

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE BARFORD ST. MARTIN
PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024 AT 7.00
PM.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. J. Holloway - Chairman, Cllr Dunton- Vice Chair, Cllr. J. Cridge, Cllr. J. Avery, Cllr. Mrs. M. Walker, Cllr. Mrs. N. Noel, Cllr G. Wills

8 residents were also present

Mrs. J. Childs, Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed all who were present and thanked residents present for their attendance

1. Apologies. There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th March 2023: These were signed as a true record.

3. Points which residents wished to be considered by the Council:

Bus shelter, West Street: Replacement and refurbishment had been considered by the Parish Council and, on grounds of cost, refurbishment had been the choice. Councillors hoped work would be completed this year but they would await improved weather later in the year. Cllr. Wills thanked those residents who offered to help in the project but stressed that work would be required to the roof.

Entrance to Burial Ground in Groveley Road: The Chairman explained that WC was responsible for the upkeep of the Burial Ground but was uncertain whether this would include the entrance. An enquiry would be made. Cllr. Walker reported that the gate required repair.

Verge outside The Haven: The green verge outside The Haven had become muddied because of its use by parked vehicles. This was a matter discussed many times by Councillors. The layby provided insufficient parking. Those making use of this area stated they would do what they could to restore the grass and to keep the area as tidy as possible. This was welcomed by the Chairman. The Parish Council would seek advice from Wiltshire Council.

Maintenance of signs throughout the village: Cllr. Wills who liaised with the Parish Steward on behalf of the Parish Council explained that this was one of the tasks which could be undertaken by him. Cllr. Wills was happy to receive any requests for work for the Steward but explained that these must be approved tasks and that Barford enjoyed the services of their Steward for only half a day each month. Councillors were grateful to the Parish Steward for all work completed.

Maintenance of the electrical box on the Village Field: It was believed that this was a safety issue and as such would be an immediate priority.

Safety Rail beyond Mill House: It was unclear who was responsible for this. The Chairman advised a photograph to be sent with an application on My Wilts.

Sheep Bridge: The Chairman stated that this was not a public right of way and belonged to the Wilton Estate. It provided access to the field let by the Estate to a local farmer. The Chairman would contact the Wilton Estate.

Removal of the post box near Dairy Road: This was unlikely to be replaced as there remained a post box within half a mile of most residences.

Speeding through the village: The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was doing all it could to encourage drivers to obey the existing speed limits. The SID was installed, could be moved to different locations and 2 further NAL sockets had been approved - one for Shaftesbury Road and one for the A30 between Tinker Bell and the junction with West Street. Cllr. Mrs. Walker was also working with a group of volunteers to organise Community Speedwatch. Cllr. Wills added that moving the SID was a physically taxing and risky matter.

4. Chairman's Report: The Chairman confirmed that road safety remained a priority for the Parish Council and that the purchase of a second SID would be a priority for the next financial year, 2025 – 2026. The Community Village Fund had organized the purchase of play equipment, now fitted but requiring further attention. The Blue Badge parking area by the Field had been completed and the Village Field itself fenced to a stockproof standard. The marking of the Coronation had been a success.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their hard work and further all residents who contributed to making Barford St Martin such a pleasant parish in which to live. The bus shelter and improved safety for road users between Tinker Bell and the junction with West Street would be the priorities for the year 2024 – 2025.

5. To confirm Burial Ground Fees and Allotment rentals: Burial Ground fees had risen from the 1st January. The Chairman reminded residents that fees for residents and those with close contact to the parish were lower than fees for those outside the parish. Allotment fees were unchanged.

6. Barford Business: There was no further Barford business.

7. Closure of the meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.50pm. A Parish Council meeting followed.

