

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH ON MONDAY 11th MARCH 2025

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

Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk,

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. N. Najjar WC

VILLAGE MATTERS: No matters were raised

82.25 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th of January 2025 were agreed and signed.

83.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No interests were declared.

84.25 MATTERS ARISING: No further matters

85.25 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 5 cheques were signed totalling £792.71
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2024 - 2025 remained in line with budget provision
- iii The Chairman reported that the move to online banking was in progress.

86.25 REPORTS:

i **Wiltshire Councillor:** There was no report.

ii **Representatives on Outside Bodies:** There had been no recent meeting of the Nicholson Trust. Trustees wished it to be known that there was money available for any resident facing hardship of any sort and for educational purposes. Contact with the Nicholson Trust could be made through the Clerk to the Trust at steph@sasevents.co.uk

iii **The Planning Committee:** There had been no objections to recent planning applications.

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

Barford's Highways Request for replacement of grass with hardstanding at The Haven had been discussed at the LHFIG meeting held on 13th November 2024. Whilst the request remained listed the meeting had been informed that no progress would be made because there was no more money available in the current financial year. The issue remained listed. In view of delays the Chairman proposed the placing of posts on the site with the full cost being met by the Parish Council. Councillors supported the proposal unanimously and permission and advice would now be sought from WC.

88.25: RIGHTS OF WAY/AONB: There was nothing to report.

89.25: THE VILLAGE FIELD AND PLAY AREA: The levelling of the raised bank had been completed and planting and fencing were in hand.

It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs Walker would book an inspection of the play equipment for September/October.

The bin in the Field was proving useful. Community Group members were responsible for removing the rubbish from the bin to a place from which it would be collected by WC Refuse Collectors.

90.25 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: 2 plots required marking, 1 a reserved plot and 1 for a burial of ashes in April.

91.25 MONITORING OF ASSETS: No matters were reported.

92.25 ALLOTMENTS: 1 rental is owing. A reminder would be sent.

93.25 BUS SHELTER, WEST STREET: Cllr. Wills reported that repairs remained in hand. These included repair of facias and of roof structure.

94.25 SPEED CONTROL: Cllr. Walker reported continued frustration over Community SpeedWatch Training; both she and the volunteers felt thoroughly let down by the police. A letter of complaint had resulted in apologies but no action. The Chairman requested that the police attend the next Parish Council meeting to explain why it has taken over a year to set up Community SpeedWatch in Barford. The Clerk would write a formal letter of complaint to the Police Commissioner and to the Wiltshire Councillor.

95.25 CORRESPONDENCE, WEBSITE: Councillors expressed their gratitude to Abbots for the delivery and use of a digger on the Village Field – all free of charge.

96.25 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The First Meeting of the newly elected Parish Council would take place on 13th May in the Church at 7pm

97.25 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.