

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

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr Best

- 16/063** **Declarations of Interest:** None
- 16/064** **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Turner proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th May 2016 be **RESOLVED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Styles and passed unanimously.
- 16/065** **Matters arising from the minutes:**
16/065/1 The Chairman thanked Cllrs Turner and Best for the decoration in the church window for the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations.
16/065/2 Thomas Fox are supplying topsoil to repair the green in Barford St Michael.
- 16/066** **Clerk's Report:**
16/066/1 Website – The Clerk is liaising with Emma Best to publish information on the village website to improve transparency.
16/066/2 Improving Broadband to Barford St John – Better Broadband Oxfordshire is submitting a list of villages to BT Openreach next week for which it requires BT to provide plans of how they can be connected with fibre broadband. BT will provide the plan and cost estimates by the end of 2016. Better Broadband Oxfordshire will then commission the connection work which is unlikely to be started before the end of 2017 due to the current backlog of work.
- 16/067** **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received a thank you letter from Mariann Young for the S137 Grant awarded to the Barford News.
- 16/068** **Public Participation:** Maggie Blackwell attended the meeting to raise the issue of speeding cars in Barford St Michael. District Cllr Fatemian recommended inviting Highways to a site visit following monitoring speeds on the relevant roads 24/7 for 1 week with Highways installed black boxes. The cost of monitoring is £100 per box per week.
- 16/069** **County Councillor's Report:**
16/069/1 Cllr Fatemian has organised for a Highways site manager to inspect the roads with Parish Council representatives.
16/069/2 Cllr Ian Hudspeth, the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, has stated that the EU referendum result indicates British people want more direct control of the decisions which affect them and this should drive the move to devolvement of power from Westminster to cities and counties, towns, villages, and neighbourhoods.
16/069/3 Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxfordshire County Council have appointed consultants to report on the future of local government in Oxfordshire. Proposals will then be submitted to the government in the autumn.
16/069/4 Bus subsidies will end on 20th July and information on the impact can be viewed at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/subsidisedbuses
16/069/5 Oxfordshire County Council is considering new park and ride sites at Eynsham, Cumnor, Lodge Hill, Sandford and Oxford Airport over the next 15 years to ease access to the city centre.
16/069/6 Last year, Oxfordshire's Adults Social Care services was ranked 6th best of 152 authorities. Vale House, a 40 bed dementia home in Sandford, has been given an outstanding rating by the Care Quality Commission. This is achieved by only 1% of homes in the South East.
16/069/7 Oxfordshire County Council has approved additional funding for children's centres which provide children's social care to protect the most vulnerable families.
16/069/8 The second phase of Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is now underway with a budget of up to £6.75m to expand the fibre network to more remote communities. The first phase delivered faster fibre broadband to more than 70,000 premises.


Chairman's initials..... *DSM*

Date..... *7/9/2016*

- 16/069/9 Due to financial pressures, Oxfordshire County Council has reduced verge mowing to just one general cut which commenced on 20th June. See www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/grass-verge-cutting-programme-2016 for more information.
- 16/069/10 Oxfordshire County Council has elected Cllr Michael Waine as Chairman for the 2016/17 council year.
- 16/070 District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Williams reported on the Parish Liaison Meeting:
 The Chairman's welcome and introduction was followed by Barry Wood, Council Leader, who noted how CDC had frozen the Council Tax for the seventh year in succession and continued to receive favourable feedback from parishioners within the district. He also spoke about the prospect of a unitary council or the possibility of CDC linking with another district council within Oxfordshire, possibly West Oxfordshire District Council.
 There was a presentation by the PLUNKETT FOUNDATION which supports people and community co-operatives who wish to own and run local pubs, shops and other facilities.
 A second presentation dealt with Planning Enforcement and how CDC intend to improve communication with parish councils during enforcement cases. CDC confirmed that they intend to give more credence to the views and feedback of parish councils than they may have done in the past as well as keeping them updated on the progress of planning applications.
 The third presentation covered Cherwell's online services and improving their website which has received negative feedback. CDC noted that OALC have grants up to £850 for PC's to improve their own websites and purchase certain pieces of IT equipment.
- 16/071 Parish Matters:**
 16/071/1 Water from Recreation Ground flowing onto land at Bay Trees – The Council had previously 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 undertook to meet with the owner to explain this.
 16/071/2 Speed signs in Barford St Michael – This was covered under Public Participation 16/068.
 16/071/3 Parish Councillor Vacancy – An invitation will be published in the Barford News.
 16/071/4 Play Equipment – The June meeting had to be cancelled so this has not progressed further.
 16/071/5 Condition of Roads – Cllr Fatemian is arranging a meeting with Highways (see item 16/069/1)
- 16/072 Planning**
 16/072/1 Application No 16/00711/F, Ayot Croft, permission for erection of 2 single storey extensions and a front extension with porch has been granted.
 16/072/2 It was noted that the Council had not been informed that permission has also been granted for Application No 16/00710/F, Erection of Chalet Bungalow on land adjacent to Ayot Croft, and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Cherwell Council to register a formal complaint that the Parish Council were neither informed of the application nor the decision.
- 16/073 Reports from Meetings**
 Cllr Turner attended the Parish Liaison Meeting. Details of the meeting are reported in the District Councillors report (item 16/070)
- 16/074 Finance**
 The Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £2,014 (detailed in Annex 1). This was approved unanimously.
- 16/075 Any Other Business**
 16/075/1 Grass Cutting – A resident has requested that the Parish Council stop organising grass cutting on the verges bordering their property. Oxfordshire County Council works closely with Parish Councils to provide a co-ordinated verge cutting programme in the interests of vehicle and pedestrian safety. The Parish Council cannot therefore accede to this request.
 16/075/2 Allotments – some allotments are not being cultivated and weeds are growing in profusion. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the tenants of those allotments.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.02pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....7 September 2016