

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2025 - subject to later
approval by Councillors.**

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

Cllr. Najjar for the first part of the meeting.

In attendance, Mrs. J. Childs, Clerk, 1 resident was present

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

49.25 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2025, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

50.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Mrs. Noel declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5 iii, Planning, The Old Rectory

VILLAGE MATTERS: No matters raised.

51.25 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: The Clerk requested 3 online payments totalling £455.00
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2025 – 2026 was in line with budget provision
- iii Work was needed to add 2 Councillors to the online account and to open a savings account for Parish Council funds. It was agreed to open an interest bearing account for deposits not immediately required.
- iv A proposed budget for the financial year 2026 – 2027 was discussed and the precept was provisionally set at £11,200, to be confirmed in January 2026

52.25 REPORTS:

i **Wiltshire Councillor:** Cllr. Najjar, WC, informed the meeting that a 20mph speed limit was to be installed in Ansty next month. Speed restrictions would be put in place along the Chalke Valley road, C12. Funding for the AONB would be continued for a further year.

Following the May elections the Liberal Democrats were leading a minority administration which was causing some uncertainty. Budgets for departmental spending should be available in December.

The Chairman raised the question of potholes on the A30, west of Barford. These had not yet been filled. Cllr. Najjar agreed to call Highways.

The Chairman asked about the delivery of the Hurdcott Milestone to its rightful place on the A30. At present it was believed that it was being held at the Wilton Depot. Cllr. Najjar asked to be informed of contact with Highways over the matter.

The Chairman raised concern about abusive behaviour towards the Community Speedwatch volunteers, reported in the September minutes. He added that he was awaiting an answer to his request for volunteers to wear body cameras. Cllr. Najjar agreed to follow this up.

The Chairman asked how work reported on My Wilts was checked for quality once completed. Cllr. Najjar replied that no one knew. He suggested that if the workmanship was perceived to be faulty a couple of photos attached to an email should be sent to WC. He noted that many reports were received each day from across the county and asked whether the situation was really manageable.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Najjar for his attendance.

ii Representatives on Outside Bodies: The Nicholson Trust had met. The Chairman considered that it might be a good idea to post more information about the Trust on the website in order to raise awareness of its existence and purposes.

iii The Planning Committee: No objections were raised to applications at Greeneaves and at The Old Rectory.

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

The Chairman had requested a site meeting with Highways to assess the best solution to parking at The Haven and to preserve the appearance of the grass verge currently used for parking.

Action

54.25 RIGHTS OF WAY and AONB: Cllr. Avery reported that the Jubilee Path was in satisfactory condition. He requested that the hedges be cut on the path from Dairy Road to the Ox Drove. The Clerk was asked to write to the Wilton Estate.

Action

55.25 THE CEMETERY: The Chairman noted that the box for collecting grass clippings, now dilapidated, required replacing.

The closed burial ground at Groveley Road was not discussed.

Action

56.25: THE VILLAGE FIELD: Cllr. Mrs. Walker noted that the ROSPA inspection of the Play Area had been carried out. Two items required attention, the gate and the benches. The Chairman stated that all work must be carried out by professionals.

Action

The Chairman asked about the planting of the wildflower area and emphasised the importance of the need for the Community Group to inform the Parish Council of all plans and work so that all Councillors were aware. He added that there would be no further cuts to the Field this year.

57.25 ALLOTMENTS: Cllr Avery reported that the water had been turned off. Concerns were expressed about the growth of weeds on both plots and paths.

58.25 BUS SHELTER, WEST STREET: The Chairman had obtained two quotations for repairs to the bus shelter including fascias, blocks to roof ends and some retiling. It was resolved that the work should proceed as soon as possible.

Action

59.25 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH: Cllr. Mrs Walker informed the meeting that the Community Speedwatch volunteers would next be in action from the 1st December.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Mrs Walker to pass on the thanks of the Parish Council to the volunteers and that he was working to ensure permission for the use of body cameras.

60.25 VILLAGE PLAN: Councillors agreed that a Plan should be pursued. It would be thoroughly discussed at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

61.25 CORRESPONDENCE: No further correspondence.

62.25 AOB: WEBSITE: Councillor Wills reported that a generic web address and domain name could be provided by a single provider. Councillors agreed that this should be brought into place in the spring of 2026 and excepted that there might be some initial costs. **Action**

HURDCOTT MILESTONE: Discussed under Minute Item 52.25

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: There was some uncertainty about arrangements. The Chairman believed there were new opportunities to explore.

63.25 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7pm in the Church.

64.25 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.