

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 3rd March 2021 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, Cosgrove, County Cllr Fatemian and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). One member of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence: District Cllr Williams

21/014	Declarations of Interest:
21/015	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd February 2021 were a true and accurate record (unanimous)
21/016	Matters arising from the minutes: None
21/017 21/017/1 21/017/2 21/017/3 21/017/4 21/017/5 21/017/6	<p>Clerk's Report:</p> <p>Wall at The Rock – OCC Highways has advised that the falling area of rock is privately owned and not an OCC asset and is contacting the owner regarding the repair</p> <p>Gate on footpath from churchyard behind Broad Close – OCC has confirmed that they will supply a new 6 inch x 6 inch post to effect a more permanent repair</p> <p>20's Plenty Signs at The Rock – It was agreed to order 2 more 20's Plenty signs and put one at the bottom of the rock and one on Hempton Rd for vehicles coming into Barford St Michael</p> <p>Holes in Footpath from the bridge to Barford St John – These have been reported to OCC Highways who has also been advised that soil from below the path has been washed away by the flooding. Highways is considering how to carry out an effective repair.</p> <p>Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Survey on the effectiveness of banking services offered to Parish Council – This was completed by the Clerk feeding back the poor service that has been provided by Barclays.</p> <p>Cherwell District Council Survey – The Clerk completed the survey of village services available in the Barfords to assist CDC develop their Local Plan Review 2040.</p>
21/018	Correspondence: Distributed to Councillors as received
21/019 21/019/1	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Grass Cutting Policy – A resident attended the meeting to explain proposals to amend the grass cutting around the villages to encourage wild flowers, increase the beauty, provide a better habitat for plants and insects and increase wildlife and biodiversity. The following trial changes were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verges – not mown or strimmed until June unless this inhibits visibility for road users and pedestrians (previously mown or strimmed once a month from April to October inclusive but daffodil areas left in April and May) 2. Triangle at the bottom of Murreys Lane – leave unmown until September (previously mown once a month from April to October) 3. West Close – leave a triangle in the north east corner unmown until September but strim the footpath through it. No change to the rest (cut once a month in April, September and October and every 12 days in May to August) 4. New Section of the churchyard – check with the Parochial Church Council (previously cut every 3 weeks from April to October) 5. Triangle on left at top of hill in Barford St John – Cut a strip 3 metres wide from the kerb round the bend but leave the rest until September
21/020	<p>County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian:</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council Budget – This was passed in February. There is a 3% increase in Council Tax which was less than the Government limit. Additional budget is being allocated to Social Care, Homeless and Highways including trial support for 20mph limits in villages.</p>
21/021	<p>District Councillors Report from Bryn Williams:</p> <p>District Councillor Bryn Williams circulated a detailed report to all Councillors prior to the meeting. This will be displayed in the Parish Council noticeboard.</p>

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<p>21/022 21/022/1</p> <p>21/022/2</p> <p>21/022/3</p>	<p>Parish Matters: S1376 Grants – Invitations have been sent out to the Barford News, The Parochial Church Council, the Village Hall and the Playground Management Committee to apply for financial support from the Parish Council.</p> <p>Fence and Hedge along the Murreys Lane boundary of West Close – It was agreed to see how the gaps in the hedge thicken out before planting any hedging but subsequent to the meeting children have been seen sliding down the bank into Murreys Lane and climbing on the road side of the fence at the top of Murreys Lane. This is potentially dangerous, so warning signs have been erected.</p> <p>Containing (COVID-19) Outbreak Management Fund – Money is available from the government through Cherwell District Council for public health purposes to tackle COVID-19. The funding is very targeted such as additional contact tracing, support for school outbreaks etc... None of these criteria were considered to apply to Barford St Michael or St John.</p>
<p>21/023 21/023/1</p> <p>21/023/2</p>	<p>Planning: 20/03053/F – Mead Farm – Permitted 16/02/21 but no development shall commence until a detailed surface water drainage scheme for the site and a method statement for enhancing the on-site biodiversity have been approved in writing by the planning authority.</p> <p>21/00235/TCA – Thimble Hall – Permitted 24/02/21</p>
<p>21/024</p>	<p>Reports from Meetings: None</p>
<p>21/025</p>	<p>Finance: Payments - The Clerk sought approval for payments totalling £479.14. This was agreed unanimously.</p>
<p>21/026 21/026/1</p> <p>21/026/2</p> <p>21/026/3</p> <p>21/026/4</p> <p>21/026/5</p> <p>21/026/6</p> <p>21/026/7</p>	<p>Any Other Business: Wall Outside Hillside, Barford St John – Cllr Sarah Best had spoken to the owner who explained that an existing wall had been rebuilt to protect a water meter that was being damaged by traffic driving over it. There are concerns that it should not have been built so close to the road. County Cllr Arash Fatemian agreed to check with OCC Highways.</p> <p>Priority Post Box – It was agreed that there was no need to submit an application for one as priority boxes are available in Deddington and Bloxham.</p> <p>BBQ on The Green on 21st June – a bring your own BBQ will be held on The Green by residents around in the area. It is hoped that residents in other areas will organise similar events to celebrate an end to lockdown.</p> <p>Litter Pick – it is hoped that one could be organised later in the year. Residents recently collected a lot of litter including a large quantity of bottles along Netherworton Rd.</p> <p>Trees being removed from hedgerows – it was noticed that trees are being removed from hedgerows around the village. It is believed that this is largely due to stop Ash Die Back and pollard Willows. It is understood that farmers do not have to apply for permission unless the trees are in a Conservation Area.</p> <p>Broken Bridge on the footpath leading from Horn Hill – This will be reported again to OCC.</p> <p>Clerk's Pay – It was agreed to increase the pay of the Clerk from 1st April.</p>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 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 9.26pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....