

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 3rd February 2016 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

**The meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Hobbs, Eden, Turner, Hanmer (arrived 7.45pm), Best (arrived 8.10pm), County Cllr Fatemian (arrived 8.55pm) District Cllr Williams and Mr Best (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Styles

**16/013**      **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

**16/014**      **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Turner proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be **RESOLVED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and passed unanimously.

**16/015**      **Matters Arising not elsewhere on the agenda:** there were no matters arising.

**16/016**      **Parish Clerk's Report:**

**16/017**      **Correspondence:** The Parish Clerk had forwarded correspondence to Councillors during the last month. The Clerk also reported that he had received a welcoming letter from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC). There were no matters outstanding.

**16/018**      **Public Participation:** none

**16/019**      **County Councillor's Report:** County Cllr Fatemian reported on the following matters:

- The poor quality of the road patching on Lower Street has been reported to Highways.
- Due to a change in the funding formula, the expected savings required to the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) budget are 69m. Savings recommendations will be debated by Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> February. These include a proposal to raise council tax by 3.99%
- There have been misleading reports in the media that OCC will sell property, cut back staffing and draw on reserves to meet its financial challenges but OCC has already made savings in these areas.
- Up to 50 MPs are understood to have signed a letter demanding changes to the Government's proposed settlement with local government, which also asks for more money to be given to shire councils.
- The number of apprentices taken on in 2014/15 academic year rose by 2.4% in Oxfordshire compared to a fall in the South East of 2.5%. This is believed to have boosted the thriving Oxfordshire economy.
- A partial review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part1) regarding Oxford's unmet housing need has started. The consultation period ends on 11<sup>th</sup> March. See Cherwell website for details.
- The West Oxfordshire plan has been put on hold to identify more sites.

**16/020**      **District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Williams reported on the following matters:

- The continued slow broadband speed in Barford St John has been reported to Cherwell District Council and BT are investigating.
- CDC is debating whether to contribute to the parishes who wish to run an event to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**16/021**      **Parish Matters:**

\* 16/021/1      **Parish Clerk:** Cllr Hobbs reported that David Best has replaced Rosemary Watts as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council and welcomed him to the post. It was agreed that he would attend a course for new clerks.

Chairman's initials.....*DBH*.....

Date...*2 March 2016*.....

- 16/021/2 **Parish Councillor Vacancy:** A notice will be placed in Barford News and the notice boards inviting interested parties to apply for the vacancy by 26 March. If only one application is received they will be invited to attend the April PC meeting. If more than one application is received the applicants will be invited to attend the May Parish Council meeting to explain why they believe they are the most suitable candidate and the Parish Council will then elect a candidate.
- 16/021/3 **Proposed Wooden Play Equipment for West Close:** No further update was available.
- 16/021/4 **Condition of Lower Street and other highways:** Two letters have been received complaining at the poor condition of road in the parish. Complaints have been logged on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). County Cllr Fatemian will arrange for an inspection to be carried out.
- 16/021/5 **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration:** It was agreed that the Parish Council will make a donation to the cost of the party being organised. The amount will be agreed when more details of the expected cost are known.
- 16/021/6 **Other Parish Matters:** Requests have been received from the Barford News and Church for grants. Formal applications will be reviewed next month. It is anticipated that an application will also be received for a Remembrance Day Wreath.
- 16/022 **Planning Matters:** (detailed in Annex 1)
- 16/023 **Reports from Meetings:** None.
- 16/024 **Finance:** The Parish Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £241.65 (detailed in Annex 2). This was approved unanimously.

- AOB**
1. The Parish Council will have to decide whether to opt in or out of the external audit arrangements that Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd is putting in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.
  2. At the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee, attended by 25 people, a new Booking Clerk was appointed but no one was interested in the vacant position of Chairman. Bernard Lane has agreed to chair meetings until the AGM
  3. The alternatives of providing a Christmas tree on the village green or placing lights in an existing tree were discussed and a decision will be taken at the next meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....*2 March 2016*.....