

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2023 - subject to later
approval by Councillors.**

PRESENT: Cllr. J. Holloway - Chairman, Cllr. J. Cridge, Cllr. Mrs. Morag Walker, Cllr. Mrs. N. Noel

Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk, Cllr. N. Najjar WC, for part of the meeting

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. G. Wills, Vice Chair, Cllr. G. Wills, Cllr. J. Avery

VILLAGE MATTERS: Cllr. Cridge reported a blocked drain on Duck Lane. Cllrs. Mrs Walker and Noel agreed to report the matter. Councillors reminded residents that all were free to report defects on the My Wilts. App.

Cllr. Cridge reported fallen leaves on the pavement on West Street making it slippery. The Chairman agreed this could be reported on the issue sheet for the Parish Steward. In the meantime if any resident wished to clear leaves from the pavement outside their house, then this would be welcomed.

The Chairman agreed to try to ask the Post Office for the reinstatement of the Post Box at the bottom of Dairy Road.

Cllr. Cridge noted that there was still no provision for a Polling Station in Barford meaning a journey to Burcombe could be necessary. Councillors suggested a possible solution could be to register for a postal vote.

51.23 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2023 were approved and signed.

52.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllrs. Mrs Walker and Noel declared an interest in item 4 on the agenda, a presentation on the Play Area.

53.23 MATTERS ARISING: These had been addressed as above,

54.23 It was agreed that the presentation about the Play Area should be deferred to an extraordinary meeting, now arranged for Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.30 am in the Church

55.23 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 3 cheques were signed totalling £400.00
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2023 – 2024 remained within total budget
- iii Councillors considered expenditure for the forthcoming financial year 2024 – 2025 with a focus on re fencing the Village Field and on the provision of speed reduction measures.
- iv Councillors set a provisional precept of £10,500.00 for the financial year 2024 - 2025

56.23 REPORTS:

i Wiltshire Councillor: Cllr. Najjar, WC reassured all present that WC finances were on a firm footing. He reminded Councillors that the WC Local Plan was out for consultation, available on the WC website. Because the number of houses to be built had been reduced there was little prescription among the parishes. Barford remained within the small villages scheme and so had no housing allocation.

The Area Board continued to make grants to the parishes for the development of facilities. A full speed limit review would be conducted from Stratford Tony along the length of the Chalke Valley.

The upcoming Area Board to be held on 29th November would be road themed and Cllr. Najjar emphasised this would be a consultative opportunity and Councillors and residents were invited to put questions in advance to the Parish Council, Cllr. Najjar or to the Community Engagement Manager, Karen Linaker. Cllr. Najjar requested a summary of what Parish Councillors believed was required to address the problem of speed, narrow road and lack of pavement on the A 30 from the garage to the junction with the B3089.

ii Representatives on Outside Bodies: The Chairman had been unable to attend the last meeting.

iii The Planning Committee: There were no outstanding applications.

57.23 AREA BOARD/LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group):

Cllr. Mrs Walker was pleased to report that the application for 2 additional NAL sockets for the A 30, Shaftesbury Road had been successful. These would allow the deployment of the SID in these locations once the work had been carried out.

58.23: RIGHTS OF WAY AND AONB: The Chairman reported that a resident had completed his walk of all local ROWs and would be meeting with him to discuss findings and possible improvements.

59.23: THE VILLAGE FIELD: It was agreed to defer this item to the additional meeting to be held on 22nd November

60.23 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: Cllr. Cridge reported that the Cemetery hedge had been cut by the Wilton Estate. He noted that the side now needed attention. The Chairman agreed to speak with the grass and hedge cutter. The Chairman had noted an ash tree to the side of the Cemetery which appeared to be dieing and would be removed in the spring.

61.23 MONITORING OF ASSETS: There was nothing reported.

62.23 ALLOTMENTS: Invoices for allotment rentals had been distributed. There had been one new applicant for an allotment.

63.23 BUS SHELTER: Repair or replacement would be tackled in 2025 – 2026 and thus removed from forthcoming agendas.

64.23 SPEED CONTROL: As reported in minute 57.23

65.23 LAND AT THE CLEEVES: There had been no further clarification.

66.23 CORRESPONDENCE: No further correspondence.

67.23 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: This would take place on January 9th 2024 at 7pm in the Church.

68.23 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.