

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 18 APRIL 2016 AT 7:30PM**

Present: Mr Tony Merrygold (Chairman)
Cllr John Murphy
Seven Sherbourne Electors

Opening

- 1 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the Sherbourne Annual Parish Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was twofold; firstly, to allow the provision of information on a variety of activities affecting residents of the village, including reports from the Parish, District and County Councils, Police, Neighbourhood Watch and the Church, and secondly, to allow electors to raise any issues.

Minutes

- 2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 Apr 15 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising

Report by Chairman of Parish Meeting

- 3 The Chairman reported:

Parish Report

Thanks to all village residents who cut the grass verges outside their properties and further afield. WDC only cut about twice a year and only one mower width to keep views clear for traffic. The villagers really help to keep the verges tidy and if this wasn't done they would grow to 3 or 4 feet in height. Thanks also to Mrs Gordon for planting some trees in the verges along Vicarage Lane and Watery Lane, to replace some of the small trees that are dying off.

Superfast Broadband

Do you all know that Sherbourne has now been wired for Superfast Broadband? This was done as part of the CSW Broadband project. The contractor was BT who upgraded the cabinet that serves Sherbourne last year and laid fibre optic cable. We are with BT and used to get about 12MB to 13MB download speed. Since we upgraded, although we were told we could get UP TO 80MB, we get between 50MB and 60MB download speed and 20MB upload. This only costs us about £2 per month more than our previous contract. So if you are still on a slow broadband connection then I suggest you check with your own broadband supplier for what service they can offer.

Rubbish Collection

There have been a number of occasions where the recycling trucks have either left items behind that should have been collected or, worse still, have allowed items to escape from their truck and leave it down the roads. On one occasion I picked up 13 drinks cans from Watery Lane after walking the dogs and just put these in with the recycling for next time. WDC are taking a very hard line with their contractors and want to be informed of any such instances, including receiving pictures. Rather than you or me picking everything up, they will then send the contractors out again. Normally I am likely to see this while walking the dogs but if there is something you want to draw to my attention just give me a ring. I have the email address of the WDC employee Martyn Stacey who manages the recycling contract and will email through details.

Collection Reminders

We were caught out by changes to rubbish collection days which changed for Christmas week and judging by the other uncollected recycling we saw when dog walking, we weren't the only Sherbourne residents. WDC can send an automated email reminder telling you what bins to put out on what day and what week. The email arrives the day before and tells you whether it is grey bin week or recycling week. I don't yet know if this will actually cover changes to the schedule for Christmas and other holidays as I only subscribed this year, but hopefully it will. If you want to do this you can sign up at website www.GreenBoxDay.co.uk and enter your postcode, then follows the instructions.

Sherbourne Bypass Roundabout

Cllr Gordon and I responded to a document asking for feedback 5 years after Sherbourne bypass had been built. We raised comments about planting to screen the road which hasn't really established itself, noisy tarmac up Sherbourne Hill and road markings on both the Sherbourne and Longbridge Roundabouts. The JPC has separately informed Highways Agency that the Longbridge Roundabout road markings need re-painting. Hopefully you will all have spotted that work has been done adding new signs on the A46 and changing and re-painting the markings on and around the A46 and Sherbourne roundabouts reducing the number of lanes on the Sherbourne roundabout from 3 to 2. Sadly, the markings on the Longbridge roundabout have not been re-done.

Watery Lane

We are still concerned about speeding along Watery Lane. My personal experience is that motorists seem to be slowing down a bit when people are walking in the Lane, but when it is clear they still speed. Your Parish Councillors will have another go at trying to get this reduced to 30 mph. WDC have an online system, in BETA TEST, which can be used to report damage to road signs and road surfaces and I have entered a number of reports onto the system about the tarmac in Fulbrook Lane and problems with a couple of road signs in the village. If you are interested this website is www.FixMyStreet.com. Unfortunately, the website does not give any indication if or when problems will be rectified. It does however send out an email one month later asking if the problem has been fixed.

Report on Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch

4 Mrs Helen Whiter had submitted the written report below:

The Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch Scheme started nearly two years ago and all people who move into the village are invited to join. Those who have signed up to the scheme receive updates on any relevant incidents in the area and a regular newsletter. In the last year, there have been 8 alerts to crimes in neighbouring villages. These include breaking into cars, sheds and garages and stealing items, as well as scam phone calls by fraudsters trying to gain banking details. In addition, members are alerted to police campaigns and given advice on how to avoid crime. Participants have also now had invitations to contribute to surveys and consultations on crime and policing in Warwickshire.

If you have not joined up yet, you can still do so. Please just contact the co-ordinator for your area of the village:

Carole Fidler	01926 624533	Moat Green and Watery Lane
Amber O'Brien	01926 624732	Church Road and Fulbrook Lane
Helen Whiter	01926 624681	Vicarage Lane and courtyards
Antoinette Gordon	01926 624344	Outlying Areas

or alternatively send your name, address and email address to our local PCSO, Paul Coleman (paul.coleman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk), who will then ensure that the information is passed to your local co-ordinator.

A reminder

Dialling 999 - Emergency number.

Use it if you see an incident whereby you believe a crime is about to be committed, is being or has been committed and the offenders are still on the scene.

Report by Police

5 PCSO 6189 Paul Coleman had submitted the written report below

Nothing much to report for Sherbourne as I am pleased to say that is a fairly quiet area when it comes to crime. I think the best way for Sherbourne residents to keep up to date with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (Warwick Rural West) is our monthly newsletter. If there any people not receiving the newsletter but would like to please get residents to send us their email address and we can add them to the list.

The team has been changing and now consists of the following:

- PC1672 Rob Davies

- PCSO 6189 Paul Coleman
- PCSO 6305 Matthew Hall

The contact number for the team is 01926 684397 and we are still based locally in Warwick email address: wrw.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Report by Village Hall Committee

6 Mrs Peta Wilkinson had submitted the written report below:

Thanks to the fantastic support we have received from Warwick District Council and the Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council we have been able to renovate our village hall extensively. We have new toilets, a new heating system, and are ordering new blinds. This has greatly enhanced what we can offer to residents and people hiring the hall.

On the back of this excellent work we have been able to secure more funding from the Rural West Community Forum to renovate our bar and kitchen area which looks amazing and greatly enhances the scope of what we can utilise the hall for. The Forum have also given us a grant to purchase new chairs which are much more comfortable and supportive and will make your experience of coming to the hall much more enjoyable.

Bookings for the last financial year were steady but we hope will improve on the back of our fantastic new facilities. Please do encourage your family and friends to attend events. For more information about hiring the hall, contact Nicky Edwards on 07803 243430.

We had a number of very successful events this year including:

- St David's Day Lunch
- Family Film evenings
- Harvest Festival Lunch
- Tea parties

Events for next year include:

- Saturday 2nd April – Film Night 'Woman in Gold'
- Sunday 12th June – Queen's Birthday Celebration Afternoon Tea
- Saturday 10th September – Film night 'Suffragette'
- Sunday 2nd October – Harvest festival lunch
- Saturday 19th November – Table top sale

We would love to contact you by email to give you advanced notice of forthcoming events. If you felt able to share your email address with us it would be most helpful. We would only use it for village hall events and not pass it to 3rd parties. Please email your address to helenwhiter@btinternet.com

AGM

We are having our AGM on Saturday 7th May at 10.30am in the village hall, do come along, refreshments are available and you will be able to hear our exciting news. We look forward to welcoming you all. Do let us know if you have time to help with planning or delivering any of our events. We would also greatly appreciate any help in designing fliers and posters for events.

Report by the Parochial Church Council

9 Rev David Jessett submitted the following written report:

During the past twelve months we have held 11 weddings, 8 baptisms and 3 funerals. The congregation varies from week to week but averages 20 over the past year. The regular services

are at 11.00 am each Sunday apart from 3rd Sundays of the month when, rather than the normal service, we serve coffee and light refreshments. These are good occasions for people to meet socially and we invite all local people to join us and our other visitors.

Also, this year we have twice opened the Church for an hour or so in an evening, with gentle music playing and candles in the windows. These are intended to offer an opportunity for anyone to come into Church to have some quiet time to reflect or pray without having to commit to an hour for a service. People can drop in for as short or as long a time as they like.

Every five years Church buildings have to have an inspection by a suitably qualified architect. During May this was carried out. Happily nothing major was discovered in the way of significant repairs but the architect's fees and the process of preparing for it (fixed wiring checks, renewal of fire extinguishers, lightning conductor testing and upgrade, etc) were expensive. These are as usual costs that have to be met by the local congregation.

In the same way, during the year, the clappers of the bells were removed and refurbished before being rehung. We are now working on replacing the rope rollers. We are always looking to add to our band of ringers. Training can be provided and it is a good way of keeping fit! Provided we can get a band of ringers together, we intend to mark the Queen's 90th birthday with the ringing of the bells.

On the weekend of September 18th - 20th we held our biennial Flower Festival. This year the theme was classical books. Stratford Flower Club produced some wonderful arrangements as did ladies from our villages. The arrangements were imaginative ranging from Beatrice Potter to the Bible. The weekend began with a concert and ended with a Festal Evensong aided by The Charlecote Singers and led by The Rev Mervyn Roberts. The Festival raised some £3,400 but despite that and the regular giving by the congregation we actually spent about £500 more than we took in over the year, largely because of the costs of the architect's inspection.

At Harvest Festival time there were many donations of food in aid of Myton Hospice which were all gratefully received. This was followed by a Harvest Lunch provided by the Village Hall committee who shared the funds received with the Church.

In December we held 3 Carol Services. The first was held to raise money for the Addington Fund which helps farmers in need. The second was for a local Masonic Lodge and mulled wine and mince pies were served afterwards. Finally, our own service of nine lessons and carols was a great success with a Church, beautifully decorated and lit only by candles, full of people.

We look forward to the weddings this year and trust that the couples and their guests appreciate the beautifully kept church yard that Paul and John from our regular congregation have produced.

Report by Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton JPC

10 Cllr John Murphy (Chairman of the JPC) gave the following report:

2015-2016 has as always been a busy year – 9 routine JPC meetings, numerous Planning meetings, three Annual Parish Meetings two Special Meetings, numerous Working Party meetings and several public “events”. The year has also to some degree been dominated by the King George's Field improvement scheme which has permeated into all aspects of parish life to a greater or lesser degree.

Difficult financial times have continued but the correction we made a couple of years ago has again allowed us to produce a balanced budget this year once again avoiding any increase on your parish element of the Council Tax charges.

All three village halls have this year been supported by JPC grants with £1166 towards general maintenance each and the JPC also gave grant support of £441 towards maintenance of each of the three churchyards. Following last year's initiative, the JPC also awarded £441 to support Barford Scout Hut funds in recognition of its important role providing essential community facilities, in addition to its more conventional role with the uniformed groups.

The King George's Field scheme has been very busy and last year we suggested that it MIGHT get completed in 2015 but weather and other factors have conspired to delay that, however the end is near and the official opening is scheduled for May this year, so we are ahead of our revised target of "before the end of 2016" and well ahead of our original target of during 2017. Additionally, we are also delivering far more within the same broad budget and are lining up more features as more funding comes on stream and things begin to settle.

The WDC **New Local Plan** was found to be unsound at its examination in public and after some debate was "suspended until May 2016" whilst housing numbers were reviewed with particular reference to Coventry overspill and windfall sites accounting. This has necessitated a further review of available sites and in the latest proposals Barford is expected to take a further 75 houses – split over two sites (off Wasperton Lane and inside the Barford Bypass) in addition to those previously proposed or granted permissions through the planning system.

Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan has now been examined by the independent examiner and was well received and approved subject to some fairly minor and mostly positive detail changes. The turmoil with the over-arching New Local Plan has cast some doubt on the timings of the way forward and we must now await taking the Neighbourhood Plan to Referendum in the parish before it becomes part of planning law.

County Minerals Plan returned in September in **Preferred Options** format, effectively spring-boarding off the consultations carried out a few years ago and arriving at an apparently fixed list of nine sites, all of which are claimed to be required. We held two public meetings in November at Wasperton and Barford and these were well attended. It was disappointing that the officers presenting the plan had limited knowledge of both the locality and the subject and many of our questions remained unanswered. Wasperton Hill Farm and Glebe Farm sites are very close to our settlements and will have major impacts on our residents. Unfortunately for us, the Wasperton Hill site also seems to be the site on which there is most detail of actual mineral reserve and over which developers can be most certain of commercial extraction.

Affordable Housing – We continued to liaise with WRCC but as the developer pressure has become so great it would seem we will now get more Affordable Housing than is required for our parishes' immediate needs and that the extra units will be occupied by those in need across the WDC area. We are hopeful that WDC will continue ensure that they remain preferentially available to those with local connections in perpetuity.

Land around Barford House has remained high profile and having been refused permission to develop the whole site a scheme was submitted for eight houses on the southern portion and despite local opposition this was approved. Since approval there have been some minimal works on the site and the site now appears to be for sale and available for a developer to complete. There has been no visible progress on repairs to the walls fronting Wellesbourne road.

The Sherbourne Nurseries site is currently being built by Taylor Wimpey and a significant number of homes are already occupied and the site is expected to be completed in 2017.

As expected at this time last year, land between **Wilkins Close** and the river came back into the planning system and an outline application for 26 houses was duly approved. This site has now been sold on and Spitfire builders have submitted a detailed or reserved matters application for 25 houses of various sizes and tenures.

In September a "**Swingers Festival**" at **Sherbourne Park** caused much concern to village residents and as various other temporary events had caused concerns, especially with noise issues, the JPC took the opportunity to study the legislation surrounding licensing for temporary events. It seems that there is minimal effective control and even less consultation. As a result, working with the local and national association of local councils we have promoted a motion which suggests that the system should be amended, to, at the very least, include consultation with local residents and hopefully fortify the ways in which such events are actually monitored.

In Barford we have had a new "period style" fingerpost installed at the main village junction and this

is both decorative and informative and will hopefully assist many of our visitors who frequently have to stop and ask for directions. This was kindly funded and installed by Barford Village Shop.

Wasperton Footpath W101, from Wasperton Lane to Lower Heathcote farm was temporarily closed due to a bridge collapse. This was re-opened in the autumn after the installation of a new bridge. Sadly, there are few markers and working with the landowners it is intended to install new markers to ensure that the correct route is clear.

Councillors have served their electors extremely well, working as a strong team with James Johnson our excellent Clerk/RFO. Over the year we have again seen some changes in Barford Councillors and have been pleased to welcome both Katy Thompson and Simon Morton to replace some of our recent losses. Vacancies do still exist for Barford councilors and we will be looking to co-opt others as time moves on. Meanwhile, once again, the bulk of the work has had to fall on the stalwarts able to make meetings and dedicate considerable amounts of extra time to pursue our various activities and other commitments. Many thanks to all for their input.

As a codicil Cllr Murphy then elaborated on some of the features of the KGF scheme stressing the community involvement, local fundraising, extent of the facilities, the delivery within both budget and funding and the hope that residents from all three parishes would use and enjoy what would shortly be available.

Councillor attendance records:

	Meetings	Present	%
Cllr Mrs A Gordon	9	9	100%
Cllr T Merrygold	9	8	89%
Cllr Mrs R Newsome	9	8	89%

Report by Warwick District Council

11 Cllr Alan Rhead (WDC) submitted the following written report:

The message is all about sustainability of our Rural Areas, not least Barford. This is in great part achieved by:

- More than 100 new houses coming to our village with 40% being affordable for our younger people.
- The development of the King George Playing Fields which will provide significant facilities for all ages of our community. This has only happened due to the enormous work put in by the JPC's Working Group. The District Council has made a significant financial contribution to this mainly as a result of the new homes.
- The additional classroom at the school again as a result of the increased housing.

All of this is good for the long term for our shop, our pubs, our church and our community halls.

The emerging Local Plan is far from perfect but we urgently need to have one that passes the test of soundness of the Inspector. My greatest concern and my main focus is the infrastructure. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP for short) is very much a work in progress and currently its funding has not been sufficiently identified. Some of the thinking behind the IDP is, in my opinion, naïve, believing we will all change our reliance on the car (yet planning rules insist on delivering parking spaces according to the number of bedrooms in a property). My main concentration will be to scrutinise highways, public transport, cycle ways and education.

One other area of concern is the provision, or lack of, for Gypsy & Travellers sites. The Council has gone about this with a lack of a coherent strategy and currently has now disregarded its last proposals. This is a further area that will have our close scrutiny.

The Council Tax is for the first time in 4 years being increased to ensure that the Council maintains a balanced budget over the next 4 years. There are challenges ahead but your Council is one of the few that has ensured no cuts in services while maintaining a balanced budget.

Finally, local government organisation has to change, the status quo is not an option. Personally I am an advocate of a Unitary Authority both for economy of scale and public awareness. I will be

promoting this idea in Council.

If any member of the public has any questions, then please email me on:
Alan.rhead@warwickdc.gov.uk

Report by Warwickshire County Council

11 Cllr Les Caborn (WCC) submitted the following written report:

BUDGET

In the autumn statement the government announced that it had changed the way councils where to be allocated their funding, without consultation. The net effect is that WCC has £10 million less in 2016-17 and 2017-18 per year. As the announcement was too late for this year's budget setting, we took money out of reserves. The roll on effect will mean an extra £25 million will have to be found in 2017-18.

In addition, the public health budget was reduced by £1.4 million in year plus 3.9% in real terms each year until 2020

We increased council tax by 1.9% plus 2% for adult social care.

SAND AND GRAVEL

The work is nearly complete in processing all responses to the first consultation and putting them on line. An additional member of staff is being recruited to assist. A number of new sites have been submitted so these will be consulted on shortly. Following which there will be a second consultation on proposed final list of sites based on all sites (new and old) in the Autumn. It is then planned to submit to inspectors in 2017.

SOLAR ENERGY

Three sites in council ownership are being investigated and costed with a partner to deliver income and balance energy usage with generation. One of these is Glebe Farm Wasperton. Possibly 6 acres around Glebe Farm itself, facing south towards Wellesbourne.

SMALLHOLDING. ESTATE

Council has agreed to maintain our small holding estate at 5000 acres. Where land is sold for development out of this estate, council has agreed that 5% of sale price will be reinvested in land to maintain the total acreage.

MENTAL HEALTH

Our mental health contracts (CAMHS) has been redesigned to concentrate on early help and intervention and is being relet this year. In addition, we have won £17 million additional funding which will be used to eliminate waiting time.

MASH

The multi-agency safeguarding hub will open for children on May 3rd and adults on Sep 1st. This brings together on one site in WCC; social workers, police, health, education, priority families, youth justice and child sexual exploitation teams to safeguard all our vulnerable people.

SMART START

This is our 0-5 years' redesign to ensure every child is school ready. It involves health, education, children's centres, nurseries, and nurses to deliver the best start for every child and parents across the whole county. It is about changing ours and our partners' services and engaging local communities to assist and help.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Policy now completed and will be coming your way

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The additional 2% council tax has enabled WCC to ensure all care workers almond side all WCC staff receive the living wage.

We continue with our programme of delivering independent living for the elderly and disabled

We are redesigning all our social care contracts to deliver improved service with a reduced number of suppliers with new performance targets.

FIRE AND RESCUE

We continue our work with Worcester and Hereford fire and rescue but are waiting the Home Secretary to give details of the announced collaboration with police.

OLD SHIRE HALL

After competitive tender, council has accepted an in-house bid to manage this venture. It is proposed to do this via an arm's length company,

Thanks to all chairmen, councillors and Clerks for their support throughout the year
Cllr Les Caborn

Any Other Business

12 Black Barn Field.

The field has been put to uses which deny the occupants of neighbouring dwellings their Common Law right of quiet enjoyment. Some of those uses require advanced permission, and it is not at all clear that this has been sought or obtained.

Whilst strenuous efforts have been made by those affected to ameliorate the problem, little progress has been achieved. The Sherbourne electors therefore appealed to the Joint Parish Council to add its weight to the argument, and it was agreed that the Chairman should gather all the evidence and make a case for consideration at the JPC's next meeting in May.

13 Cyclists.

A complaint that cyclists were a hazard to pedestrians by virtue on not sounding a bell to warn of their approach received sympathy, but the fact that it is no longer a legal requirement for bicycles to have bells prevented any action being taken.

14 Path from Sherbourne to Barford. The path, which is shared by cyclists and pedestrians, is becoming increasingly hazardous because vegetation has been allowed to encroach and is not being cut back. Cllr Murphy undertook to report the problem.

15 Dairy Farm. The dairy farm is scheduled for expansion (under new management) with an increased herd of 500 cows. The stench of it is already on the limit of what is tolerable and concern was express about what it might become. It was suggested that an analysis of the stink should be made to establish a base-line against which future emissions could be measured, but it was not clear how this could be done.

16 Sherbourne Bypass Roundabout.

In response to a question about any reaction to the document giving feedback 5 years after Sherbourne bypass had been built (see Minute 3) the answer was none.

Appointments

17 Representative on Village Hall Committee. Mrs Antoinette Gordon was appointed.

18 Chairman of Parish Meeting for 2016-17. Tony Merrygold was elected unopposed

Closure

19 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:00pm