

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk,

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. G.Wills

VILLAGE MATTERS: Cllr. Cridge had received some complaints about gravel from drives on the pavement Councillors asked that those with gravel drives sweep loose gravel back on to their drives.

34.24 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th of July 2024 were agreed and signed.

35.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No interests were declared.

36.24 MATTERS ARISING: No further matters

37.24 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 4 cheques were signed totalling £515.00
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2024 – 2025 remained in line with budget provision
- iii Cllr. Mrs Walker had passed a cheque from the Barford Community Group to the Chairman to cover the cost of a second SID. Councillors reiterated their thanks.

38.24 REPORTS:

- i **Wiltshire Councillor:** There was no report.
- ii **Representatives on Outside Bodies:** The Nicholson Trust had money available for help with education or hardship for any Barford resident.
- iii **The Planning Committee:** No objections had arisen to recent planning applications

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

Cllr. Mrs Walker regretted that she had been informed that her application to the Area Board for a grant for the environmental improvement of the Village Field could not be accepted because the Group had already received 2 payments from the Area Board. She was invited to reapply next year.

Barford's Highways Request for replacement of grass with hardstanding at The Haven had been listed but not discussed at August's LHFIG meeting because there had been no Parish Council presence at the meeting. Councillors agreed that the request should remain listed for discussion at the next LHFIG meeting on 28th November.

40.24: RIGHTS OF WAY and AONB: The Chairman was pleased to report that Mr R. Wilde had agreed to serve as ROW Officer on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr. Wilde reported that he had walked all the footpaths, read PC minute books for the 20th century and

found that 11 of the 12 shown on the current map not greatly changed. He had found 1 blocked at BUR7, many narrower than they should be and that BStM 6 needed work, though it had no purpose.

He believed 3 areas of work required; to extinguish BStM6, investigation into railway line closed in 1943, development of projects to meet the spirit of WC's Access Plan concerning greater use of footpaths for exercise and leisure. To this end he was working with a local farmer to secure a river walk, aiming eventually to reach Burcombe.

All Councillors thanked Mr Wilde for such an interesting presentation.

41.24: THE VILLAGE FIELD: The Chairman confirmed the ending of the electricity supply. He added that the aim would be to update and make safe the electricity box through which supply entered the Field if required in the future. Money would be set aside in the budget to achieve this.

Cllr. Mrs Walker hoped that because of the generosity of Barford residents at recent fund-raising events conservation planting at the far end of the Village Field could take place. Cllr. Walker also reported that contractors from the Wilton Estate would continue to treat the hogweed and hemlock along the river in the area of the Field.

42.24 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: Cllr. Cridge and Cllr. Avery reported some activity by moles.

43.24 MONITORING OF ASSETS: The Chairman reported the recent replacement of batteries and pads to the defibrillators.

44.24 ALLOTMENTS: Allotment rentals were now due. The Chairman would provide a list of plot holders. The water meter had been read.

45.24 BUS SHELTER, WEST STREET: Cllr. Walker observed that work was still required on the bus shelter. The Chairman was concerned that all parties involved should know that the bus shelter was listed and insured as a Parish Council asset. It was therefore vital that Councillors sanctioned and approved all work completed on it before it was undertaken. Only then would the Council be able to accept responsibility.

46.24 SPEED CONTROL: The new SID had been ordered. It had been paid for entirely by the Barford Community Group. It was solar powered and would sit on the A30. All Councillors expressed thanks to Cllr. Walker and to the Group.

Cllr. Walker reported continued frustration over Community Speedwatch Training. A site visit was needed to indicate where those operating the speed guns could safely stand. She thanked volunteers for their patience.

47.24 CORRESPONDENCE, WEBSITE: Cllr. Mrs Noel stated that she was content that the present website was satisfactory. It was up to date and all Councillors expressed thanks for her work.

48.24 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 12th November at 7pm in the Church

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

