

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

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

Apologies for absence: County Cllr Fatemian, Cllr Hobbs

17/030	Declarations of Interest: None
17/031	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 st February 2017 were a true and accurate record of the meeting (unanimous).
17/032	Matters arising from the minutes: None
17/033 17/033/1 17/033/2 17/033/3 17/033/4	Clerk's Report: Speed monitoring – The clerk is waiting for Nigel Clarke from OCC Highways to contact him. Bus Survey – The survey has been emailed to Richard Brown, Chair of Our Bus Bartons, but the clerk has not discussed it with him yet. Grass Cutting 2017 - 18 – Thomas Fox submitted a quote for grass cutting which is slightly lower than the budget and 2016-17. It was resolved unanimously to accept this. Footpaths Co-ordinator – Caroline Belson, who has volunteered for this role will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the role.
17/034 17/034/1 17/034/2	Correspondence: Policing Priorities – Thames Valley Police have requested Parish Councils to confirm the top 3 priorities. Currently they are 1 – Parking particularly outside schools, 2 – Speeding, 3 – Anti Social Behaviour. The Parish Council agreed that the priorities should be 1 – Rural theft at homes and farms, 2 – Speeding, 3 – Parking. Grass Cutting Contract with OCC – OCC have issued a grass cutting contract to be signed by Parish Councils receiving a grass cutting grant. The Parish Council has asked the clerk to query this as it does not want to be held responsible for Highways grass cutting that is the responsibility of OCC
17/035 17/035/1 17/035/2	Public Participation: Damage to car in Townsend – Terry Deane reported that the tyres and wheels of his car were damaged by concrete protruding at the edge of the road in Townsend. This was caused when the road was narrowed when Western Power were carrying out work. Western Power reimbursed Terry Dean for the damage. The clerk will investigate further. Pre-planning consent for building in field at beginning of Summer Ley – David Tew Ltd wrote to the Parish Council requesting their views and the views of the local community on house building in the meadow at the beginning of Summer Ley. The members of the public that attended the meeting were mostly house owners in Summer Ley. The members of the public expressed concerns. Although the Parish Council support the requirement for affordable housing it does not consider that this is a suitable site for development. Very little detail of the proposed development was given in the letter. It was agreed that the clerk will write to David Tew Ltd advising that it is not in favour of development in this field
17/036	County Councillor's Report: None
17/037 17/037/1	District Councillor's Update: A361 Working Group – District Cllr Williams is a member of the A361 Working Group which will explore ways to improve the safety and efficiency of the road within the district. Barford PC will be contacted for their feedback on issues encountered by parishioners using the A361.
	Chairman's initials... <i>RSH</i> Date... <i>5 April 2017</i>

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17/037/2	<p>Mobile Signal Working Group - District Cllr Williams is a member of the Mobile Signal Working Group which will identify the areas within our district suffering from weak or non-existent mobile coverage. Barford PC will be contacted for their feedback on mobile coverage within the parish. The information will be passed to OFCOM, the government and the mobile networks.</p>
17/037/3	<p>Castle Quay 2 - This was voted through at the full council meeting on 20th February. The new development will face the canal rather than the current design which backs onto the canal. It will contain an eight-screen cinema of 30,000 sq ft. A 117-bedroom hotel and 3,700 sq ft restaurant, rumoured to be a Premier Inn. Six independent restaurants, a 30,000 sq ft supermarket, a new pedestrian bridge across the canal and a new car park for 990 vehicles.</p>
17/037/4	<p>Unitary Council - CDC has finally implemented their public opposition to OCC's proposals for a county wide unitary council. Residents of Barford's will, no doubt, be aware of the discussions surrounding the future Governance of Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire County Council is pushing the idea of a Unitary Authority (the so-called One Oxfordshire proposal) under which arrangement the current structure of County Council, District Councils (including Cherwell) and Oxford City Council would be swept away to be replaced by one uber-council for the entire County, essentially a land and money grab by the County Council. While this idea may have superficial appeal - fewer buildings, fewer staff, fewer Councillors (undoubtedly a popular move!!) - the following points should also be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council tax will increase for residents if a unitary council were to be introduced to cover the costs of implementation. b) For years Oxfordshire County Council has increased its share of council tax whilst reducing services, meaning residents pay more for less. c) On the other hand Cherwell has frozen its share of council tax for the past seven years without reducing services. When taking into account inflation, residents now pay less for more from Cherwell. d) Oxfordshire County Council's previous poor performance in managing budgets and delivering services has led to cuts in services such as children's centres and buses which have a particular impact on the most vulnerable members of society. e) Cherwell is a strongly performing council which has repeatedly intervened where the county council has failed – this option would be lost if a unitary model were to be introduced. f) Cherwell has taken innovative steps to generate income to address reductions in Government funding. These include the Build! project and Graven Hill Village Development Company. g) The predicted savings cannot be guaranteed. There is also no reference to increasing service provision to residents implying the only options will be reductions or maintaining the status quo. h) Cherwell has supported the growth of a strong economy; the district's unemployment figures are the lowest on record (less than 300) and the total amount paid in business rates is the highest for all of Oxfordshire. i) Local issues which are of huge importance to the local community, such as protecting the Horton General Hospital, will be diluted amongst the county's wider issues and considered a distant problem to a city-based unitary authority. j) A single point of contact will be a single point of failure. CDC is a successful council; it does not fail. <p>The Councillors of Deddington Ward, and Cherwell District Council believe that a Unitary Council will not prove to be of long-term benefit to Residents of Cherwell, either financially or in terms of representation. Cherwell District Council has launched a petition "Stop Plans for a Unitary Authority in Oxfordshire" which we would urge all those who care about how they are represented to sign a petition which can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.change.org/p/stopplans-for-a-unitary-authority-in-oxfordshire</p> <p>Chairman's initials..... <i>D&M</i>.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date..... <i>5 April 2017</i>.....</p>

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<p>17/038 17/038/1 17/038/2</p>	<p>Parish Matters: Play equipment, West Close – A meeting took place with Trevor Stewart, the play area advisor, who is working on proposals. Dog Fouling in West Close – It was agreed that the clerk will arrange high profile visits from the Dog Warden. Bags are being left rather than put in the bins. The clerk will also request signs for the footpath from the back of the church.</p>
<p>17/039 17/039/1 17/039/2 17/039/3 17/039/4</p>	<p>Planning. Application 16/02161/F, Mead Bank – Granted 10/02/2017 Application 16/02283/F, George Inn, new building – Returned to CDC and awaiting decision. Application 17/00295/F, 5 Summer Ley, Alterations – Returned to CDC and awaiting decision. Application 16/00710/F, build chalet bungalow next to Ayott Croft – Building work has commenced but the Parish Council has been advised that the original plans have been revised. Cherwell District Council has advised that it has not received a variation of condition application and that if the development is not in accordance with the approved plans it should be reported to the Planning Enforcement Team.</p>
<p>17/040</p>	<p>Reports from Meetings: None</p>
<p>17/041 17/041/1</p>	<p>Finance Payments - The Clerk sought approval to pay cheques totalling £302. This was approved unanimously.</p>
<p>17/042 17/042/1 17/042/2</p>	<p>Any Other Business Allotments – Requests have been received for the erection of a shed and a poly tunnel on the allotments. It was agreed that both could be erected. Ownership of Horse Chestnut Trees – The Parish Council is aware that the Horse Chestnut trees bordering the Park are property of the Alt family. The recent clean-up was a community initiative prompted by a member of the village not the Parish Council. The Barford News notes will include a thank you to the volunteers acknowledging ownership of the trees by the Alt family.</p>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....*5 April 2017*.....