

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 4th May 2016 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

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

Apologies for absence:

- 16/049 Declarations of Interest:** None
- 16/050 Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Turner proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th April 2016 be **RESOLVED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Styles and passed unanimously.
- 16/051 Election of Chairman**
Nominations were sought for Chairman. Cllr Turner proposed Cllr Hobbs, who had indicated his willingness to stand for the coming year. This was passed unanimously.
- 16/052 Election of Vice Chairman**
Nominations were sought for Vice Chairman. Cllr Styles proposed Cllr Turner, who had indicated her willingness to stand for the coming year. This was passed unanimously.
- 16/053 Public Participation:** None
- 16/054 Clerk's Report:**
16/054/1 Queens 90th Birthday – The photo booth is ordered and the price has reduced to £300. We have a grant from CDC of £350. The balance is proposed to be put towards a big birthday cake. An S137 grant of £100 was agreed at 6th April meeting. Some/ all of this may be required for the cake ingredients, napkins, flags etc...
- 16/054/2 Christmas Tree Lights – The Clerk will order the warm lights as agreed at 6th April meeting.
- 16/054/3 Incorrect Road sign in Barford St John – This has been replaced
- 16/054/4 Damage to Village Green – the Clerk will arrange for the supply of topsoil and grass seed to enable Bernard Lane to repair the damage to the green.
- 16/054/5 Improving Broadband to Barford St John – Information has been provided to OCC regarding the properties in B St J. OCC are discussing a solution with BT. One possibility is to link into the fibre network in Barford St Michael although this runs to the Deddington exchange and the B St M STD Code is 01869 vs. B St J STD Code 01295
- 16/054/6 Transparency Grant –Grants are available from OALC for building Parish Council websites to increase transparency by posting agendas, minutes, expenditure over £100 etc... The Parish Council posts information onto the website but it is not up to date. The Clerk will work with Emma Best, Broad Close on this. A B St M resident has offered to help build a user friendly website.
- 16/055 Correspondence:** The Parish Clerk had forwarded correspondence to Councillors during the last month. There were no matters outstanding.
- 16/056 County Councillor's Report:** None
- 16/057 District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Williams had nothing to report due to the forthcoming elections.
- 16/058 Parish Matters:**
16/058/1 Appointment of Trustee Representatives for Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Turner indicated their willingness to represent the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.
- 16/058/2 Appointment of Clerk & RFO on completion of probation – Cllr Hobbs proposed that David Best should continue as Clerk following the completion of his probation and asked to stand as Responsible Financial Office for the coming year. This was passed unanimously.


Chairman's initials.....*PSM*.....

Date.....*6/7/2016*.....

- 16/058/3 Reported lack of access to a footpath in Barford St John – This is not designated as a footpath with public right of way on the Oxfordshire County Council map. The Clerk will contact OCC to confirm.
- 16/058/4 Decision on the transfer of undertaking of highway services from OCC – The Council decided not to take over responsibility for the highways from OCC. District Cllr Williams confirmed that Deddington Parish Council had also decided not to take on the responsibility of highway services from OCC due to possible public liability claims, doubts over ability to secure competitive costs for repairs and uncertainty over funding allocation.
- 16/058/5 Water from Recreation Ground flowing onto land at Bay Trees – The Council decided that it did not have responsibility for water run-off from the Recreation Ground. This is a natural phenomenon on sloping ground which occurs all over the area and has been aggravated by high rainfall levels. Cllr Hobbs will reply to the letter from the owners of Bay Trees.
- 16/058/6 Speed signs in Barford St Michael – Solutions to reduce the speed of cars driving through the villages had been investigated extensively by the Council in the past. Flashing signs are very expensive, speed humps can only be implemented where there are street lights and 20mph speed restrictions are not appropriate on rural roads. The Clerk will confirm with Thames Valley Police if equipment is available for residents to check the speed of cars driving through the village. If the equipment is available volunteers will be invited via the Barford News.
- 16/058/7 Parish Councillor Vacancy – An invitation will be published in the Barford New as no candidates have put their name forward.
- 16/058/8 Play Equipment – A group of residents has been formed and the next meeting will be on 18th May. The group will submit a design proposal to the Council
- 16/058/9 Condition of Roads – repairs have been completed in Barford St John. Some marked areas on the road through B St M from B St J to Hempton are still outstanding. It was agreed that the Clerk will invite the person responsible at OCC to inspect the roads in the villages with a member of the Council.
- 16/059 Planning:**
- 16/059/1 A new application has been received (Ref 16/00711/F) for Ayot Croft, Townsend, Barford St Michael to demolish a precast concrete garage and PVC porch and erect two rear extensions and a single story front extension.
- 16/059/2 As agreed at the meeting on 6th April a letter was sent to the planning inspectorate objecting to the appeal for change of use of land to the rear of Applea Banks, Lower Street, Barford St Michael (Original Application Ref 15/01354/F).
- 16/060 Reports from Meetings: None**
- 16/061 Finance:**
- The Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £2,838.60 (detailed in Annex 1). This was approved unanimously. Income of £15.36 was received from Western Power for Wayleaves.
- 16/062 Any Other Business:**
- There was an attempted break-in to a house in Barford St Michael. Residents should be vigilant.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....*6 July 2016*.....