help from the Charity 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 residents who meet the Charity's terms of reference and to avoid the large under-spending in years prior to 2005.

After spending at or just short of full income in the previous three years the numbers of applicants in 2017 led the Charity to overcommit its income by some 40%, substantially reducing its small cash reserves. In the light of this and given the likelihood of greater future expenditure as the village grows, trustees decided to end the traditional grant to some residents to help with Christmas celebrations. This was first given some years ago when applications for help from the Charity were few and its expenditure minimal. The assessment of need for these grants has been very ad-hoc and it was felt that, with the greater pressure on funds, any need at that time of the year should be considered in the same way as for other applicants, on the basis of a statement of need to the Charity and the usual trustee visit to assess it.

The Charity's terms of reference are the relief of poverty, sickness, old age and the advancement of education and in 2017 the trustees used these powers to help in the following areas

- Help with initial expenses in moving into full-time employment.
- Contribution to renewal of equipment in the Barford School Foundation unit in the light of nationally reduced budgets.
- White goods for father returning to village after family breakup.
- Part payment to replace electric cooker for single mother. Grants to three residents for disability aids
- Payment of school meals following parent's loss of work
- Relief of rent arrears and provision of carpeting for single mother and children.
- Payment of nursery fees for single mother.
- Small grant to complete student's fundraising for volunteering abroad
- Payment to replace clothing cut from pensioner in hospital following serious fall.
- Contribution to costs of two residents' funerals.
- Help with costs of school-boy kayaker's selection to represent UK in international competition.
- Grant to single mother to help fund second year of occupational studies.
- Help with care group's insurance costs during temporary period of low income.
- Holiday day-care costs to relieve family difficulties.

The trustees of the Charity, who are appointed for a term of 4 or 5 years, are Gerard Veness, (Chairman) Anne Braithwaite, Rebecca Fraser, Rev David Jessett, Philippa Mitchell, Rob Mulgrue and Philip Swallow. I [Terry Offiler] and my wife Barbara act as Joint Clerks to the trustees.

Barford School

Barford St Peter's as always has had a busy, exciting and rewarding year!

The school is now enjoying the Easter Holidays with staff and children enjoying a well-earned break. We currently have 163 children on roll and we are pleased to report that we will go single form entry, (one class per year group) from September 2019! We now have 30 children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

The children are always busy learning and love coming to school, we have high expectations and enjoy celebrating effort. Our attendance still stands at over 97% and visitors to the school always congratulate us on the children's behaviour and manners. We held our first ever Photographic competition and

Geography Week and enjoyed a visit from an Ice Cream Company which went down very well! Year 6 performed the first ever performance of a Midsummer Night's Dream and was a tremendous success. KS2 held the school's first Tea Dance to commemorate the end of their topic on WWII and we invited members of our community to join us. We want to ensure our doors are always open to our community and we have set this as a target for this academic year.

Since we reported last April the Governors & Senior Leadership Team have been busy engaging with parents and the local community regarding securing funding sources and ensuring we put in place facilities at our school which will help us achieve outstanding status.

We would like to thank the Trustees who have again contributed financial support to the school which is hugely beneficial and helps us to plan effectively and fund valuable resources. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Trustees for providing funding for another canopy outside class 4/5. This allows the children to work outdoors throughout the year, weather permitting. It also means they can use the area for more practical activities.

We are also thankful to the drama group who gave money for updating our stage lighting equipment. We are currently negotiating with a company on the best way forward. Barford Relief in Need also gave us funding to update our Early Years outside area facilities.

We are incredibly grateful for all the support we receive.

We have also received funding from the County Council to update our very outdated kitchen, these works are long overdue, and work will commence in May and be completed by the time the children return in September.

We now have our very own Eco Council and they undertook a litter pick as part of the national campaign and we look forward to making some e-co changes to our environment! We enjoyed successful fundraising events, Children in Need, McMillan coffee mornings and most recently Sport Relief. Our children really enjoy the challenge of fundraising and FABS are also running some great new events such as the quiz night and the Easter Cake competition!

We have a new R.E Curriculum and our children are extremely well supported in their spiritual and moral needs as we continue to enjoy an excellent working relationship with St Peter's Church. This year we have celebrated Patron Saints of the British Isles and in June last year we were delighted to have Jane Scot visit us and enjoy a St Peter's assembly, St Peter's Club presented the school with a painting and the whole school sang St Peter was a Fisherman which was Jane's hymn which we've adopted!

Barford Heritage Group

My Thanks first to the officers Hilary Maynard and Doug Warne for their Sterling work .They have worked consistently throughout the year .My thanks, also, to our small but knowledgeable committee who have taken over specific roles and made my job as chair so much easier.

The Year 2017

We have held 11 group meetings and a number of editorial meetings for the Scouting book. After a number of discussions we have purchased 2 invaluable pieces of equipment this year Some new recording equipment- as our original equipment has been super ceded by more advanced ideas. Our thanks to Ed Kirkby for researching the new kit.

A small digital scanner which is so easy to use and so portable. Our thanks to Carole Whiteley for the research.

The Village Trail has been undertaken by Maggie Hayward and has a changed format. She showed us a draft of the upgraded version. We look forward to more of this in the New Year

The Tree Study Over the year we have recruited help in the Village Mag and on posters to start a village tree survey to update the excellent WI survey of 1971.We held our first meeting in early spring to look at the original version and create enthusiasm.12 people have joined and we have decided that

this is something that ought be done over a number of years. Thanks to David Hall for his valuable input.

Two tree identification walks have been completed and over 30 species found –thanks very much to Hilary and Matthew McFadyen for their expertise. Our next step is to leaflet villagers with a form so they can identify trees in their own gardens. The school have said they will identify trees in their own grounds.

Scout/ Guide book

This has been an amazing and successful undertaking by Doug Warne with help from Carole, Hilary and Ann McDermott and has been so well received in the village. People are still telling me where we went wrong and then discussing with others all the possibilities. Memory is a strange thing! Many villagers of course helped out but the major work went to this editorial committee led by Doug .We are now quite an expert group at publishing. The Book Launch went smoothly and was well attended with excellent refreshments and the attendance of uniformed groups (who were so polite and well behaved). Grateful thanks to Alan McDermott for his expertise with the many slides. We do this sort of event well. Congratulations all.

The book launch also led to the group being asked to participate in 'Historical Words' at the Globe in Warwick. Hilary, Jan Bradley and Doug attended, talked about the process and read extracts .It was pronounced a lovely evening.

Research

Doug has also been writing up the Hunt family History complete with family tree (with help from Ann). This is now in a very effective leaflet form which is on sale for a small price and it has been decided that this is an excellent blue print to follow in future. Thanks to Carole for the artwork.

Doug is also researching the origins of the Dovecote in the Glebe garden and the Carter family. The latter is well advanced.

Ann has done great work on the Harriet Hewitt story after I suggested to the school that re-instating the 'posy' giving in April would be an interesting and community minded thing to do. We now have links with the Harriet Hewitt Girls School in New York and have their book which fills in a lot of Miss Hewitt's background. I have tracked down the Harriet Hewitt board that was in school and we now have to decide where it could go. Patrick has attempted to clean off the Hewitt's grave stones with limited success.

Carole and Ann visited Dudley museum to view contents removed from Barford House on the death of Brooke Robinson. The curator sounded a most interesting individual and was very helpful. Some excellent photos were taken and though the museum is currently closed-- when it reopens I hope there will be opportunities to see more

Hilary is currently researching the Cooke family

Derek Powers is planning to write his family history –recreating his childhood with help from Maurice Gale

Doug has done an excellent plan of the Red House Building and Ground from a sketch I had been sent by the previous owner.

Our tree map on the Green

This has started to look really poor and it was felt it will have to be replaced after all the house building is finished and we have new place names to add. Carole has done some excellent costings.

Website

Thebarfordheritage.org website was down in March so it was decided to start another website to run in tandem with the old site. Barford Heritage is now fully accessible. Kirsty Healey and Ed said they would take on the website but needed training and support. Ian Grant at the communities' website was asked for help. The training is now complete. Well done and thanks to Kirsty and Ed for taking this on.

Since then a number of interesting items have been added to the website. Perhaps we just needed inspiring! All members welcome to upload items.

Charles Hammond gave some balance sheets of the Barford Friendly Society with fascinating information. Kirsty has scanned these.

Helen Hurst an, ex villager, sent me her Short History of Barford which she completed for her B.A. This is an excellent quick view of how Barford evolved. Once again Kirsty saved my bacon, typed it and put it onto the website

Carole and Doug have scanned more photos.

Phone Box

After many of us had visited T. Wimpey about the telephone box Gerard Veness took it on board, has been very forceful with a number of people and it has been reinstated, painted, has new floor, backboard and grid. The door has also been repaired. The village bench has also been renovated. Many thanks to Gerard. Also to Bill Worrall for re-gilding the crown. It has been used since to great effect to advertise 'Be Prepared' and 'Cider with Rosie'

School

We have continued to give 'Becoming Barford' to the school leavers as a reminder of their Village Background

Visiting Speaker

In October Chris Pickford gave a talk on the Architectural history of Warwickshire. This was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Thank you Alan for helping out again. It was a fascinating talk but there was possibly not enough detail on Barford. Thanks to Rod for the bar, Jacqueline Norton and Ann for refreshments.

It certainly pointed up that perhaps we could put together a talk, as a group, on the various interesting houses. We have the knowledge!

Sharing Expertise

Patrick Norton expressed a need to find out more of the mysteries of Archives. Ann very kindly took him to Stratford Archives and Patrick said he had had an excellent time and learned a lot. He and Ann are researching the Mills family along with Simon who got involved and is an enthusiastic convert. This points up how important it is to share our knowledge and expertise.

Jan Bradley held one of her reunions and though not under Heritage auspices it proved extremely productive in terms of stories and photographs of old villagers.

Over the year we have included in our meetings more and more decisions made locally or nationally that have or will affect our village. I think we have all felt the need to discuss the latest village building developments, planning decisions, Sand and gravel extraction, the threat to the use of the Memorial bus stop, names for the new roads. The list goes on.

In the past these have felt like political points that were not within our remit. I feel now that these sorts of things will impinge on the health, security and above all Heritage of our village. We may only see ourselves as recording the past but I feel for the next generation we sometimes need to stand up and say things that will create a future that will value the best of the old with the new.

Scouts and Guides Supporters Group

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.

We have recently erected a replacement large, dry storage building, and opened it with a Grand BBQ on a very cold and windy Saturday in March.

Planning permission has been granted for the new Youth and Community centre building and our Architect is preparing a document to enable us to ask a number of contractors to quote for the construction.

The response to appeals for fundraising from the village, both from individuals and groups, has been very encouraging and we have raised £41,000. This has enabled us to pay for the Storage building and after deducting costs for the new Lease, Planning Permission and Architects fees we still have a healthy balance of over £25,000

The AGM of the Supporters Group will be held on Monday 16th April at 7.30 in the Scout Hut. All are welcome, more information will be available then

Barford Village Shop C.I.C.

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 535 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 16th May here in the Memorial Hall, where the accounts will be presented for scrutiny. However, without going into the detail, I can advise you that the Board voted to give a decent sized donation to The Barford Community Charity this year.

Unfortunately, our main wholesaler Palmer & Harvey (P&H) went into administration in November causing us some disruption in the supply of goods. We managed to find a replacement fairly quickly and this has now settled down and is working reasonably well. Corenna worked very hard on getting direct trading agreements set up with those companies, with whom we had previously traded through the P&H third party scheme. She was also able to fill most other 'missing gaps' from other existing suppliers. The timing was not great, being just before Christmas but luckily trade was not affected greatly. We still have some issues but are filling in as best we can and still researching alternatives. A few weeks ago, Kerry Direct also went into administration, probably as a result of money owed to them by P&H. Currently we are making an extra trip to Bookers for the chilled items they used to supply but are pressurizing Blakemore's to deliver chilled to us in the future.

The snow days have proved how invaluable the Shop is for many, with bread, milk and vegetables selling out and us having to ring suppliers for extra orders. We also noticed village residents we don't see very often coming in and we hope they will now use the shop more frequently.

However, we are struggling to get volunteers for the early bird slots at the weekend. We will be carrying out another marketing campaign over the summer for shareholder and volunteer recruitment and will also be writing directly to our database of volunteers hopefully to recruit a few more willing hands to form a rota which means the first shift at weekends are shared between more people than currently. We are willing to split the shift if necessary between paper markers/getting the shop open and then a slightly later start for till duty etc. If you are interested in helping in anyway with this, please speak with Corenna, who will welcome you with open arras. Full training of course will be given and the computer side is really not as scary as sounds. If we wish to carry on serving the community as we have been for the last 10 years, we really need to resolve this issue otherwise changes will have to be considered.

November 1st this year marks the 10th anniversary of opening and discussions have started as to how we will be celebrating this occasion with the community and we have already planned a party for the volunteers in early November.

Finally, I [Amanda Griffin] 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 and we are very lucky to have her.

Barford Post Office

This has been a quiet year — we did not want any more armed robberies!

Opening at 2.45 has reduced the queues that previously developed when customers wanted to use the Post Office before picking up children from School. The additional pay has increased donations so nearly £5000 has been given to various charities over the year.

The Post Office is able to offer a number of banking services - not just taking cash out with a card — but also banking cheques and cash. Not all accounts are supported but come and talk to us if you think this could be a benefit.

At present we have an additional trainee which will help us cope with holidays and absence in the future.

Barford School Trust

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.

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

The Trustees are:

- Rev David Jessett as incumbent is Ex-officio
- William Worrall - Chairman
- Helen Clay – Secretary
- Jonathan Partridge – Treasurer
- Jenifer Heap
- Roger Braithwaite
- Jan Grewal

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.

During the year 2017 the The Old School House had a vacant period of several months which reduced our income. However, this opportunity was taken to undertake additional maintenance on the property and garden. In addition, a new water supply was installed to The Old School House.

Regular discussions take place with the head teacher and governors and are currently engaged in a wide-ranging rolling 3-year program to finance resources in several areas.

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

Neighbourhood Watch

I [Gerard Veness] am the neighbourhood watch coordinator for Dugard Place Barford with 26 members. The scheme helps to keep the community safe. Members of the scheme receive up-to-date information via e-mail giving local crime related information and advice on safety and security from Warwick Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Police team. Members can also contact the Police team directly to discuss a particular issue.

I liaise with our Police Community Support Officer who visits me at home from time to time and I pass on information that neighbours have concerns about.

Fortunately, the joint Parishes of Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton are areas of lower recorded incidents of crime compared to some of our neighbouring communities. Crime figures for the last 12 months covering Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton are as follows.

Event	Barford	Sherbourne	Wasperton	Total
Burglary	4	2	2	8
Theft/Other	1	1	0	2
ASB Reports	8	4	0	12
Fraud/Forgery	1	1	0	2
Vehicle Crime	10	0	0	10

Following a meeting I have had with PCSO Paul Coleman in late March it is evident that the local Police resources are under pressure and Paul is not currently in a position to monitor the coordinator network or develop further the scheme in our Parishes. I have agreed to undertake an audit of our active group of coordinators to establish where we may be short of coordinators and seek replacements.

Work on developing the NHW schemes for the new housing developments in Barford like Nursery Meadows needs to be done and I will in due course work with the Police to follow this up. In Barford we have 17 active coordinators based on the last audit. They distribute local Police incident information to over 300 residents.

If you are resident in Barford or Sherbourne or Wasperton and would like to become a member/ or coordinator of the NHW scheme in your locality please speak to me before you leave the meeting this evening.

Community Speed Watch

The Community speed watch scheme allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. It is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a priority.

It is about educating motorists in the law in relation to speeding and monitoring any trends in speeding activity.

Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices which display vehicle speed. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter from the Warwick Rural West Police Safer Neighbourhood Team explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community.

In Barford we have 5 trained volunteers of whom 3 must be in attendance when operating a speed watch session. vehicles exceeding 35 miles an hour in our 30 miles an hour village zone will be reported to Warwick Rural West Police Safer Neighbourhood team.

Warwickshire and West Mercia Police currently calculate an offence taking place at or over 35 miles an hour in a 30-limit giving an allowance of 10% plus two to take into account any variance in the calibration of a speedometer.

Three locations have been identified in Barford for speed watch these are Wellesbourne Road, Bridge Street and High Street.

These three locations have now been risk assessed by the Safer Roads Partnership officer who coordinates speed watch for the Warwickshire and West Mercia combined Police forces.

Due to various delays in restarting the Community Speed Watch in Barford we now expect to start sessions mid to late April.

7 **Appointment of Chairman for 2018-19.** Mr J V Murphy was elected unopposed.

8 **Any Other Business.** There being no other business the meeting closed at 10:10 pm.