

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024, following the Annual
Parish Meeting - subject to later approval by Councillors.**

PRESENT: Cllr. J. Holloway - Chairman, Cllr. G. Wills – Vice Chair, Cllr. J. Cridge, Cllr. Mrs. Morag Walker, Cllr. J. Avery, Cllr. Mrs. N. Noel

Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk,

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Mrs N. Noel

VILLAGE MATTERS: Councillors confirmed the urgency of securing the electrical box in the Village Field and hoped that all matters raised by residents would progress during the course of the year.

85.24 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th of January 2024 were approved and signed.

86.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No interests were declared.

87.24 MATTERS ARISING: The disappearance of the street lighting at Cross Cottage had been followed up, the query acknowledged but as yet there was no definitive response.

88.24 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 1 cheque was signed totalling £772.82
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2023 – 2024 remained within total budget

89.24 REPORTS:

- i Wiltshire Councillor: There was no report
- ii **Representatives on Outside Bodies:** A meeting of the Nicholson Trust was due to be held this week. The Chairman added that money was available for education and support.
- iii **The Planning Committee:** No outstanding applications.

90.24 AREA BOARD/LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group): There had been no attendance from Barford at the February meetings. The Parish Council had been informed that the installation of the 2 new sockets had been passed to the contractors.

91.24 RIGHTS OF WAY AND AONB: No updates reported.

92.24: THE VILLAGE FIELD: The new play equipment had been installed but Cllr. Mrs Walker reported that the final payment had been withheld because some corrective work was necessary. Cllr. Walker added that the Community Group was keen to improve the appearance of the Field. It was hoped that the nettle bank could be removed, hopefully by willing volunteers, and that some shrubs and tubs may be planted. Councillors supported the suggestions which would be funded by the Community Group.

The fencing of the Field had been completed. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Wills for overseeing this work. It was agreed that the fallen posts by the river would be removed and that the gate and the riverside verge were sufficiently wide to allow the grass to be cut.

Councillors confirmed that the work to ensure the safe supply of electricity to the Village Field would be completed in time for the Village Fete in June.

93.24 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: Cllr. Cridge reported that the mole hills were gradually being cleared.

94.24 MONITORING OF ASSETS: There was nothing reported but Councillors had been alerted to the rise in the increased amount of dog litter being found in the public areas of the village. Particularly concerning was the amount noticed in the Village Field. Councillors wished to record their thanks to residents who worked hard to keep the village so pleasant and asked all residents to take all litter, including dog litter, home.

95.24 ALLOTMENTS: Cllr. Mrs Walker and Cllr. Cridge had met with an inspector from Wessex Water checking on water supply to all allotment areas in their region. Two actions were required to meet the necessary standards:- the installation of a valve to prevent the backflow of water and the burying of the hose where possible. A letter had been received confirming these requirements which would be carried out as a matter of urgency. Wessex Water would return for a follow up visit on 02 05 2024.

96.24 SPEED CONTROL: The setting up of Community Speedwatch by volunteer residents was in hand.

97.24 CORRESPONDENCE: In response to a query WC had confirmed that Parish Councils would be required to pay for Parish Council elections and by elections both contested and uncontested. This was an expense for which the Parish Council had not budgeted when setting the precept for 2024 – 2025.

98.24 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 24th May at 7pm in the Church

99.24 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.