

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 6th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Eden, Turner, Styles, Hanmer, Best, District Cllr Williams and Mr Best (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Hobbs

16/037 **Declarations of Interest:** None

16/038 **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Styles proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd March 2016 be **RESOLVED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and passed unanimously.

16/039 **Public Participation:** None

16/040 **Clerk's Report:** The clerk had attended a training course for new clerks run by the Oxfordshire Association for Local Councils which had been very useful. It was recommended that councillors have a separate email account from their private email account for council business.

16/041 **Correspondence:** The Parish Clerk had forwarded correspondence to Councillors during the last month. There were no matters outstanding.

16/042 **County Councillor's Report:** None

16/043 **District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Williams reported on the following matters:

16/043/1 Cherwell District Council was voted 'Entrepreneurial Council of the Year' and 'Housing Council of the Year' at the Local Government Chronicle awards in London last week. Cherwell was the only council in the UK to get two of these highly competitive accolades.

16/043/2 The parish clerk is in direct contact with Oxfordshire County Council to try to improve the broadband speed in Barford St John

16/044 **Parish Matters:**

16/044/1 Vacancy for Parish Councillor – No applications have been received for the vacant position.

16/044/2 Play Equipment, West Close – a working group will meet for the first time on 13th April to consider an initial design.

16/044/3 Condition of the roads in the Parish – some repairs have been completed including a hole in the road in 'The Rock' but a blocked/ broken drain is believed to be causing the trouble. District Councillor Bryn Williams will contact Oxfordshire County Council.

16/044/4 Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration – an application for a grant from Cherwell District Council has been submitted for a photo booth so that villagers who attend the Big Birthday Tea can have a permanent record of the event.

16/044/5 Christmas Tree Lights – Various alternatives were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 sets of lights (400 bulbs) to hang in a tree on the green. This was proposed by Cllr Best, seconded by Cllr Hanmer and passed unanimously. District Cllr Bryn Williams will obtain details about the wiring and battery configuration that Deddington use.

16/044/6 Incorrect road name in Barford S John – Cherwell District Council has agreed to change the road sign from Mead Lane to Mead Road, which is the correct name.

16/044/7 Damage to Barford St Michael Village Green – The pros and cons of various options were discussed including short posts (which must be 18 inches back from the kerb), weight restriction for lorries, road widening, reinforcement covered by thin layer of soil and grass. It was **RESOLVED** to pay for top soil and grass seed to fill the ruts and monitor the situation.

16/044/8 Poor Broadband speed in Barford St John – The clerk is working with Oxfordshire County Council and has written to all householders.

16/044/9 Bird Scarer Complaints – The bird scarers are being used to stop pigeons eating the crop of Oil Seed Rape that has been planted. This is a temporary measure until the crop has grown tougher. It was felt that no action would/could be taken as this is a rural community.

Chairman's initials..... *BSH*

Date..... *4 May 2016*

- 16/045** **Planning:** Two new applications and one appeal have been received since the last meeting:
 16/045/1 Application 16/00490/Q56, Springhill Farm, Barford St Michael, OX150PL – The Parish Council confirmed no objections to Cherwell District Council.
 16/045/2 Application 16/00377/F, Dove House, Lower Street, Barford St Michael, OX15 ORH - The Parish Council confirmed no objections to Cherwell District Council.
 16/045/3 Application 15/01354/F, Land to rear of Applea Banks, Lower Street, Barford St Michael – An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government following refusal of a planning application. It was RESOLVED to write to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to the appeal on the grounds that it adjoins a village amenity open space for the use of all residents (owned by the Parish Council) that could be impaired by any change of use. The Parish Council also has concerns about planning applications for building if the appeal is upheld and is requesting a condition that no application received for building on the land is granted within the life of the Cherwell District Council Local Plan to 2031.
- 16/046** **Reports from Meetings:** None
- 16/047** **Finance:**
 16/047/1 The Parish Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £362.79 (detailed in Annex 1). This was approved unanimously. A New Homes Grant of £790.00 was received from Cherwell District Council.
 16/047/2 Grant applications from the Parochial Church Council of £1,300 the Village Hall management Committee of £900, the Barford News of £200 and for the Queens 90th Birthday 'Big Birthday Tea' of £100 were approved. The total of grants was £2,500
- 16/048** **Any Other Business:**
 The Parish Council has been notified of a lack of access to a public footpath leading to Barford St John. This will be investigated and discussed further at the next meeting..

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....