

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 9th JULY 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. N. Najjar WC for the first part of the meeting

Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk,

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Mrs. N. Noel

VILLAGE MATTERS:

18.24 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 21st of March 2024 and 21st May were agreed and signed.

19.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No interests were declared.

20.24 MATTERS ARISING: An application had been made to LHFIG for a grant towards the removal of the maintained grassed area outside The Haven and its replacement with paving.

The matter of the installation of NAL sockets had been assigned to the contractor.

21.24 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 2 cheques were signed totalling £495.00
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2024 – 2025 remained in line with budget provision
- iii The Certificate of Exemption, invited by the external auditor, was approved and signed by the Chairman.

The contract for electricity supply to the Village Field was due for renewal at the end of July. It was felt that the increased standing charge made the contract offered less attractive. Cllr. Wills agreed to make enquiries.

22.24 REPORTS:

i **Wiltshire Councillor:** Cllr. Najjar reported that there had been less activity during the election season. The Conservative Party had retained its majority in both Salisbury and SW Wilts. The Parish Council had received 2 Area Board grants. Parameters on what parishes could bid for had been reset; in particular there would be no new grants for village fetes with exceptions for special occasions. Applications for Area Board Grants should be received 4 weeks prior to the approaching Board meeting.

Some road re surfacing had been carried out in Barford. Cllr. Wills observed that the quality of such repairs required improvement and was concerned that he believed the work at the pinch point was not fully complete. Cllr. Najjar agreed that Highways maintenance was a problem for WC which cared for more roads than almost any other local council but he expressed a willingness to follow up on defects reported if provided with the case number.

ii Representatives on Outside Bodies: The Nicholson Trust had not met but the Chairman confirmed once more that money was available for help with education or hardship for any Barford resident.

iii The Planning Committee: No new planning applications had been discussed.

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

Cllr. Mrs Walker confirmed that applications made by the Barford Community Group for grants towards the fete and a further SID had both been approved. The Chairman thanked the Community Group for their many contributions and improvements to the parish and most particularly for the SID. The Chairman would consult over the most suitable model.

Cllr. Walker had also raised the possibility of a grant for ecological and environmental improvement to the Village Field. Cllr. Najjar, WC, had been supportive. The Chairman stressed that any work to the Field must first be agreed by the Parish Council which was responsible for keeping the Wilton Estate informed.

24.24: RIGHTS OF WAY and AONB: There was nothing to report. Councillors reminded walkers that dog litter should be picked up on ROWs.

25.24: THE VILLAGE FIELD: Much had been discussed as reported in Minute 24:22.

Cllr. Mrs Walker reported that the Fete had been well attended but that sadly the Saturday evening events had been washed out. The Quiz and Auction would now take place on 6th September at 8pm in the Barford Inn.

Councillors noted that it was important that dogwalkers picked up their dog litter from the Field for the convenience of all those who enjoyed this space. It was agreed that the area closest to the river should be kept free of new planting which would take place at the back of the Field following levelling of the nettle bank. The Chairman asked for a complete planting plan. It was noted that the path by the river had hogweed and the Chairman added that the Wilton Estate were prepared to survey and take action where necessary.

Cllr. Mrs Walker informed Councillors of the intention of the Community Group to hold a car boot sale on the Field in September. Councillors supported the idea with the proviso that no damage was done by heavy vehicles to the grass surface. The Chairman added that permission had been given to the Salisbury Light Car and Motor Cycle Group to use the Field as a base in September. He would speak with the group about keeping heavy vehicles away from the Field

26.24 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: Cllr. Cridge and Cllr. Avery reported that the construction of a grass box was in hand. All Councillors thanked Cllr. Avery for his work in removing ivy from the trees on roadside boundary of the Burial Ground and the Allotments. All agreed on the pleasing appearance of the Burial Ground.

27.24 MONITORING OF ASSETS: All Councillors thanked Cllr. Avery for overseeing repairs to the Jubilee Path which was a safe walkway once more.

28.24 ALLOTMENTS: Nothing to report.

29.24 BUS SHELTER, WEST STREET: The Beautifying Barford Group had provided paint for the bus shelter. All agreed that it already looked more attractive. Cllr. Wills noted that the structural repairs remained. Cllr. Wills believed he had this in hand and that it would be important for the Barford Community Group to liaise with Cllr. Wills and the Parish Council on any work to the Bus Shelter going forward.

30.24 SPEED CONTROL: One training session for volunteers had taken place; another would follow. Cllr. Mrs Walker was disappointed by the organisation and lack of clarity about dates, costs and management. It was understood high vis equipment had been ordered for the group.

31.24 CORRESPONDENCE, WEBSITE: There seemed some uncertainty about the www.barford.net website for the Parish Council. It remained vital for the Parish Council to have a website and that details of agenda, minutes, governance and accounting statements as well as dates when accounts could be examined published on it.

The Chairman would speak with Cllr. Mrs Noel.

32.24 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 17th September at 7pm in the Church

33.24 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.