

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

**The virtual meeting commenced at 7.30pm using Zoom video conferencing**

**Present:** Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Eden, Cox, Best, Charman, Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and one member of the public.

**Apologies for absence:** District Cllr Williams and County Cllr Fatemian

<b>20/026</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None
<b>20/027</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020 were a true and accurate record (unanimous)
<b>20/028</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes: None</b>
<b>20/029</b> 20/029/1  20/029/2  20/029/3 20/029/4	<p><b>Clerk's Report:</b></p> <p><b>Mowing</b> – The Clerk is monitoring the number of cuts as there may not be the need for so many this year due to the weather. To date there have been 4 of 13 of the Churchyard, 4 of 13 of West Close and 4 of 7 of the verges.</p> <p><b>Photographs at George Parker's House</b> – Cllr Rodney Hobbs reported at a previous meeting that there may be some photographs and/or documents in his house which is being sold. The Clerk spoke to George Parkers daughter who confirmed that no parish documents or photographs were found in the house when it was cleared. The parish council filing cabinet will be checked when the Village Hall reopens.</p> <p><b>Play Area Inspections</b> – The two play areas will have their annual safety inspection in July.</p> <p><b>Allotment Water Billing</b> – Castle Water has advised that it will be billing twice a year in future rather than monthly to minimise water bills for businesses due to COVID-19.</p>
<b>20/030</b>	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p><b>Deddington Environment Network</b> – Mr John O'Brien has written to say that they would like to come to the next Parish Council meeting to explain the work that they are doing to assist with improving environmental and sustainability performance. Fiona Smith is part of the Biodiversity group and has asked if the Parish Council would like assistance developing and obtaining funding for a neighbourhood orchard. It was agreed that a half hour slot will be allocated at the start of the September meeting and this would be publicised before the meeting to encourage members of the public to attend.</p>
<b>19/031</b>	<p><b>Public Participation:</b></p> <p><b>Complaint from Mr Richard Warner</b> – Mr Richard Warner had emailed the Chairman saying that the Parish Council were spreading false facts about planning application 17/01183/F in the June Barford News Parish Council Notes and requesting an apology. Mr Warner attended the meeting to discuss this with the Parish Council. Prior to the May meeting, residents queried with the Parish Council that only part of the boundary separating the garden from a field had been fenced so that it appeared that part of the field was being annexed into the garden. The section of fence that had been erected was close boarded and the approved plans were for post and rail fencing. The Parish Council decided to take the matter up with the planning department. This was reported in the Parish Council Notes but the wording was ambiguous and may have misled readers. The Local Planning authority has investigated the matter and reported back that an application for the discharge of condition 4 of the permission for a post and rail stock fence was submitted in May and is under consideration and that the close boarded fence is permitted development. The Parish Council advised Mr Warner that they understood his point of view and would apologise in the Barford Parish Council Notes that the wording was ambiguous and misleading. Mr Warner then referred to the item in the July Barford News about the report by a parishioner of a dangerous style that had been reported to Oxfordshire County Council. The Parish Council explained that this was the process and OCC contact the owner/farmer responsible. Mr Warner requested that in future the Parish Council contact the farm directly if any issues are reported by parishioners to the Parish Council as they can be rectified more quickly. The Parish Council agreed.</p>
<b>20/032</b>	<b>County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian: None</b>
<b>20/033</b>	<b>District Councillors Report from Bryn Williams: None</b>

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<b>20/034</b>	<p><b>Parish Matters:</b>  <b>Co-option of Mr Peter Cosgrove as Councillor</b> – It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Peter as a Councillor.  <b>Bonfire Complaint</b> – A resident complained to Cherwell District Council about two bonfires in a field between Barford St Michael and Barford St John. The first was to burn the cuttings from the hedge in West Close which was trimmed prior to the playground being built and the second was to burn hedge trimmings from the field. CDC confirmed that it was legal to burn hedge trimmings but asked that the Parish Council pay to have their trimmings disposed of in future rather than have them burnt in a field.  <b>Complaint about soil lorries</b> – A resident complained about an excessive number of soil lorries along the road between South Newington and Barford St Michael as they were a danger to pedestrians. It is believed that the lorries have now stopped as the job is complete.  <b>Playground opening</b> – The government has advised that playgrounds can be reopened from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July with measures to limit the transmission of COVID-19. It was agreed that the playgrounds would be re-opened with signs listing the rules that must be followed to limit transmission of COVID-19.  <b>Parish Council Notes</b> – It was agreed that the Parish Council Notes would be a summary of the meetings with a note referring to the minutes published in the notice boards and on the website for a full record of the meetings.</p>
<b>20/035</b>	<p><b>Planning:</b>  20/01538/TCA – Brambles, Lower Street – Fell Eucalyptus – No objections from Parish Council  20/01646/TCA – Merriweather Cottage, High Street – Fell Conifer – No objections from PC</p>
<b>20/036</b>	<b>Reports from Meetings: None</b>
<b>20/037</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b>  <b>Payments</b> - The Clerk sought approval for payments totalling £919.60. This was agreed unanimously.</p>
<b>20/025</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b>  <b>Wall subsidence in The Rock</b> – It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Oxfordshire County Council Highways to ask them to repair it.  <b>Reinforcing the Village Green</b> – It was confirmed that this work would be completed as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.  <b>Triangle eroded at the top of Murrey's Lane</b> – It was requested that this is reinforced when the Village Green is reinforced.  Quote for pruning pyracanthis bush on the Village Green – A quote of £145 has been received for trimming this. It was agreed that the work would be carried out later in the year when birds are no longer nesting.</p>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall if restrictions have been lifted or using Zoom if they are still in place.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.09pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....