

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 22 APRIL 2013 AT 7:30PM**

Present: Mrs Antoinette Gordon (Chairman)
Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman of the Joint Parish Council)
Cllr L Caborn (WCC)
Eight Sherbourne Electors

Minutes

- 1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2012 were approved as a true record.
- 2 Matters Arising:
 - 2.1 Library Services.
 - A home delivery service is now available once every four weeks. This can be arranged through Debbie Bennett T: 01926 851031
 - The Leamington library opening hours have changed. Warwick is unchanged.
 - 2.2 Parish Councillors. Mrs Kaye Payne had resigned from the JPC. The Chairman undertook to write her a letter of appreciation for her services to the community in the role of councillor.

Police Report

- 3 Beat Manager Manjit Sidhu addressed the meeting:
 - Crime is low in the village. Since January there have been two crimes and twelve reports to the police.
 - She distributed a booklet "Crime Prevention Information".
 - She encouraged the reinvigoration of Neighbourhood Watch in the village and explained how the police would participate by setting up an electronic (email, voicemail and telephone) reporting system to receive reports from the public and to broadcast warnings and also information by newsletter.
 - A blank application form for membership of Neighbourhood Watch was distributed.
 - The police point of contact for Neighbourhood Watch matters is PCSO Paul Coleman T: 01926 684397

Report by Chairman of the Parish Meeting

- 4 Mrs Antoinette Gordon reported:

Chairman's Report from the last meeting held on 30 April 2012

1. The Parish Council: Sherbourne has been regularly represented by your three Parish Councillors – Rachel Newsome, Kay Payne and Antoinette Gordon. There have been 9 JPC meetings as well as other special meetings. Sherbourne councillors opposed the 5% increase in the Precept proposed on 11.2.2013. Sadly, Kay has decided to stand down and the vacancy will be considered for filling by co-option at the next JPC meeting on 13 May. Cllrs Newsome and Gordon also serve on the JPC Planning Committee, of which there have been 14 meetings.

2. WDC Planning applications:

W11/0274.Retro. The Studio, Barford Rd - lawful cert. for garage conversion for living. Refused.
W/11/0386.Retro. Green Barn on A46 - change of use to vehicle repairs. Granted with conditions.
W/11/0968.Retro. 9 Moat Green – rear extension. Granted .
W/11/1205.Retro. Old Barn Cottage, Longbridge – ch/use of added lean-to to secure storage.

Granted.

W/12/0351. 3 Old Rectory Cottages – extension for living room and hall. Granted with conditions.

W/12/0564LB. 3 Old Rectory Cottages – extension for living room and hall. Granted with conditions.

W/12/1322. The Studio, Barford Rd – lawful cert. for garage conversion for living. Refused.

W/12/1570.Retro. Old Barn Cottage, Longbridge – ch/use Dutch barn to B8 storage. Granted with fire condition.

W/12/1594. 9 Moat Green – single storey rear extension replacing conservatory. Granted.

W/12/1613. 2 Church Road – erection of rear conservatory. Granted.

W/13/0224.Retro. 1 Old Rectory Cottages – erection of detached garage. Granted

W/13/0025. Hunters Lodge, Sherbourne Hill – erection of detached garage. Granted with badger condition.

W/13/0249/LB. The Manor House – removal of internal brick bread oven. o/s

W/13/0307. Sherbourne Park - erection of 3 stables & storage. Invalid.

W/13/0308/LB. Sherbourne Park - erection of 3 stables & storage. Invalid.

3. Roads and footpaths:

Village roads - speed restrictions and improved weight restrictions progressing (Agenda item).

Footway lighting – remaining old concrete lamp-posts to be up-graded (Agenda item).

Field footpaths – in poor condition and obstructed - under WCC investigation.

4. Buses and bus shelter:

Wooden bench has been replaced by the JPC at a cost of £175. The shelter has been regularly cleaned and the bushes along the approach have been cut back and much of the litter cleared.

5. Village maintenance:

Litter dropping and fly-tipping remain a serious problem throughout the Parish; it is only the regular litter-picking and reporting by local residents that keep these problems under control. Similarly, the need to trim back overgrowing bushes. The verges continue to be enhanced with additional bulbs and other planting.

Sincere thanks to all who carry out these tasks which help to keep the area looking attractive.

6. General points:

JPC agreed to grants of £1,043 to the Village Hall and £418 towards Churchyard maintenance costs.

Footpaths

- 5 All footpaths in the village remained in a lamentable condition. Since the Chairman had walked the local footpaths with WCC Officer last summer he had lost or forgotten details of his dealings her and she intended to reopen the channel of communication. To that end, Cllr Caborn (WCC) asked to be kept informed so that he could expedite the process.

Up-date on Village Roads

- 6 Speed Limits and Weight Restrictions.
- The improvements had not been effected because six Sherbourne residents had expressed to WCC a preference for lower speed limits. These preferences had been interpreted as objections and so the scheme stalled pending a decision in committee.
 - Although nothing can happen now until after the WCC AGM on 21 May 13, Cllr Caborn promised to invite the portfolio holder to force the decision without the matter going to a full committee meeting.
 - The finance remains in place.

- 7 Street Lighting.
- The antiquated lighting standard in Moat Green is to be replaced with same Victorian style as throughout the village.
 - A scheme suggested by the Chairman for three extra lights in the village has been costed by WDC at £8,100. None of this charge would be met by WDC. A case for funding by the JPC will be considered at the Annual Meeting on 13 May 13.
- 8 Street Name Plates. Proposals for the renovation of street name plates in the village are being considered by WDC.
- 9 Buses.
- A new seat replacing the old, rotting one has been installed in the bus shelter.
 - Mr V Rees reported that the service on Route 16 was very good indeed although regularity could not be guaranteed out-bound to Stratford-upon-Avon (because of traffic conditions) and there was no return trip in the evenings when a bus on Route 18 had to be taken instead but these were less frequent and less reliable.

Report by Village Hall Committee

- 10 Mrs Nikkie Edwards provided commentary on the written report by Mrs Peta Wilkinson below:

Dear Friends

This year has been hard, but we have again achieved a lot as a community and a committee. We have found more volunteers to support us and have put a lot of work into developing bids for grants to further improve our facilities.

This year again, our focus has been on utilising the village hall as an asset to support the community. We have developed proposals to develop the kitchen and toilet areas and, with the help of the committee members and friends, we have managed to finalise a project to develop both the toilet facilities and the kitchen area. We will be putting in an application to the JPC and WDC to help is with the project and would love you to support us in so doing. The poor condition of the toilets has been a huge problem for us with lettings and events and we really want to get these areas improved so that we can establish the village hall as a functioning hub of the community. With the help and enthusiasm of the committee members and the tireless efforts of our committee members, we have achieved the following:

1 What we did

We put on the following events:

- Lunch time meals
- Pasta demonstration and meal
- Carols and social event
- Special event teas and meals

Disappointingly, we have had to postpone or cancel some events because of lack of interest. Please let us know what events you like to attend and how frequently so that we can ensure we put the right event on at the right time.

1.1 Community Development Plans

Our plans to raise money for the toilets and the kitchen are linked to our desire to develop the village hall as a centre for community activity and a place where people can come to access information advice and guidance. Antoinette Gordon our very proactive Parish Councillor has offered to run surgeries for local community residents and the committee members are very willing to volunteer to support residents in any way possible.

We are keen to involve more members of the community to share our excellent facility and invite you to join us in planning events that will be supportive of local community needs as well as providing a social and supportive space for people to get the information advice and guidance needs that will assist them.

If you feel you can help, please let us know as we are keen to involve as many people as possible to make Sherbourne a vibrant and thriving community.

1.2 We are Developing a comprehensive programme of events – Below are some suggestions, please let us know what you would like to attend.

Village Event	Date and Time
Bring and share supper	May
Summer Supper	July/August/September
Musical Evening	November
Community Christmas Lunch	December

We are keen to hear from you if you would like to join us on some Theatre trips to Stratford or Birmingham, there are lots of events on and we can arrange transport there and back please sign up if this would be of interest to you.

2 Community Development

We are keen to establish a programme of support in the village hall that allows people to gain advice and guidance and to attend social and informative and developmental events. We are so grateful for the help our local Councillors and the JPC in supporting this programme of events which is aimed at supporting our increasingly elderly population to gain more independence and control in their lives. We urge all those who feel they may be able to be volunteers and support us to make contact.

3 Village Hall lettings

We have, through Nicky's efforts, managed to secure lettings this year with the Village Hall being utilised for a range of local and more widespread activities. This includes Local Authority presentations, JPC meetings, local community celebrations and others. We have been hampered by damage to the toilet area which has put many potential customers off. The Landlord has made reparations, but we will need to develop the facilities further in order to increase lettings. We have had many complaints as a result of the poor toilet facilities, which have hampered our activities.

In summary, a good year, but marred by some disappointment. We have the potential to achieve so much more to invigorate a sense of community and are grateful for the support of the Church in this regard. Again, thanks to all involved particularly our committee members and to you for your help and support.

Many thanks and best wishes

Peta

Report by Chairman of the Joint Parish Council.

11 Cllr J V Murphy reported:

2012-2013 has again been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, numerous Working Party or subcommittee meetings and the three Annual Parish Meetings and one Special Meeting this year!

Our year got off to a very difficult start with the tragedy at the weir in Barford. A young family was swept over the weir and despite heroic efforts by residents and emergency services alike a father and young child lost their lives. Whilst this serves to remind us all of the ever present danger near rivers it also reassures us of the incredible community spirit which we enjoy here – something which was noted by all the emergency services and by the coroner at the inquest.

Difficult financial times continue and all levels of government strive to achieve best value and minimize service reductions. This year we have not kept the parish element of the Council Tax at the same level. The WDC, WCC and the Police have kept their requirement level. Changes to the way Council Tax rebates were administered threatened to seriously erode our finances and a modest increase – less than £2.00 for a Band D – was felt to be appropriate to ensure that we could maintain our services and maintain our funding in the future.

As the A429 slices through our parishes we are frequently considering its impacts. Our hopes were raised early in the year when funding was allocated to our problems and feasibility studies were started. Issues of major concern included the northern junction on the Barford Bypass, the speed of traffic in Sherbourne, the safety of Wasperton junction and the speed of traffic on the A429 itself. Various schemes were proposed but all were expensive against a backdrop of in truth of very limited funding – we could only have one scheme. The Wasperton junction scheme was deemed much too expensive due to the need to buy land to allow space for a refuge, the northern bypass junction scheme was just too expensive, the A429 speed limit was deemed to be impractical and unenforceable by the Police and the WCC Safety Engineers so we were left with the Sherbourne scheme. This will extend the weight limit and impose speed limits throughout the village. The 40mph limit on Watery Lane remains controversial but is probably better than the current derestricted status. Even so some residents were not in favour of any scheme but the democratic will prevailed and the scheme will go ahead.

Last year we were successful in securing a Community Forum grant for £3000 towards the modernization and replacement of our streetlights. The latest scheme includes all the outdated lights in Barford and Sherbourne and subject to economies of scale the work should be completed this year.

Following the establishment of a Working Party to review the facilities at Barford Playing Fields there has been slow but steady progress. Several companies have now put forward proposals for modernizing the area and a new group of volunteers have proposed the provision of an all weather sports area with potential for use by the school along with young and old alike. The inspiration for this latter element came from a similar scheme in Stoneleigh village where it has been a great success. The change in plan has brought in extra delays but we think that such delay will be worthwhile if we get a much better facility.

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1043 to each and the JPC also gave grant support of £418 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations took place in all three villages and the beacon, the Riverside walk, the new Barford flagpole, the Jubilee Oaks, picnics and lunches were all a great success. Well done to all involved!

The major planning issue has continued to be the slow gestation of the **New Local Plan**. In 2011 we learnt of the intended housing numbers for our district – 550 homes per year – and in May 2012 we saw the draft version of the **Preferred Options** which indicated proposed locations for those numbers. We had been assured that the rural areas would not have significant numbers imposed upon them so we were surprised when Barford was classified as a Category One village and expected to take 100 extra homes, with 40% affordables. Inevitably we have responded to all of this and we await the next stage when the **Draft Local Plan** is released in June, all in the knowledge that the Coventry Local Plan was recently thrown out as “unsound” largely on failure of adequate numbers and failure to cooperate with adjacent authorities. All of this is indeed worrying for us.

Affordable Housing – We continued to work to with the Rural Housing Enabler and having identified the Wasperton Lane site as the preferred option for a stand-alone site we were delighted when funding suddenly became available. Things then moved on quickly and a public consultation was held in September and whilst the scheme was not universally popular we were very disappointed when in the autumn we were given the news that the landowners, St John’s College, Oxford had decided that they would not release land at “Rural Exception Site” rates. Once again there is currently no funding available and we are advised that we must rely on a market homes scheme, sufficiently large to provide our needs through the WDC requirement for larger sites to provide 40% Affordable Homes. Recently there are two such schemes on the horizon.

Proposals on **land around Barford House** advanced considerably to a Planning Application for 58 homes. The proposal addressed many of the issues identified in the 2011 BRA survey along with other issues raised relating to the site. The JPC voted to object to the scheme on the

grounds that it was contrary to all current local policies and failed to meet our perceived local housing needs. The WDC Planners refused the scheme on grounds of its heritage impact, local need and impact on an immediate neighbour. The applicants went to appeal in February and the Inspector recently announced that he recommended dismissing the appeal which now goes to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles.

The site of the now closed **Sherbourne Nurseries** was also the subject of a Planning Application for 58 houses by Taylor Wimpey following a public consultation in June. This was also refused on grounds of impact on the Conservation Area, loss of the Police house and failure to meet local need. It may still go to appeal.

Through all of this the JPC had been working to develop a Housing Needs Survey to assess the requirement for both Market and Affordable homes in the three parishes. In May we had the results which confirmed our thoughts. There remained a need for about 10 Affordable Homes in Barford and two in each of Sherbourne and Wasperton, along with up to 24 market homes mostly smaller houses and bungalows. The final numbers are somewhat debatable due to the methodologies employed and whilst the WDC cannot fully accept the totals for lack of means testing they remain indicative of local need.

Over the year **Riverside land** left over from the Barford Bypass construction and taken over by the JPC has established itself well. The community orchard, a wild flower meadow and riverside walk are all looking good and are now well used.

All councillors have as always attended many meetings and generally have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. This year we have lost two councillors, one through retirement and one through failure to attend sufficient meetings. This presents the opportunity for new members to come forward and get involved in the local aspects of public life and such new members are actually quite a refreshing influence on a body such as ours, often bring fresh ideas and even an innocence to procedures. Many thanks to all for their input. Some have done much more than the expected minimum and these are particularly deserving of our community's gratitude.

Councillor attendance records:

2012-13	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs W BARLOW	9	8	89%
Cllr R CLAY	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs J L LONGFIELD	9	5	56%
Cllr S J McVEIGH	6	1	17%
Cllr P A P MORRIS	9	5	56%
Cllr D MORROW	9	7	78%
Cllr J V MURPHY	9	8	89%
Cllr A RHEAD	9	7	78%
Cllr R A SHOTTON-OZA	9	7	78%
Cllr Mrs A GORDON	9	9	100%
Cllr Mrs NEWSOME	9	8	89%
Cllr Mrs P K PAYNE	7	6	86%
Cllr M J METCALFE	9	8	89%
Cllr N F J THURLEY	9	9	100%
Cllr J T WRIGHT	9	8	89%
Cllr J M HAWKESFORD	9	8	89%

Report by County Councillor

12 Cllr L Caborn reported:

This is really an end of term report as we approach County Council Elections on May 2nd
What has the Conservative Administration achieved in the last four years in sole control of WCC ?
0% council tax rise for past 3 years whilst taking £65 million out of cost of running WCC. Staff numbers reduced from 4088 FT to 2993 FT and 3635PT reduced to 3093 PT. (excluding schools)

Adult Social Care and Children.

Personal budgets for individuals, Extra Care dwellings for elderly and disabled, Transfer of Care homes to Runwood homes

Streamlined our Fostering and Adoption processes, though numbers in care risen from 536 to 709. Best Ofsted for safeguarding in West Midlands. Developed children's centres to embrace the whole family and reduced the need for pupil referral units by giving schools flexibility over failing pupils. A level and GCSE pass rates up.

Community

Following strategic plan turned fire service into fire and Rescue Service New road accident unit and boat unit Reduced the economic cost of fire by 50% and become the top performing fire service in U K with regards to accidental dwelling fires. Achieved with home fire safety calls and small fire units. New station for L/Spa will be delivered.

Road accidents (killed or seriously injured) down from 348 to 313

Spending on roads maintenance up from £34.75m to £35.12m

Local schemes

Still able to grit over 46% of roads and reviewing--policy to see in can improve ie around schools

Worked to improve community forums, one-stop-shops (new Shire Hall layout)

16 libraries moved to community control successfully

Recycling with Boroughs and Districts up from 43.2% to 48.7%

Shire Hall and Old Courts to be let to partner

Health and Wellbeing

Public health moved to County council

Work with partners, as health affects everyone and every age

Reduce carbon emissions through street lights-saving 3000 tons co2 and £500000

Future Growth is vital

Apprenticeships and support for businesses to take apprentices on

LEP -- City Deal --Top 60 firms in WCC area visited -- Junction 12/ 14 improvements

£8 m for Broadband especially to rural area

Rural growth centre at Stoneleigh. Small business loans. Market towns initiative.

Sand and Gravel

Discussions with officers after rumours about sand and gravel and HS2

On 27 Mar 13 WCC under the new NPPF was informed it had to have available 7 years land bank of sand and gravel(mineral) sites

We have 2 years 8 months

Call for sites Oct/Nov this year followed by consultation

Vulnerable to applications and existing out of date

WCC believe the strategy for HS2 if built will be the borrow pit principle which means dig it put and replace with spoil from another site nearby

Finally thanks to chairman .clerk and councillors for support and co-operation

Look forward to being back

Matters Arising

13 Mr E Scrannage spoke warmly in appreciation of Cllr Caborn's contribution wishing it could be emulated by the village's district councillors.

Appointment of Parish Meeting Representative to Village Hall Committee

- 14 There being no volunteers for this appointment the meeting delegated authority to the Chairman to coopt a member at her discretion in the future.

Appointment of Chairman for 2013-14

- 15 Mrs Antoinette Gordon was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure of the Meeting

- 16 There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:03pm, thanking those who had attended.