

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 23RD APRIL 2009 AT 7.30PM**

Present Mrs Antoinette Gordon (Chairman)
Cllr John Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)
Seven Sherbourne electors (see attached attendance list)

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Monday 14 April 2008

- 1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record although Mr Rees dissented on the issue he had raised reference an A429 crossing had not been recorded. It was agreed that this would be allocated to his views under matters arising.
- 2 The meeting agreed to allow the minutes of the current meeting to be made public in draft.

Matters Arising

- 3 Minute 14. The proliferation of signs on the Barford Bypass would be investigated. The matter would be taken up directly by the Annual Parish Meeting with WDC.
- 4 Minute 16. Efforts would continue to stem the rat-running through the village. The matter was in the hands of Mr Peter Hallam WDC from whom a response was awaited.
- 5 Minute 21. Mr Rees gave a long and very detailed description (with letters being read verbatim from the Chair) of his unsuccessful efforts to extract from WCC the criteria for the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Europa Way, Leamington in the expectation that these could be used in restating a case for a pedestrian crossing over the A429 in Sherbourne. The Sherbourne Parish Councillors are to consider whether this information (or lack of it) constitutes grounds for inviting the JPC to reexamine the subject.

Report by Mrs Antoinette Gordon (Chairman)

- 6 A46 Bypass.
 - 6.1 The following complaints have been received:
 - Creation of noise and dust
 - Pile driving vibration affecting buildings nearest to the construction site
 - Persistent reversing alarms
 - Frequent late working
 - Silting of Sherbourne Brook from pumping operations
 - 6.2 Mrs Peta Wilkinson undertook to arrange a meeting with the A46 Bypass Liaison Group to bring these points to its attention.
- 7 Cycleway. The cycleway had now been constructed and was well-used although a central reservation was needed in the widest interest of safety across the A429.
- 8 Litter Picking. Mrs Gordon thanked those public-spirited residents who through their own efforts regularly picked up the persistently dropped litter and kept the village tidy.
- 9 Hedge Trimming. Hedge trimming by WCC tended to be too severe, often drastically reducing the height of hedgerows. A better was a policy of "little and often", and she expressed appreciation of those in the village who took it upon themselves to prune and trim back regularly..
- 10 Sherbourne Brook. The Environment Agency (now responsible for maintenance since enactment) had undertaken a severe river clearance exercise and had lopped overhanging branches to such an extent that the wild-life habitat had been damaged. No kingfishers had been seen since the work. This is precisely what had been feared, despite the EA promise of

only “sensible clearance work”

Police Matters

- 11.1 No police representative was available for the meeting.
- 11.2 Mrs Gordon mentioned the South Warwickshire Crime and disorder Reduction Partnership (SWCDRP) meeting which held meetings regularly and to which any member of the public could attend if they were interested in closer contact with police operations.
- 11.3 Also the regular local police newsletter “The Week That Was” could be sign up to on line.
- 11.4 Mrs Gordon also mentioned the successful arrangement made by the police to attend the Village Fete in September last year when information on “Smart Water” marking system was made available.
- 11.5 Mrs Gordon mentioned that the police much appreciated information passed to them regarding suspicious incidents and such local vigilance as a useful element in the fight against crime

Report by Village Hall Committee

- 12 The report by Mrs Peta Wilkinson is at Annex A.
- 13 She moved a vote of thanks to the Village Hall Committee and in particular to Gail Frost for the hard work in the past year.
- 14 Mr Scrannage reported there had been little interest shown in his offer to lead a local history study group. As he had done quite a lot of local research he was invited:
 - To prepare a piece for inclusion in the newsletter
 - Make a presentation at the Village Hall AGM or later as a special talk.

Report by Cllr John Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)

- 15 Cllr Murphy’s report is at Annex B to these minutes.

Independent Parish Council for Sherbourne

- 16 Mrs Gordon reported that with the new electoral roll for Sherbourne now being more than 150, it was possible to move towards consideration of the formation of an independent Sherbourne Parish Council but WDC, acting under the recently revised legislation of 2007 required certain procedures to be followed.
- 17 It was agreed however that with so few in attendance, this meeting was not really able to consider fully this important matter. It was agreed that a separate meeting should be convened in preparation for which a paper explaining the proposals together with a description of the advantages and disadvantages should be circulated.

WCC – Minerals Core Strategy Revised Spatial Options

- 18 Over the last few years WCC has been developing its Mineral Core Strategy to fit in with the new planning regime and now it has started to look at specific areas for mineral extraction. One of those sites is in the immediate vicinity of Sherbourne at Church Farm, Barford. (Site 19)
- 19 There followed a detailed and well-informed debate on the long-term effects of sand and gravel extraction in the area and the loss of the “best and most versatile agricultural land which could not be restored to its high quality, high yielding land needed for food production now and in the future”. Measures were available to register opposition to the proposal are:
 - To write to WCC
 - To complete and return the WCC questionnaire (copies handed out and also available in the Barford Village Shop)
 - To sign the petitions at the Barford Village Shop.

- To contact any of the three parish councillors if help were needed in completing this rather complicated questionnaire.

20 It was stressed that it was important that as many objections as possible should be lodged with WCC and that people should be urged to respond.

Appointment of Representative to Sherbourne Village Hall Committee

21 Mrs Peta Wilkinson was appointed

Appointment of Chairman for 2009-10

22 Mrs Antoinette Gordon was proposed and seconded, and in the absence of other nominations, elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure

23 There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:26pm.

Village Hall Committee Report
Prepared for Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 23 April 2009

Dear Friends

I am delighted to say that yet again we have achieved a lot as a community and a committee. Notably our principal aim has been on creating a focus for the village community and raising funds for the Village Hall and environs.

With the help, enthusiasm and the tireless efforts of committee members, we have achieved the following:

1. What we did last year

We raised £ 2,385 through 4 key events:

- The Wine Tasting Evening
- Two Musical Evenings
- The Victorian Fete at Sherbourne Manor

All events were a great success and enjoyed by all participants. It would be lovely to see more people, so do let us know what more we could do to encourage you to come out to our events.

2. What we are doing this year

2.1 Surveyed the village

We asked for ideas about social events and ways to support community development. We had over more than 20 responses and people generated a huge amount of ideas. This included suggested activities such as exercise classes, trips to the theatre or others events, countryside walks and horticultural talks.

2.2 Developed a comprehensive programme of events

Village Event	Date and Time
Quiz evening - At the Village Hall with drinks and canapes	25 Apr 09
Gardening talk /advise evening	20 Jun 09
Late summer supper	29 Aug 09
Musical Evening Coull String Quartet or Brasketers	Oct/Nov 09

As well as this programme...

Antoinette Gordon is arranging to provide guided walks on Bank Holidays throughout the year, we will be in touch with you with further information.

Gail and Peta are going to arrange theatre trips for those who are interested and will distribute fliers throughout the community. We will let you know our plans with plenty of notice and would welcome advance notice of your intention to join us.

Newsletters will keep you in touch with what is going on and how you can contact us.

3. Village Hall lettings

We have, through Gail's efforts, managed to secure many more lettings this year with the Village Hall being utilised for a range of local and more widespread activities. This includes hire by an Art Group, the Local Authority for presentations, JPC meetings, Church committee meetings, private tea, parties, continued use as a polling station, group AGMs, annual group meetings and others. We have increased letting income by 400% which is a fabulous achievement. It is great to see the hall being utilised and very positive that we are gaining more funds to redecorate and update the hall and its

facilities. We have sought quotes for renovations on the back of this and will let you know if due course of our plans.

4. Repairs to the Village Hall

Robin Smith-Ryland has done a lot to renovate the overall fabric of the Village Hall. The roof and main structural areas have been addressed. We now need to ensure that we are in a position to ensure its continued viability and begin to address the issues of internal decoration and amenities such as the toilets.

We have again received a grant from the JPC and also a small grant from Warwick District Council to start the process. We will continue to seek funding on as many viable fronts as possible.

In summary, we have had a very good year, with potential to do a lot more to invigorate a sense of community. Thanks again to all involved particularly to our committee members and to you for your help and support.

Many thanks and best wishes

Peta

Annual Report of Chairman of Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council

2008-2009 has again been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, 2 Special Meetings, numerous Working Party or subcommittee meetings and the three Parish Meetings.

During the year Cllr George Starkey was taken very ill and decided to resign from active JPC duty. We were pleased that he has now made a good recovery and many were prompted by his experience to undergo CPR training and also to volunteer for First Responder service – and so enhance the health chances of all in our area. He has been ably replaced by Cllr David Morrow who is already contributing well to JPC activities.

Barford Shop and PO – The shop and Post Office projects have moved forward at a considerable pace over the year culminating firstly in securing the future for our Post Office and opening the shop in good time for Christmas. It is now a vibrant centre for our communities, a credit to all concerned and a focus for near-universal praise. The challenge now will be to maintain the standards which have been set and to reach out to those members of our community who have not yet realised its true value.

Barford Bypass has continued to settle in and is now the subject of less adverse comment. The contractors have been slow to complete some of the snagging list repairs but we are seeing some movement there. Signage has been reviewed both on the bypass and also within the village where there are now anomalies but attention to these is slow coming and complicated by interactions between WCC, WDC and Police on what is required or appropriate.

A46 Sherbourne Bypass – This has moved on at a great pace since last year and can be clearly seen to be taking shape. Whilst few people are truly pleased with the final scheme we should all be very relieved at the reduced congestion which we will hopefully eventually experience on J15.

The JPC has repeatedly asked for a review of the speed limit on the A429 as it passes through all three parishes and have suggested a 50mph limit would be appropriate and when the A and B roads Speed Review was conducted last year we were disappointed that once again we were being overlooked, despite the fact that there appears to be a move towards more general speed control, often by signage alone. We have made a forceful comment upon this and the matter was reconsidered and 50mph restriction was eventually agreed from J15 to the River Avon on both the Barford Bypass and the old road. We were hopeful that the review would produce a speed reduction which would benefit all three parishes, but any hope of that must perhaps now rest with a proposal for nationwide 50mph limits on all single carriageway roads - if we want such relief and would be happy with such blanket restrictions.

During the year the cycleway from Longbridge through to Barford was completed and has been much enjoyed by many cyclists old and new. We would now like to see the route extended through to Wasperton and hopefully, eventually, beyond...

Barford Parish Plan – The original BPP Committee continues to monitor and report on the implementation progress, but progress on the more difficult elements of implementation – notably those involving other bodies - remains slow – and we will soon need to consider reviewing the Plan to ensure that it remains fully appropriate for our future.

Play areas remain under constant review – checked at least weekly by a Parish Councillor. The skateboard area continues to generate some comment from a small number of nearby residents, but no real suggestions for practical ways to improve the situation. Last year the Environmental Health Officer was involved again but has failed to come back with any meaningful comments or suggestions, despite his promise to attend and monitor noise levels.

The play equipment provided on Barford Village Green as part of the shop project has been an instant and outstanding success and the older equipment relocated to the Playing Fields provides a wider range of activities there and was very welcome. Much of the work for those projects was carried out on a self-help basis and at minimal costs.

Dog Fouling – This remains a constant problem and although much less than in years past is still causing concern. There are strict rules and severe fines for offenders and the Dog wardens promise

zero-tolerance. Dog mess bins are available at the Playing Fields and near the Scout Hut so there is little excuse. Persistent offenders are clearly not listening so again we say that names need to be passed on if we are to see an improvement.

Police Matters –The safer neighbourhood Initiative has now been with us for more than two years. Despite early changes in personnel we have latterly enjoyed more stable staffing and have actually got to know some of our officers. Safer Neighbourhood Forums have now become Localities Forums and have a wider remit and attendance of officers from WCC, WDC and Police, along with other interested parties. Police “priorities” have been established now for some time but we still are struggling to get the Police to adequately address some of the appropriate issues in our villages. Putting aside larger scale crime and the recent apparent increase in house burglaries our major concerns revolve around antisocial parking – both on pavements or near junctions, and on the Playing Fields track. Despite safety implications and infringements of byelaws the Police remain reluctant to act decisively and effectively and this is very frustrating for us – especially as their occasional efforts do produce good results. We would like to see more consistent and prompt action please.

Speed through and past our villages remains a major issue and we have recently been conducting Speed Checks. These are only permitted in the 30mph areas and are “informal”, although exact speeds and registration numbers are recorded and passed to the police who retain the right to follow up our findings. Surprisingly, given that we have to put out large signs, operate in 2s or 3s and wear fluorescent jackets there were still significant numbers of motorists flouting the limit – especially on Wellesbourne Road. The gun has currently gone on to other parishes but will be back in operation in the near future – please don’t let us catch you.

Sherbourne and Wasperton village halls have again been supported by JPC grants - £1368 to each of Sherbourne and Wasperton – members have again recognised more active management and fund raising taking place in the smaller villages, to make their halls more viable, and Barford waived its claim to JPC funding in the light of good occupancy and reserves

The JPC also gave grant support towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards.

Affordable Housing – In the autumn we carried out a Housing Needs Survey over the three villages – questionnaires were delivered to every household asking opinions on housing supply and particularly trying to identify any outstanding need for affordable housing. Results showed a clear need for 9 homes in Barford, 2 in Sherbourne and none in Wasperton. Housing Associations cannot practically build sites of only two houses so it has been suggested that the Sherbourne two should be incorporated with Barford and that we should look into providing up to 11 homes in Barford if a suitable “exception site” can be identified. An exception site is a site adjacent to current development but which would not ordinarily be developed, and so provides a cheaper site cost allowing the houses to be built “affordably”. The Rural Housing Enabler, Mr Phil Ward, is currently looking at and for possible sites.

Allotments –Most are now in good productive use and the few that were in poor shape have been either jollied up or reallocated. Some have also been subdivided and a few more plots cleared so that our waiting list has now been satisfied. Cllr Clay has taken on the role of Allotments Officer and as such has brought in new order and efficiency, which was much needed. The water supply to all parts of the allotments has been in place for two years and it is hoped that once the pattern of use has been established over a longer period we can incorporate the water charges into a fixed single rental charge.

One aspect of the allotments which is causing concern is the frequent and non-essential use of vehicles to attend them. It only serves to suggest to the younger element that vehicle access is acceptable and they struggle to understand why their form of social motoring to the Playing Fields should be any less acceptable. Byelaws were put in place to promote safety where young children are at risk and minimising motor access is part of this. Please only take cars to the allotments when absolutely essential or the JPC may need to seek reinstatement of the gate which used to be on that track and that will inconvenience everyone because of an inconsiderate few.

Bus shelters – throughout our parishes have been renovated and new raised platforms have been installed at the two southern Barford stops, funded by s.106 money from the Oldhams development.

During the year the **Telephone Kiosks** in our area came under threat – the Sherbourne one was summarily demolished in a road accident and not replaced. The other two were threatened with removal. Campaigns were launched to save them, albeit in a non-functional form, although the initial

and ongoing costs and liabilities were considerable. Barford Heritage Group managed to fund saving the Barford one, and that will soon be restored. The Wasperton one could not be saved and was to be removed.

Minerals Core Strategy – Revised Spatial Options – Over the last few years WCC has been developing its Mineral Core Strategy to fit in with the new planning regime. It has all gone very logically so far but now they have started to look at specific areas for mineral extraction. Under the old 1995 plan there were “Preferred Sites” and “Areas of Search” and we were not particularly impacted by these and the challenges of Wasperton Farm and Castle Park had seemingly gone away. Under the old scheme many suitable sites, despite clear identification, had failed to come forward - presumably due to owner reluctance or possibly where their scale was uneconomic. The new plan seeks to identify “strategic sites” which are supported by their landowners and hence if adopted are more likely to go forward as full planning applications in due course. The JPC has formed a Working Party to mount an initial response and we have given a firm rejection on a multitude of grounds. In order to ensure that these sites do not blight our villages we will need to mount a strong and vociferous opposition to these proposals to ensure that they do not achieve “Strategic Site” status. If they do get adopted then we will again have a major battle on our hands once they proceed to planning approval stage.

All councillors have attended many meetings and served their electors well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our Clerk/RFO. Many thanks to all for their input.