

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2026, following the Annual
Parish Meeting- 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. N Najjar for the first part of the meeting

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

COOPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR: There was unanimous agreement to the
cooption of Mrs Claire Elsworth to the Parish Council, proposed by the Chairman and
seconded by Cllr. Mrs N. Noel .

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies

82.26 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2026, previously
circulated, were agreed and signed.

83.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: The Chairman noted that Cllr. Mrs Walker was
Chair of the Barford Community Group and Cllr. Mrs Elsworth a member.

VILLAGE MATTERS: No matters brought forward.

84.26 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: The Clerk requested 4 online payment totalling £473.75
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2025 – 2026 was in line with budget provision
- iii Work was still needed to add 2 Councillors to the online account and to open a savings
account for Parish Council funds.

A letter of thanks had been received from the Wilton and Barford Thursday Club for the
donation to the Wilton and Barford Thursday Club.

85.26 REPORTS:

i **Wiltshire Councillor:** Cllr Najjar was pleased that the Parish Council would meet
regularly on Wednesdays going forward. He felt it would be easier to attend as fewer of
his parishes met on that evening.

The Chairman raised the issue of danger to pedestrians and householders on the stretch
of the A30 from the junction with the B3089. Large trucks were a particular hazard.
Cllr. Najjar suggested working in cooperation with other parishes along the A30 to
secure coordinated speed control.

The Chairman asked about the checking of and accountability for the quality completed
road repairs. Sadly recent repairs to the A30 between Barford and Ugford were already
showing signs of breaking up. Cllr. Najjar agreed that shortage of funds often meant a
choice between quality of work carried out and the quantity of work required. Large
numbers of defects on local roads were reported daily. He agreed to take the matter
forward.

The Chairman reported 2 SpeedWatch incidents of intimidating behaviour by drivers. Cllr. Najjar asked that Cllr. Mrs. Walker report the matter to the Police and to copy him in. He would then be able to follow up including contact with the Cabinet member for Highways. The Chairman asked to be included in the correspondence.

Cllr. Najjar reported on the difficulty of agreeing a WC budget. He noted some reduction in waste collection services, the booking requirement for visits to household recycling services and increased parking charges. He also noted the likely introduction of food waste collection and renewed funding for Area Boards.

ii **Representatives on Outside Bodies:** The Nicholson Trust had met but the Chairman had not been able to attend.

iii **The Planning Committee:** No objections were raised to recent planning applications.

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

There had been no attendance from Barford at the Area Board Meeting held in March

Improvement of the grass verge outside The Haven had remained an agenda item at the November meeting of LHFIG. Councillors had agreed the Parish Council would not be able to bear the cost of the installation of an appropriate recommended surface. **Action**

87.26 RIGHTS OF WAY and AONB: Cllr. Avery stated no problems had been presented.

88.26 THE CEMETERY: The Chairman stated estimates were needed for a new grass box and a for a box of spoil removed when grave digging.

Mole activity was reported.

Action

89.26 THE VILLAGE FIELD: The Chairman was concerned that work required to the climbing wall had not been completed, the safety matting was insufficient and that the kit provided for the repair of the roundabout could not be fitted. As this was work required by ROSPA and fell within the guarantee period of the equipment he asked Cllr. Mrs Walker to investigate.

Action

90.26 ALLOTMENTS: Just one rental was outstanding. Cllr. Avery agreed to look at the water trough which required repair.

Action

91.26 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH: Discussed under agenda item 5i above. The Chairman remained in favour of body cameras for those taking part.

Action

92.26 THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD: Cllr. Mrs Elsworth reported that volunteers had joined to plant 20 trees including 8 heritage varieties, all mulched and netted. It had proved a popular event which had attracted much publicity. Quotations for fencing were awaited.

93.26 VILLAGE PLAN: Councillors agreed that Cllr. N. Najjar should be invited to speak with them about a possible Village Plan.

Action

94.26 CORRESPONDENCE: In response to the Great British Spring Clean Cllr. Mrs Walker asked that thanks be recorded to all those residents who so regularly collected litter from the A30 and the B3089.

95.26 AOB: WEBSITE: Nothing discussed.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The pruning of the yew trees was awaiting a Diocesan License

HURDCOTT MILESTONE: Installation remained in hand.

91.26 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7pm in the Church.

92.26 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

COUNCILLORS WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF CARE COULD BE TAKEN IN THE MANY PARTS OF THE VILLAGE WHERE PARKING SPACE IS LIMITED

THANK YOU