

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Cllr. J. Holloway - Chairman, Cllr. G. Wills, 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. N. Nabil, WC

VILLAGE MATTERS: Cllr. Cridge had noted the large Poppies displayed throughout the village and all Councillors wished to record thanks to the resident who had placed them as a Remembrance tribute.

Concern had been expressed about the overgrowing hedge on the A30 between its junction with the B3089 and Tinker Bell. It was feared drivers were being forced towards the centre of the road.

50.24 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th of September 2024 were agreed and signed.

51.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No interests were declared.

52.24 MATTERS ARISING: No further matters

53.24 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: 4 cheques were signed totalling £510.00
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2024 - 2025 remained in line with budget provision
- iii The proposed budget for the financial year 2025 - 2026 was discussed and was provisionally set at £11030.00
- iv Councillors had noted that parish councils were now required to meet local election expenses and that Lloyds bank would, from January, be making bank charges - £4.25 per month plus transaction charges. These were 2 additional expenses for the Parish Council.

54.24 REPORTS:

- i **Wiltshire Councillor:** There was no report.
- ii **Representatives on Outside Bodies:** The Nicholson Trust would meet next week. 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 were no planning applications.

55.24 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. Whilst the request remained listed the meeting was informed that no progress would be made because there was no more

money available in the current financial year. LHFIG had already allocated its entire budget for the financial year.

56.24: RIGHTS OF WAY/AONB: (Appendix1) Mr. R. Wilde, Parish Representative for AONB and ROWs outlined the actions which he believed the Parish Council should consider to improve and to secure Barford's ROWs in line with the Right of Way Act 2000 and Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan. In particular he detailed 3 existing ROWs for attention and proposed establishing a river walk.

Councillors thanked Mr. Wilde for his work and for the discussion generated. This would be an agenda item for January's meeting.

57.24: THE VILLAGE FIELD AND PLAY AREA: (Appendix 2) Mr. R. Wilde, AONB representative for the Parish Council had noted that the Barford community had invested £65,000 in the Village Field. Following his research he had concluded that the Parish Council was paying as much as 3 times as much in annual rental for this piece of arable land. He believed the ideal would be for the Parish Council to purchase the Field in the long term. The Chairman agreed that he would seek a meeting with the Wilton Estate to discuss future arrangements.

Cllr. Mrs Walker reported that the bank had been weeded and would be flattened with a digger. The Community Fund would provide fencing, native shrubs and pollinating plants as well as information boards. This would take place over a period of time and Councillors thanked all who would assist in achieving this pleasing outcome.

58.24 THE CEMETERY, WEST STREET: Cllr. Cridge stated the moles remained a problem. Flattening the mole hills seemed the best approach to guard against the ground becoming uneven.

59.24 MONITORING OF ASSETS: Councillor Avery reported that the inside of the roadside hedge of the Jubilee Path needed cutting. The trees had overgrown and were enclosing the Path. This was necessary work approved by Councillors which Cllr. Avery would follow through.

The Clerk would circulate the Asset Register.

60.24 ALLOTMENTS: Councillors noted that there were some payments for allotment rentals still owing.

61.24 BUS SHELTER, WEST STREET: Cllr. Wills reported that, after liaising with the Community Group, work was in hand with repairs to woodwork required. Cllr. Mrs Walker had suggested placing a bench within the shelter. Councillors agreed. The bench would be made by Seeds4Success.

62.24 SPEED CONTROL: 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. Cllr. Mrs Walker had reported her concerns to the LHFIG Meeting. Cllr. Mrs Wayman WC agreed to follow this up at the Area Board meeting.

63.24 CORRESPONDENCE, WEBSITE: Cllr. Mrs Noel reported that the Parish Council website remained up to date.

The Clerk was asked to write to Highways after noting the disappearance of the Hurdcott milestone.

64.24 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7pm in the Church

65.24 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.