

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BARFORD ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 9th September 2026- subject to later
approval by Councillors.**

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. N. Najjar, WC had sent apologies.

40.26 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2026, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

41.26 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: A resident raised a number of matters: parking at The Haven and adjacent to the Churchyard wall opposite. Councillors agreed this was both troublesome, damaging to the grass and even dangerous. Councillors had been in touch with WC.

As parking was difficult in Barford any untaxed vehicle or any vehicle without a MOT certificate parked on the highway could be reported to DVLA.

The Chairman explained that the parish precept was based on the annual budget provisionally drawn up in November with reserves for the funding of more costly projects accrued and allocated over a period of time. Councillors worked to keep the precept as low as practicable which was why it had not always kept pace with inflation.

It was felt that communication was not always sufficiently widespread as had been the case over the recent use of the Village Field for the Arbuthnot Trial. Councillors accepted this and pointed out that the matter of publicising the work of the parish council as widely as possible was already being addressed.

It was noted that part of the churchyard wall boundary was in disrepair. The Clerk recalled that this was a closed churchyard for which the Parish Council had no responsibility.

The Chairman reported rather many ruts and potholes in the Playing Field. Estimates for filling, flattening and making the surface more even would be sought. **These would be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council as the cost could be high. ACTION**

The notice board containing the time capsule in the churchyard was in need of attention. Estimates would be obtained for repair or replacement as necessary and considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council. ACTION

42.26 FINANCE:

- i Payment of accounts: The Clerk requested 3 online payments totalling £460.99
- ii Expenditure for the financial year 2026 – 2027 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.

43.26 REPORTS:

- i Wiltshire Councillor: No report was available.
- ii Representatives on Outside Bodies: The Nicholson Trust had funds available for education, training and hardship. All requests remained anonymous.
- iii The Planning Committee: There had been no objections to the current planning notification, PL/2026/05582 at the Hurdcott Estate.

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

There had been no attendance at the Area Board Meeting. The Community Group would be seeking a grant towards a hurdle making course. The aim was to use hurdles to protect trees in the Community Orchard.

45.26 RIGHTS OF WAY and AONB: Cllr. Avery recalled the dry summer but would be in touch with Wilton Estate about cutting the footpath to the ox drove.

46.26 THE CEMETERY: Councillors believed the Cemetery looked well and thanked Cllr. Avery and former Cllr. Cridge.

47.26 RIVER BANK OPPOSITE DAIRY ROAD: The Chairman had been in consultation with Wilton Estate and the Fishing Club . The latter did not favour felling the willow trees. **Quotations would be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council. ACTION**

48.26 THE VILLAGE FIELD: The Chairman would arrange for the ROSPA inspection in October. **ACTION**

It was resolved that the Parish Council would pay for the installation of the information boards purchased by the Community Group, as well as for fixing the pickets on the fence surrounding the Play Area. The single estimate obtained was £950 - £1030 for both jobs. Councillors asked for separate quotations, in writing, and for a further written estimate to be sought. **ACTION**

49.26 ALLOTMENTS: There were possible new tenants for two plots. Allotment rentals were due. The Clerk would ask for an up to date list of plot holders from the Chairman.

ACTION

50.26 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH: Cllr. Mrs Walker advised that the Speedwatch team would next be out on 20th September. Cllr. Wills confirmed that the warranty had been extended for the SID in West Street.

51.26 THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD: The trees looked well. Fencing was in hand.

52.26 JUBILEE PATH: Cllr. Avery confirmed that the hedge had been cut in August and that he would arrange for a further more severe cut. **ACTION**

53.26 VILLAGE PLAN: There had been no further progress.

54.26 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE and INCREASING PUBLICITY FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL: The parish website had been updated. Cllr. Noel hoped to be able to assess the number of users.

55.26 CORRESPONDENCE: Cllr. Wills was aware of the changes to Winter Resilience plans and was looking into the possible purchase of gel bags to protect at any possible flood points.

ACTION

The Chairman was aware of the need to complete the Communities Governance review and to update the Facilities Survey.

ACTION

56.26 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The yew trees had been cut and it was believed the contractors would be back to replace the lights. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Wills. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would be responsible for the lights and Cllr. Walker agreed to make arrangements for the switch on evening. She would discuss this with the Community Group.

ACTION

57.26 AOB: There was no further business.

58.26 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7pm in the Church. A provisional budget would be prepared and a provisional precept set.

59.26 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.