

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PARISH OF WASPERTON
HELD AT WASPERTON VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 3RD APRIL 2006 AT 7:30PM**

Present Mr David Hunt (Chairman)
 Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman of the Joint Parish Council)
 Cllr J T Wright
 Cllr Dr M Metcalfe
 Cllr L Caborn (Warwickshire County Council)
 PC Emma Matthews (CBO)
 Eighteen Wasperton Electors

Minutes

- 1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2005 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.
- 2 The meeting agreed to allow the minutes of the current meeting to be made public in draft form as soon as approved by the Chairman.

Report by Cllr J V Murphy (Chairman Joint Parish Council)

- 3 The year 2005-2006 has been busy yet again – nine routine JPC meetings, twenty Planning meetings, two Special Meetings, numerous Working Party and Officer Meetings and the three Annual Parish Meetings.
- 4 During the year Sue Dean and Graham Morris resigned and have been ably replaced by Cllr Geoff Smith for Wasperton and Cllr Ted Scranage for Sherbourne who are both already playing a very active role in JPC activities.
- 5 Barford Shop and Post Office In the summer we were pleased to learn that a suitable tenant had been found and eagerly awaited the opening. There was significant support from locals; however promised developments failed to materialize and customers became more despondent and had to continue shopping outside our parish areas. Eventually the shop closed summarily and there are ongoing efforts to find a suitable replacement tenant or purchaser. The shop and house are currently on the market and subject to a planning application to add some office units at the rear of the property. Meanwhile there are also moves afoot to launch a community venture to reopen or replace the facility elsewhere in the village, although prospects for regaining a Post Office are very limited. The old butcher's shop which was empty for more than two years has been granted planning permission for change of use to residential and the conversion is currently underway.
- 6 Barford Bypass The project is finally truly underway and the massive earthworks give a clear indication of its scale, although progress does seem to be swift. The liaison group, consisting of members of the JPC from the three villages, Barford Residents' Association and the elected representatives, along with WCC officers and the contractors, continues to meet to help ensure any problems during the build period are resolved as easily as possible.
- 7 A46 Sherbourne Bypass Proposals to improve the Longbridge J15 area with an A46 bypass were poorly received at the 2005 Sherbourne Parish Meeting and this was then replaced summarily by a completely different scheme bringing the A46 Bypass route nearer to Sherbourne but removing all traffic from the old A46 immediately adjacent to the village. The proposal was implemented to avoid disturbance of bats found on the original route and to keep the scheme within the allocated

budget. The JPC sits on a Liaison Group for the scheme and has strongly represented local views and achieved a few small concessions to date, including a proposed public meeting to be held on Thursday 27th May in Sherbourne Village Hall.

- 8 Barford Byelaws After a long development period byelaws were adopted by the JPC in July 2005 and were finally enacted on 4th October. Signs have been placed at either end of the allotment and Playing Fields areas and on Barford Village Green. So far they have not needed to be invoked.
- 9 Barford Parish Plan This year the project was finally completed and the Barford Parish Plan document was published and circulated to all homes in the parish. The JPC has established a Working Party consisting of all Barford councillors and is working towards implementing or promoting as much of the plan as possible, as soon as is reasonably possible. The BPP committee will keep a watching brief on developments but have meanwhile moved on to considering a Village Design Statement to assist in future planning in the area.
- 10 Play Areas These are under constant review and checked at least weekly by a Parish Councillor. The surface under all the equipment has been thoroughly overhauled and the access gates on the children's area at Barford Playing Fields have been replaced and are now an "outward-opening, self-closing, dog-resistant design" as approved by ROSPA.
- 11 Skateboard Area This continues to generate comment over noise and youth activity, and we continue to try to find ways to limit this impact on residents, albeit with only limited success so far.
- 12 The Boundary Commission Changes to WCC electoral wards put all three of our villages together with other more rural parishes (Bishops Tachbrook, Hampton Magna, Hampton on the Hill and Norton Lindsey) and we now have a single councillor, Les Caborn to represent our interests at county level.
- 13 Police Matters Our police cover has been patchy over the last year and there have been many instances where the service provision has been considerably less than might be desired. After a period without a CBO we were pleased to hear that PC Emma Matthews was appointed to our area in September and we look forward to working with her.
- 14 On Planning specifically:
 - 14.1 The Oldhams' site was the subject of a mixed use planning application with part commercial B1 office use, part affordable housing and part market homes. This was approved by the WDC planners but called in by the Secretary of State as the decision was outside both local and national policies. The JPC supported the proposal, largely to get the affordable homes, but also to keep/gain employment uses and has undertaken significant lobbying to ensure that if the application is approved there will be clear priority for affordable homes for individuals with Barford connections and secondarily those with Sherbourne or Wasperton connections, ahead of all other applicants. The JPC position was ably presented at the Public Inquiry by Cllr Rob Mulgrue and we currently await the final decision.
 - 14.2 An application to extend the facilities of the Glebe Hotel and incorporate one of the Church Lane residences was objected to by the JPC on the grounds of over development, traffic issues and unneighbourliness, but was eventually approved by the planners at WDC.
 - 14.3 Land surrounding Barford House remained a major interest, and the agent staged a public exhibition with a scale model in July. There was much interest and a full spectrum of opinion. Since then the agent has assembled a focus group to consider possibilities for the site and we await further progress, if any, given that there is currently a moratorium on new development in WDC area.

- 15 Traffic Calming in Barford The lighting upgrade on the High Street chicane and narrowing has recently been implemented, along with replacement of damaged bollards.
- 16 Village Halls The three village halls have again been supported by JPC grants - £400 Barford, £1000 Sherbourne and £1000 Wasperton – although members have again suggested that they would wish to see more active management and fund raising taking place in Wasperton to make their hall more viable.
- 17 Allotments The JPC allotments have now been cleared and ploughed and it is hoped to get them let and into production for the current season.
- 18 All councillors have attended many meetings and served their electors well.
- 19 The Clerk/RFO has as always borne the majority of the work and pressure. Many thanks to our excellent Clerk/RFO, Mr James Johnson.

Constabulary Matters

- 20 PC Emma Matthews the CBO introduced herself and described her responsibilities.
- 21 She explained the procedure for reporting emergencies and for the passage of routine information.
- 22 She was questioned on the practicality of introducing and enforcing a speed limit in the village. Cllr L Caborn intervened to say that he would voice Wasperton's concerns at the County Council.

Report by Cllr John Wright

- 23 Cllr Wright opened by revealing Cllr Smith's intention to resign, and inviting any interested parishioner to volunteer to fill the vacant appointment.
- 24 He gave a resumé of current planning matters in the village.
- 25 He reported that the finances of the village hall were on a firmer footing with grants being sought and other income being reviewed. The hall remains a centre for activities in the village and he gave a list of the numerous events it hosts.
- 26 He concluded by reiterating his remarks of last year that Wasperton is now as then an active, vibrant village.

Cycle and Pedestrian Access - Wasperton to Barford

- 27 Cllr Metcalfe briefed the meeting on the need for and progress towards achieving this access.
- 28 He stated that a petition for it had received the overwhelming support of Wasperton residents as well as that from others outside the village.
- 29 Cllr Caborn said he would be pleased to present the petition to the County Council.

Speed Limit on A429

- 30 The Chairman voiced the concern of many who regarded the present speed and volume of traffic on the A429 in the vicinity of the village as unsafe and who feared it worsening with the opening of the Barford Bypass.

- 31 He said that WCC had failed to be persuaded of the need, quoting criteria which determined the need for speed limits and which, it was alleged, did not apply to the Wasperton case. To his certain knowledge these same criteria, if uniformly applied, would suggest that other stretches of road in Warwickshire did not require speed limits, but had them.
- 32 Again Cllr Caborn offered to take the matter up at the County Council.
- 33 The question of the closure of the lay-by arose from the general discussion. After protracted debate it was agreed that it should be closed but that access to the disused area should be prevented.

Neighbourhood Watch

- 34 Mr Jim Gilligan presented an annual report on the Neighbourhood watch scheme.
- 35 He spoke of previous difficulties in communication with the police and, picking up on the earlier remarks of the CBO, said if that communication failed, he was willing to accept messages.
- 36 It had been a relatively quiet year, and he listed the incidents which had come to his attention.
- 37 He urged everybody to be security aware and to take sensible precautions to avoid the unscrupulous and criminal elements in society.
- 38 His warnings of the previous year remained relevant:
- Cars left unlocked outside houses.
 - Opportunist break-ins
 - "90" telephone fraud.
 - Bin raiding for identity theft

Any Other Business

- 39 Mr Lacey, out of courtesy, informed the meeting he intended to apply for planning permission to erect an indoor riding school.
- 40 Considerable disquiet was again expressed over the lack of green wheelie-bins. The Chairman quoted from the minutes of last year's meeting:
"Cllr Mrs Haywood said that she shared the concern expressed and that she had taken the matter up with the Chief Executive WDC but had lost the argument. Regrettably some neighbourhoods would have to wait whilst others (her own for example) would never enjoy the facility."
Cllr Caborn said that there would be no change to the status quo until the change of contracts for refuse collection in 2008 at the earliest
- 41 A plea to have the diffusers on the street lights in Wasperton cleaned was made.
- 42 Cllr Mrs C Sawden of Warwick District Council (unavoidably detained on other business) sent a message of assurance to residents that she would continue to work for them to maintain the serenity of the village. She also suggested that if the village was minded to raise a petition against the replacement of the taxi token scheme with a bus pass scheme, she would present it to the District Council.

Appointment of Chairman for 2006-7

- 43 Mr David Hunt, having been proposed and seconded, was appointed by electors present as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Closure of the Meeting

- 44 There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00 pm, thanking those who had attended.