

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BARFORD
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON MON 1 APR 19 AT 7.30 PM**

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| Present: | J V Murphy (Chairman) Twenty-four other electors |
| In attendance: | Cllr T Merrygold (Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton JPC) Cllr L Caborn (WCC) Cllr A Rhead (WDC) |

- 1 Introduction by J V Murphy.** The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the annual meeting held on 9 Apr 18.** The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 Police Matters (Sgt Chris Kitson)**
 - Sgt Kitson gave a summary of his role and responsibilities.
 - The recent increase in the Police element of the council tax had meant that the Chief Constable's aim to reinforce local neighbourhood policing could be achieved and Sgt Kitson's team was to be reinforced.
 - He reported that in the period Jan-Apr, Warwick Rural West and Kenilworth's crime figures included 67 burglaries of which (he reported with satisfaction) only four were in Barford. This was immediately challenged from the floor with chapter and verse of more crimes being given. He undertook to investigate the discrepancy.
 - His attention was drawn to the increasing number of drug incidents in Barford.
- 4 Report by Chairman of the Joint Parish Council (Cllr T Merrygold)**

You have a very busy and informative agenda so I don't want to take up too much time, just pick up on a couple of items, some of which will be expanded on later in the meeting:

1.County Minerals Plan - Sand and Gravel

The fight against the County Minerals Plan continues. Glebe Farm has been dropped from the plan but Wasperton Farm remains. The plan has now gone into consultation and the JPC submitted our objections to the amended plans as did many people from the village. The next stage is for the plan to go to the Secretary of State to then appoint an inspector and go to independent examination scheduled for this summer. Sand and Gravel Action Group are on the agenda later.

2.Taylor Wimpey works at Bremridge Close

As you all knew planning permission was granted to Taylor Wimpey for the extra houses at Bremridge Close and work has now started on the site causing all sorts of problems. TW's 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 gave assurances that the residents would be given 3 days' notice of any such deliveries. Which hasn't always happened and some of the drivers exhibit very 'flexible approach to the rules.

One piece of information that has come out of the regular meetings between the JPC, WDC and TW is that the new section of road will not be adopted by the council – it will be a private road maintained under contract by Taylor Wimpey.

I am left with one abiding impression of Taylor Wimpey throughout all this, and here I have to choose my words carefully – they seem have a knack, if not a policy, of saying one thing, to keep people happy, and then doing the complete opposite.

JPC Planning Applications – Analysis

A couple of people have commented to me, almost in passing, when discussing planning matters that 'the JPC objects to everything'. I know this isn't the case but it thought it worthwhile sharing with you some analysis of the planning applications for planning year 2018

| JPC | # | % | WDC | # | % |
|-------------------------------------|----|------|--------------------|----|------|
| No Objection | 21 | 75% | Grant | 21 | 81% |
| Partial Objection | 2 | 7% | Grant after Change | 2 | 8% |
| Objection | 5 | 18% | Refused | 2 | 8% |
| Totals | 28 | 100% | Withdrawn | 1 | 4% |
| | | | | 26 | 100% |
| Of 5 Objections | | | | | |
| WDC Refused that JPC No Objection | | | | 1 | |
| WDC Refused upholding JPC Objection | | | | 1 | |
| WDC Approved that JPC Objected | | | | 1 | |
| JPC Objected - no decision yet | | | | 2 | |

Now onto more positive items which are about our community:

Barford Bypass Northern Junction

The JPC now have some S106 funds earmarked for improvements to the northern junction on the Barford bypass. There isn't enough money, or land there to build a roundabout so the improvements will be to do with layout, central reservation and signage. We are still waiting to see the designs.

King George's Field

As you all know the work in Kings George's Field has been finished and this is now a very well used facility both by the organised groups, Barford United Football Club, Netball, etc as well as the general public. Some repair work is needed to a portion of the surface in the children's play area. Increased use of the football pitch means that we have increased the amount of planned maintenance and this is now covered in our regular budgets. Much of the work done to drive forward the whole KGF project and the growth of Barford Sports Club is down to Mark Griffin who has now passed the mantle on to Harry Gadsden and I would like to pass on the JPC's thanks to Mark for all his work.

However, all this use presents us with a different problem – that of parking in and around King George's Field. Some use of the school parking has been agreed for away team parking at football matches. The JPC is talking to WDC about painting some additional white lining in Church Lane to help 'delineate the carriageway' and alleviate some of the inconsiderate parking.

Scout Hut – Community Centre

I am glad to see that fund raising for the new Youth and Community Centre building to replace the Scout Hut is proceeding well. There is still a long way to go but based on what the villagers achieved in raising funds for KGF I am sure we can do it all again.

Newsletter

I would like to publicly express my thanks for the efforts of a small group of people who have completed the huge task of making Plurality evolve into Village Voices which is now delivered free of charge to every house in the three parishes.

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

| | Meetings | Present | % |
|---------------------|----------|---------|-----|
| Cllr Mrs W Barlow | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| Cllr R Clay | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| Cllr H Gadsden | 9 | 6 | 67% |
| Cllr Mrs A Gordon | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| Cllr J M Hawkesford | 9 | 7 | 78% |
| Cllr Mrs D Haynes | 9 | 7 | 78% |
| Cllr Mrs V Hunt | 9 | 7 | 78% |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|------|
| Cllr T Merrygold | 9 | 9 | 100% |
| Cllr M J Metcalfe | 9 | 5 | 56% |
| Cllr J V Murphy | 9 | 6 | 67% |
| Cllr Mrs R Newsome | 9 | 7 | 78% |
| Cllr A B Rhead | 9 | 3 | 33% |
| Cllr Mrs K E Thomson | 9 | 5 | 56% |
| Cllr N F J Thurley | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| Cllr J T Wright | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| Cllr Mrs L M Jones | 9 | 6 | 67% |

5 Report from Warwickshire County Council (Cllr L Caborn)

Budget

Council set a budget of 3% for general use plus 2% ring fenced for adult social care .This is the last year we can apply the social care premium as we await the social care green paper to determine the future for social care funding.

2019/20 is the last year of our current One Organisation Plan and cabinet and leadership team are already working on 2020-2025 corporate plan.

Despite the challenges these are the highlights os our budget:

£6.8 million in children’s social care to meet costs of increasing numbers of looked after children more support for moving from care to independent living, plus additional £2.8 million for children’s transformation fund to reduce demand for children’s social care.

£7.3millionfor elderly citizens and vulnerable adults and support greater integration between health and social care.

£1.1million for home to school transport to meet increased demand.

£400,000k for New compactors at our recycling sites to meet demand

£300,000k to create capacity in digital and technology investment to ensure service redesign.

£2.0 million for a newEarly intervention, Prevention and Community’s capacity fund

£1.0 million revenue to generate additional capital for investment in infrastructure.

£2.0 million to maintain and enhance our work to ensure a vibrant Warwickshire economy including

£1.0 million over 4 years to deliver City of Culture projects to maximise opportunities for Warwickshire.

£30,000 to continue supporting the Armed Services Covenant.

Additional £300,000 to extend our homelessness project to 4 years working without Borough and District partners.

£500,000 to support transport solutions for communities focused on rural isolation and supporting vulnerable groups.

Health

In February I lead a public interest debate on the motion: the Council believes that an integrated care system focussed on communities is the right way forward for the Health and Well-being of citizens in Warwickshire. This was approved and confirms our direction of travel working with all health partners from GP,s to Acute hospitals.

It is also the Coventry and Warwickshire year of Well-being promoting that we are all responsible for our own well being.

We are also delighted to welcome Sir Chris Ham , former chief executive of the Kings Fund, as the independent chair of our Coventry and Warwickshire STP.

Over the past few months we have been working with the voluntary sector, community and health to develop a framework forSocial prescribing is Warwickshire with common parlance and map the good work already happening so we have the same offer for all our citizens.

Fire and Rescue

Our chief fire officer retires 1 April and we have appointed the deputy chief fire officer from West Sussex as our new chief. During the year Warwickshire was in the first tranche of fire and rescue service national inspections under the new police and fire inspection regime. We received a rating of good.

Highways

Warwickshire has been awarded joint top place in the Ips- Mori national survey of road conditions and repairs, 3300 people in Warwickshire were interviewed within a national total of 100,000.

We are recruiting additional highway engineers to help deal with the pressure of housing development.

We have maintained our winter gritting buying a new to us fleet of updated gritters.

Transformation

The new operating model is now operational.

Monica Fogarty is appointed Chief Executive with 3 directors for people group, communities group and resources beneath. Service delivery and commissioning of services is delivered by 13 assistant directors which include the Director of Public Health and the chief fire officer.

Our new website is operational and will be further enhanced, including a remodelled call centre operating as the front door to services at WCC. We are working on more service transformation using digital access and models of support.

6 Report from Warwick District Council (Cllr A Rhead)

I am one of your two District Councillors and I can report on the District's achievements over the last period and my own involvement. I am currently on the Executive and hold the Portfolio for Development; in that role I have placed emphasis on the following:

- I have persuaded one developer to construct 8 houses with complete renewables and water saving technologies; I regard this as most important if we are going to tackle climate change;
- I have liaised with the County Council Highways and Education so that I can hope to have some steer on the phasing of new highways and schools which are so important to accommodate all of the new housing emanating from the approved Local Plan;
- I am also closely involved in the comprehensive development of the major sites in East of Kenilworth, South of Coventry and South of Warwick/Leamington Spa. It is only by setting out design briefs in these major sites that well designed applications are comprehensive and in empathy with their surroundings; There are specific project boards for each of these major developments;
- I have been responsible for obtaining funding in support of the King George playing fields, the saving of the Norton Lindsey pub, and a new Norton Lindsey village hall; the Council has also provided important funding in support of the community centres at Bishops Tachbrook, Witnash and Chase Meadow. These are all important projects to ensure that rural communities continue to be sustainable.
- Plans are now well advanced for a new community stadium and athletics track at Europa Way. This development will also include c.200 affordable homes.
- Regarding affordable homes, over 1,000 affordable homes have been built over the last period and this is in excess of 40%. 40% is the target set down in the Local Plan.
- The Council is now providing 24/7 hostel provision for rough sleepers;
- In support of the police in Leamington your Council has upgraded the CCTV to help in the fight against crime.
- The Council provided a much-needed grant to the Playbox Theatre so that an access could be constructed without which their car park could not be usefully used. This has

resulted in the Theatre increasing their footfall and allowed them to return to being sustainable.

- The Council has set down plans to ensure that both St Mary's land in Warwick and Newbold Common in Leamington Spa can continue to be protected
- Plans are also well advanced for a substantial Country Park between Leamington Spa and Warwick on one side and Bishops Tachbrook on the other to ensure that there is never going to be any coalescence between those communities.
- The Council is ensuring that there is a cycleway from the Woodlows to Aylesford School.
- There are now two completely refurbished leisure centres at St Nicholas and Newbold Common parks. These refurbishments have been so successful that the membership has now exceeded one million visitors and they have yet to be opened for a complete year
- As the District's 'Procurement Champion' I have secured with the Procurement department that all District Contracts will insist on a plastics policy which demonstrates how the contractor will reduce and/or avoid plastic usage. This will form part of the award criteria.
- On air quality the District has imposed a planning policy that all new homes must include electric car charging points.

7 Sand and Gravel Action Group

[Malcolm Eykyn]

The fight against the County Minerals Plan continues. Glebe Farm has been dropped from the plan but Wasperton Farm remains. The plan has now gone into consultation and the JPC submitted objections to the amended plans as did many people from the village. The next stage is for the plan to go to the Secretary of State to then appoint an inspector and go to independent examination scheduled for this summer.

A second line of attack is being pursued; the landowner, St John's College, is being encouraged to withdraw consent for the use of the land to exploit mineral resources.

8 Barford Sports Club

[Mark Griffin]

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 three years ago.

Bob Jordan

During the year the Committee acknowledged the death of local resident and founding member of KGF Working Group Bob Jordan. He was instrumental in driving the KGF project and this was recorded in the December issue of KGF News. The family are looking at a memorial bench in honour of Bob being installed at KGF later this year. Bob's dedication to the project will never be forgotten by our community.

Activities

The netball group have continued to play most Thursdays with an active group of approximately 20 players. The focus has been on social practice and support remains strong. This year some friendly matches have been played against some local teams including Wellesbourne under the "Back to Netball" initiative. The group have played throughout most of winter due to use of training lights. Thanks to Ellie Lees for leading the organisation of this group as new players are always welcome. The group is looking into working with school to provide basic "taster sessions" for children interested in playing netball.

Adult football talks place most Monday evenings again under lights over winter with approximately 16 regular players. Additional bookings have continued to be made from local businesses at Barford Exchange for after work recreation all on the MUGA in lighter times of the year.

Barford United Football Club is now in its third year and continuing to grow. There are now 3 teams, Under 8s, 9s and 13s. Games for under 8s and 9s take place on Saturday mornings and have been playing league matches at KGF from last September. Under 13s have seen several players move to

other teams playing at a higher standard but membership remains strong. There are plans to launch an under 7s from September and practice is already underway to gauge initial interest. The Club held its end of season festival in June where new players were registered and sponsors announced.

The Club are very grateful to local businesses Cinnamon Arch, A.C Lloyd and Steve Haynes Forestry Services for their generous sponsorship support during the last year. Thanks to Chair Mark Edwards, Chris Lees and all the parental support for fundraising, coaching, baking cakes and helping out with training, pitch marking etc. BUFC is in a strong financial state due to summer fundraising and subscription income which allows it to pay rental to JPC for use of pitches.

As with all junior sports clubs, Barford are now looking to recruit new parents and volunteers for coaching roles as some coaches will be vacating the club at the end of the season as their children move into older age group teams elsewhere.

During the year the Club received a grant towards the cost of a new line marker from WDC. This has been a great addition and allows more frequent, better pitch markings and saves money all done by volunteers.

Barford Cricket Club held a very successful 6 a side tournament on the MUGA last summer with over 40 players and 6 sides taking part. It helped raised the profile of cricket to local players.

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. Discussions are ongoing with our contractor Miracle about repairs which need to be carried out to the safety flooring. It is unlikely that these will be covered by warranty and JPC are investigating costs of repairs across some areas.

Social

The club ran a successful Classic concert and cheese and wine concert last June. It was very popular with 140 attending to enjoy local musicians. The event took place thanks to grant of £1800 by Big Lottery to fund the marquee and advertising and equipment costs. The Club have been given some high quality speaker system donated by local resident Paul Guyver.

The seasonal sponsored walk saw a good turnout of all ages and it raised some funds with visitors to KGF out for a few hours walking.

Project Facilities

The paddock adjoining Field is under management of JPC and has been used for several private events for supervised parking only. The Club are grateful to the school for allowing access for car parking on practice and match days at KGF which gives safe facility for car parking away from KGF and Church Lane/surrounding roads.

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

Regrettably there has been an increase in cases of dog litter on public areas especially since September. The use of the Field cannot begin without clearance of dog litter before every practice or match by BUFC coaches and volunteers. JPC are monitoring this problem which is a potential health hazard for those using the facilities for recreation.

The Club are very grateful to Warwick District Community Forum for a grant of £835 which, combined with additional donations from netball and football players, helped purchase 2 additional new LED training lights. These are a huge improvement with better quality light and installation features.

Newsletter

Prior to December 2018, a quarterly newsletter has again been published to promote the facilities and any news associated with KGF to our community. It was free distribution and went to 1200 individual households, businesses, school children, sponsors, BUFC players/parents, and shop. It was part funded by sponsorship from Tesco's Bags of Help Fund and some advertising and fundraising. The ongoing objective is to feature KGF News content within Village Voices.

Volunteers

There is a hard working 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. The committee are very grateful to all of those volunteers and wish to thank them for their commitment and coordinated effort in keeping KGF clean and tidy. Local children studying towards Duke of Edinburgh

Awards have helped with various duties through the year to benefit the community with KGF related tasks.

Looking ahead

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 and play areas. The Committee/JPC have agreed on 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. Some longer term seeding and drainage took place last year and a plan is in place for this to happen again twice in 2019.

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 via the website www.barfordplayingfields.org

The committee currently has 3 vacancies. During the year we have seen new members Tim Sowards Will Morgan and Ben Cooke join the committee. Next year there will be 3 vacancies as Mark Griffin, Mark Edwards will be leaving the committee to encourage residents to Barford who are active with an interest in sport and recreation to join BSC.

The Chair wishes to thank all members of the BSC for their continued support and contribution during the year which has ensured that KGF continues to be a popular facility for the community.

9 Barford Allotments

[Roger Clay]

All JPC plots have been let for the coming year.

The summer drought caused an unexpected increase in the demand for water for irrigation.

[Jonathan Partridge]

All PCC plots have been let for the coming year.

10 Barford Community Charity

[Mary Peirson]

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 2018/19, the charity has not made any donations. The Charity received a donation inclusive of Gift Aid of £3,655 from the funeral of Bob Jordan. We are very grateful to the family for this. We have also received another significant donation from Barford Village Shop. We are in touch with representatives from the Scouts and Guides Supporters' Group and will be exploring how we might be able to help them with their funding campaign.

During the year we had a fruitful meeting with Barford In Need and St Peter's School Trust to ensure that any village needs are met by the most appropriate charity. We have agreed that, with the applicant's permission, we will refer requests to each other if we consider a different charity more appropriate.

Funds are available for eligible donations. Applications can be made to the current Chair John

Murphy or to any of the Trustees: Alison Gadsden, Liz Harrison-Hall, Sue Jessett, Mary Peirson, Sue Partridge or Alan Rhead.

11 Barford Relief In Need Charity

[Terry Offiler]

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 twelve thousand pounds in 2018. Eligibility for help from the Charity is confined to Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton residents.

Since reconstitution of the trustee body in 2005 its 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 that occurred 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 had 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. In 2018 the Charity underspent its income by 13% but would have overspent again if it had not ended the Christmas grants the previous year.

The Charity's terms of reference are the relief of poverty, sickness, old age and the advancement of education and in 2018 the trustees used these powers to help 9 applicants in the following ways:

- To pay-off rent arrears
- To purchase a tumble- dryer where there was a need for better drying facilities
- Help with double rent payments and removal costs on moving home.
- Retraining costs and help with household expenses
- Help with Winter heating costs
- Provision of upstairs carpeting and payment of pre-school fees for single mother with pre-school children and new-born twins
- Final year fees on Naturopathic Nutrition course
- Part funding of motorized wheelchair
- Carpet cleaning, repair of toilet and purchase of tumble dryer for another single mum with four young children

The trustees of the Charity, who are appointed for a term of 4 or 5 years, are Gerard Veness as its Chairman, Anne Braithwaite, Kate Findlay, Rebecca Fraser, Rob Mulgrue, Philip Swallow and Angela Watkins. Terry Offiler and his wife Barbara act as Joint Clerks to the trustees.

12 Barford St Peter's Church

[Chris Murphy]

The year from April 2018 has been a busy one for the Parochial Church Council: we have had much to do ensuring that we comply with the GDPR legislation, and also with new Safeguarding regulations, which have come into being because of historical abuse within the Church. This has impacted on all members of the PCC and volunteers. At the same time, we have been preparing for the retirement, in February this year, of our incumbent Revd. David Jessett, who has been with us for nearly 22 years. Although he was good enough to give us a lengthy period of notice, there has still been much work to do, especially the drawing up of a 'Parish Profile' – or, in our case, a Benefice Profile, as we are linked with Sherbourne, Wasperton, Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley parishes. This task was very ably coordinated by Jonathan Partridge, our vice-chairman.

The profile was then vetted by Archdeacon Morris, and would then have been used as the basis of an advertisement for a new incumbent. However, before we advertised, we were approached by Archdeacon Morris to consider the secondment for 6 months of a priest currently working in the diocese who was looking for a change of parish within the diocese. The churchwardens and licensed readers met with Revd. Andy Larkin and decided to proceed with this proposition. Revd. Larkin will

begin his secondment with us on May 1st 2019, and, if mutually acceptable, would then undergo formal interview and employment at the end of 6 months. This is an unusual move for the Church of England, quite innovative, and we felt we had nothing to lose. If the arrangement turns out not to be mutually acceptable, we will then advertise in the normal way.

13 Village Voices Magazine

[Jonathan Partridge]

As most of you will know, for many years Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton had a parish magazine called Plurality. This was produced and printed in house by the church and was a subscription magazine, most recently £8 a year for 11 issues. The role of editor changed hands a number of times and in more recent times the job was shared amongst a small team. Quite early on in the tenure of the current editorial team (which began in 2014) discussions began about ways in which the magazine could be improved and modernised and a number of samples from other parishes were obtained for comparison. All alternatives had both practical and cost challenges but the impetus to overcome these came following a discussion between Tony Merrygold and David Jessett; at this meeting, Tony stated the desire of the JPC to move to a free magazine that could be distributed to all households in the three parishes – thus ensuring that news of important local issues reached everyone.

To progress this, a magazine committee was set up with representatives from the JPC, the editorial team and the three churches. After considering several alternatives, this led to the launch of the new 'Village Voices' magazine in December of last year. A key decision was to go for a full colour magazine to allow for many more photographs and graphics; it was also felt desirable to be able to print right up to the edge of the pages for a more professional look – emulating the former King George's Field newsletter which has now been incorporated into Village Voices. This necessitated external printing as both the higher quantity (now roughly 950 an issue compared with less than 500 for Plurality) and higher quality could not be achieved in house.

With both the loss of subscription income and the additional costs for external printing, there was a significant challenge in terms of funding. It was decided to increase the advertising rates and to recruit some additional advertisers to offset some of the costs. As this still didn't fully cover the costs, the JPC has kindly provided a grant to make up the shortfall so at least the magazine is roughly at break even.

However, Plurality used to generate some much-needed surplus funds for the church and so there have been ongoing discussions about how to compensate for the loss of this with the new magazine – bearing in mind that it is still a large band of volunteers working on behalf of the churches who produce and distribute the new magazine each month for the benefit of the whole community. This is what has led to the appeal for voluntary donations on page 25 of the latest issue of Village Voices. It is hoped that villagers who used to subscribe to Plurality might feel able to donate a similar sum towards the new magazine and that others who are getting a magazine for the first time might also like to contribute. If you haven't yet done so, please do consider this – there are envelopes for donations in the shop or you can do it via bank transfer (details in the April edition).

With four issues now produced, things are beginning to settle down a bit but Village Voices does require many hours of hard work each month to compile, edit, check and distribute. I would like to thank in particular the amazing gang of three – Helen Clay, Carole Whiteley and Sue Partridge for their commitment to this project as the editors and also to Jane Scott who jointly masterminds the distribution with Helen. We are always looking for new ideas and new content as well as for anyone with desktop publishing skills who might want to get involved in producing the magazine in the future. In the meanwhile, happy reading!

14 Barford School

[Collett Long]

Barford St Peter's remains a 'good school' following HM Inspection!

We had been expecting a visit Her Majesty's Inspector for a number of months and they arrived with the usual 24 hour's notice on Thursday February 28th for what is known as a 'Short Inspection'. We are pleased to announce that we remain a 'good' school, with the Inspector commenting as follows: *"The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last*

inspection. Yours is a school with a very clear culture and ethos. You have high expectations of pupils, of their attendance, their conduct and their work ethic. Pupils rise to these high expectations”.

The Inspector’s full report can be found on the school website: www.barfordschool.org/Statutory-Information/Latest-Inspection-Report

With Easter happening quite late this year, the children are still busy at school for another 2 weeks. We currently have 180 pupils on role with our final class room opening from Sept 2019 – this means all our children will be taught in single form classes rather than mixed year groups. Our attendance stands at over 97% and visitors to school always congratulate us on the children’s behaviour and manners.

The works on extending the school kitchen have now been completed and we were pleased to be able to open the kitchen officially on December 3rd – it has made a huge difference to the school and the children are enjoying their new salad bar! Soon after the kitchen opening, we were also able to make use of our new lighting, as funded by the Barford Drama Group, for the KS1 Nativity Performance ‘Angel Express’. Many of the Drama group were able to come along to see the lighting in action at one of the performances.

In November, we were particularly pleased to be able to welcome Yvonne Andrews to Barford who has taken on the role of school crossing patrol. We have been without a crossing patrol for several years and we are very pleased to see this role being filled for the safety of our children. On a related note, we are working with the council to look at ways to further improve road safety for our pupils – the council have been out to look at the traffic levels and we have recently conducted a travel survey among parents. More news once we have firm plans.

We continue to encourage outdoor education, with the whole of Reception and KS1 (Years 1&2) spending Wednesdays learning outside as much as weather permits.

We also continue to receive significant financial input from the school trustees and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. We were very pleased to see a number of the trustees at our Open Afternoon in November where they were able to see our children at work.

In the summer term, we held Barford’s own Great Exhibition to celebrate the KS2 project on Victorians; KS2 also performed ‘Olivia’ (we have very few boys in KS2 hence ‘Olivia’ rather than the more traditional ‘Oliver Twist’!). The autumn term saw KS2 take a trip to The Staffordshire Regiment museum to support their study of World War One and the whole school supported the appeal for poppies from St Mary’s Church in Warwick. The whole school went to see Cinderella on Ice and Reception/KS1 visited the Space Museum. In January, we held a special church service to wave farewell to Rev. Jessett with the children sharing some lovely memories of David.

As well the usual Summer Fete and Bonfire events, FABS also organised regular school discos and a couple of movie nights. We have also fundraised for those less fortunate: we collected food for the food bank, dressed in our pyjamas for Children in Need, held a dance-a-thon for Comic Relief (we have raised £900 and the money is still coming in!), and baked/ate cakes for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Life at Barford School continues to be full and varied. This of course is just a flavour of what goes on in our school, sadly I don’t have enough time to tell you everything but thank you for your time and I’m happy to answer any questions!

15 Barford Heritage Group

[Wendy Barlow]

We are very sad this year that Simon Rutherford, who only recently joined us, has died. We all liked Simon and were hoping to work more with him over the years. Our sympathy was extended to Stella, his widow, and she has joined the group and is indeed is set to be an excellent organizer/researcher.

There have been nine meetings over the year plus a number of meetings to sort out information and artefacts and photos for storage. Archiving has been a major piece of work this year. During The year we have taken over some space in the drama group area of the scout hut storage. For this we are

paying £20 per quarter. It will save an enormous amount of time and effort having storage so close to the village.

In March Jackie from WRCC came to tell us about some exhibitions she was arranging and wanted our help with information about Joseph Arch in return she gave us some information about West Ham house. The exhibitions covered the history of WRCC and showed changes to Rural life over the past 80 years. We were very happy to help out.

The website has been very well organized by Kirstie and Ed over the year and with some extra training we feel we are going in the right direction. We have had to make some changes so that our website complies with the new GDPR legislation. Various things have been done to cover privacy. Ed had suggested a newsfeed for the website and Kirsty feels we should have a news and events item on the website.

Barford Saint Peters school has been interested in village history over the year and we have been able to lend them support and artefacts. They are currently cataloguing the changes in the village and they have borrowed our large cutout families.

Millennium plaques have been given to Jan Bradley and Alan Roberts.

Chesham's yard put on an exhibition about Joseph Arch and Kirsty liaised with the group helped by Wendy. It was an excellent exhibition and we are very happy to liaise again with the group and to support the work in Wellesbourne They also had some of our Notable Women write ups to display alongside their own work on local strong women of the community. Our thanks to those who visited and supported.

The telephone box has now been restored and has had a number of displays in it over the year. The current display is for Christmas organized by the village sewing group.

Ken Hope has been working to find out more about the bus shelter and its War Memorial. He has produced an excellent document about the shelter, It's history, funding and building. He has also got the Imperial War Museum to list the shelter as a war memorial. This is listed as memorial 76682.

The school has reinstated the Caroline Hewitt memorial and on the 23rd of April presented a posy of primroses which was laid on Caroline Hewitt's grave. The primroses came from the garden of the Hewitt's old house and we are hoping to have some of these plants to grow in the school garden. Photos were taken by the Courier and sent to Hewitt School in America. The American school has 100th anniversary of its foundation in 2020 and they would like us to contribute something. The Hewitt board has also been reinstated in school thanks to Gerard. Many thanks also to Ann McDermott for her research and Brenda Semple for the primroses.

World War I event to celebrate/remember the end of the Great War. The Church was booked for this on the 10th of November and a small exhibition was put up for people to look at and read about the men who didn't return from the war and those that did. It was intended as a quiet time of reflection. We played our CD of war poems, music and reminiscences of the men at the front. We left the exhibition up for the school children on the Monday as they had been working on something similar.

Doug has enough information to produce small booklets which concern various village family's -the Hunts and Carters so far. Doug has produced these and they are proving popular. Doug Has also let Warwick bookshop have copies of 'Barford be Prepared

Our Heritage tree noticeboard on the green has been replaced. Thank you to Carol for all the sterling work on getting it replaced.

In September we put on our notable woman evening which was very successful. Over 60 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the readings given by our talented crew. The cast had researched and written up their own scripts and performed them to a background of linked pictures. We covered the amazing lives of Eleanor Archer, Olive Shirt and Nurse Randall, Caroline and Harriet Hewitt, Mary Barlow, Lady Howard, Muriel Carter and Ann Penn Malinge. Well done everyone and thanks to all

our helpers who make these evenings so successful and in particular our technical director Alan McDermott.

The tree survey was not progressing so well so it was decided to put a page in the parish magazine asking people to give us details of the trees in the gardens. We have had a number of returns from people through email.

Events for next year:

- Notable woman book/leaflets
- Website development
- Joseph Arch centenary.

16 Barford Scouts and Guides

[Rod Scott]

Before Ian updates you with the progress on the new hut- sorry Youth and Community Centre – I thought it would be useful to report on the status of the Youth sections. The Supporters Group do not get involved with the running of the sections but support them by providing the hut and meeting the costs of the Leaders uniforms and training.

There are currently 78 young people involved in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts plus another 20 on the waiting list for Beavers. This is a clear indication of the health of the Scout Group and the continuing need for a venue for their meetings.

There are also 14 Brownies – so almost 100 children active in Scouting and Guiding in Barford.

However, the Brownie group is sadly closing at Easter as the two leaders have decided to stand down after many years and no one has come forward yet to take over from them. There have been Brownies and Guides in Barford since 1935 and it will be a great pity if this tradition ends. If you know of someone who could help – please get in touch.

[Ian Paterson:]

As well as 3 Scout and 1 Brownie meetings each week, the Scout Hut is available for more general use and many other local community groups use it on a regular basis – such as the Hut Café, Art Group and Sewing Group – plus other, less frequent or ad hoc bookings by local groups or individuals. It is clear that the Scout Hut provides a very important facility for a wide range of local community activities, for which there is not otherwise provision in the village.

But the Scout Hut is now more than 40 years old (it was second hand when put up by BSGSG 25 years ago) and is no longer fit for use by the Scouts and other groups.

Since 2015, we've been working hard on the project to build the new Youth & Community Centre. Progress has not been as fast or as straightforward as we might have hoped. For example it took more than two years to work through the legal and episcopal procedures to secure a new, long term Lease for the land.

We already have the design, planning permission, Lease and preferred contractor for the new Y&CC and we have built the new storage units that are used not just by the Scouts but also by other local groups.

Having chosen the type of construction and a favoured contractor, we have tenders out for further quotes for that type of construction and we are also liaising with the New Village Hall project team at Norton Lindsay. Their main contractor is our preferred supplier and we are learning from the work the Norton Lindsay team have done as input for our Business Plan.

The current, major task is to complete the updated Business Plan, which will be needed as a key part of submitting applications to major fund donors. Work on the Business Plan and fund applications had paused, but this has been reinvigorated with the experienced advice of two new members and to include points noted from our liaison with the Norton Lindsay team.

Amongst the sources we will be applying to for funds is the Barford Community Charity, which receives the profits from Barford Village Shop. We very much hope BCC will agree to commit a sum to be given, so that we can show that as part of our funding plan when making other applications, and

we are meeting them in a fortnight to discuss how their funding can best be used as “Matched Funding” to leverage other applications.

Local fund raising continues to be excellent and encouraging. Since this time last year, some £16,000 has been raised locally for the Y&CC Project and the fund stands at about £45,000. Huge thanks to everyone who has organised and supported local fundraising.

The total amount needed can't be given precisely until the contract is placed, as it is affected by inflation and Brexit, but is likely to be about £375,000 – so getting big donations from the major funds is imperative. That's why we need the Business Plan and the commitment from BCC to support other applications.

Meanwhile, we continue to provide the existing Scout Hut and fund that through events such as our Bingo Evenings and the growing 200 Club.

So, what's coming up:

- Later this month we will complete the Business Plan, meet BCC and have our AGM
- There are fundraising events planned for May, June and July

It's been a long task and we always welcome further participation in the project. We now plan the new Y&CC to be built in Summer 2020.

17 Barford Village Shop

[Amanda 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 over 500 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 15 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.

In November, we celebrated the Shop's 10th birthday and ran a 10-day hamper prize drawer, won by Gill Jones and a beautiful cake, made by one of our talented volunteers, was cut on November 1st and enjoyed by many. The special anniversary volunteer party saw Dandy, a Black Country duo entertaining around 60 volunteers and a great night was had by all.

Having lost our main wholesaler Palmer & Harvey (P&H) in 2017, the replacement supplier we had found was then sold and we have now switched to their buyer, Bestway, albeit deliveries coming from a different branch. Some other suppliers also fell by the wayside, the meat delivery has now switch to Barry the Butcher, local cheese supplies have now switched back to Fowlers and we have just been notified that The Cotswold Farmer, the local sausage and bacon supplier, will stop delivering at the end of March due to retirement. It is becoming increasing difficult to find suppliers who will deliver to us and who do not require unachievable minimum order quantities or personal guarantees.

The situation to fill the volunteer gaps remains largely the same although some new volunteers recruited last year have been carrying out more regular shifts, which has helped. Having had many a long discussion about this over many months, the decision reached was that this will always, be the nature of this business but we will endeavour to appeal to the parishes and wider communities on an ongoing basis and will encourage word of mouth recommendations.

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 and we are very lucky to have her.

18 Barford Post Office

[Rod Scott]

No significant problems this year – but Brexit will change all that and Customs declarations will soon be needed for post cards to Wasperton.

Thanks to Corenna for organising the Rota and the team of 'girls' who cope with the ever-changing Post Office Computer system and volunteer readily for extra shifts.
Ann has moved to Stratford – but still comes back to do an afternoon. It was however above the call of duty to bring in her new grandson ,3-week-old William.

Just in case anyone is not aware the Post Office can now cover many of your banking needs

- Deposits of cash or cheques
- Withdrawal of cash
- Bill payments
- Supply of coins and Notes for floats for village events.

The Post Office sent us a splendid little plaque to mark 10 years of opening.
We cannot assemble it and are not sure what it does – No change there I hear
If anyone wants to show me how to do it –please come and try after the meeting

On the plus side Post Office continue to pay us for having the Post Office in Barford and after small deductions, to cover the cost of training, about £5000 has been donated to 8 Charities again this year.

19 Barford School Trust

[William Worrall]

Barford St Peter's School Trust

Report for Barford Parish Meeting, 1st April 2019.

Trust activities for the year 2018/19

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 namely:

Rev David Jessett as incumbent is Ex-officio

William Worrall - Chairman

Helen Clay – Secretary

Jonathan Partridge – Treasurer

Jenifer Heap

Roger Braithwaite

Jan Grewal

Due to the Rev Jessett's retirement he ceased to be a trustee in February. When a new incumbent is appointed, he/she will automatically become a trustee.

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, clothing and even assistance with travel expenses in connection with their education.

During the year 2018 the lease for the Old School was renewed for a further 10 years with Bright Horizons.

As requested at last years Parish Meeting I along with fellow trustee Jonathan Partridge met with the two other village charities to familiarize each with the others charitable rules. A frank and open exchange took place and, I believe we now understand the restrictions on the areas we each can

assist with. It was recognized that should either of the other two charities receive applications which may be covered by our remit we would be more than happy for the request to be forwarded to us.

However, I repeat, in short and for clarity, Barford St. Peters School Trust can only help with financial support for pupils or ex pupils of Barford School up to the age of 25yrs. and must be in connection with their education.

Regular discussions take place with the head teacher and governors and we are now into the 3rd year of a wide-ranging rolling program to finance resources in several areas. With the current constrains on School budgets the assistance we are able to provide is of vital importance.

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.

20 Appointment of Chairman for 2019-20. Mr J V Murphy was elected unopposed.

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