

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Charman, Cox, Nolan, District Cllr Williams, and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). One member of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Lovell and County Cllr Fatemian

<b>23/014</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None
<b>23/015</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 were a true and accurate record (unanimous)
<b>23/016</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes:</b> None
<b>23/017</b> 23/017/1	<b>Public Participation:</b> <b>Fire Safety at the Village Hall</b> – Oxfordshire Fire Service has given guidance on fire safety at the Village Hall. It was noted that it was considered low risk of loss of life in the event of a fire as there were plenty of exits. The smoke detectors should be checked every 2 weeks. The entrance lobby was not the best location for tables from a safety point of view. A fire risk assessment was recommended. It was agreed that fire risk assessment would be carried out.
<b>23/018</b> 23/018/1 23/018/2 23/018/3 23/018/4 23/018/5 23/018/6 23/018/7 23/018/8 23/018/9	<b>Clerk's Report:</b> <b>20's Plenty signs on South Newington Road</b> – The Clerk had fitted these. <b>Bishops Close sign</b> – This has been repaired. <b>Dog Bin for Barford St John</b> – This has been delivered and will be installed as soon as the weather improves. <b>Dog Bin opposite church in Barford St Michael</b> – This has been knocked off the post probably by a vehicle. He clerk has re-attached it. <b>Footbridge on the footpath by The Mill in Barford St Michael</b> – OCC haven't repaired this yet but the clerk has chased OCC to complete. <b>Defibrillator Fitting</b> – The clerk has contacted an electrician is waiting for an estimate. <b>OCC Councillor Priority Fund</b> – The clerk has submitted an application for OCC to contribute towards the cost of the defibrillator. <b>Woodland Trust hedging for West Close</b> – This is expected to be delivered in the first half of March. <b>Emergency Plan</b> – OCC has asked Parishes to provide Emergency Plans. The clerk will draft one.
<b>23/019</b> 23/019/1 23/019/2	<b>Correspondence:</b> <b>Bridge complaint to Victoria Prentice MP</b> - A resident has complained to Victoria Prentice MP about the length of time it is taking OCC to repair the bridge. <b>Bridge update from OCC Highways.</b> OCC has provided the following update: The risks associated with the measures to protect the bridge and highway users from its partial collapse, is being reviewed. Reduced dynamic load affects, due to low traffic speeds, a smooth road surface or increased fill depth would enhance an arch bridges assessment load carrying capacity. However, the damage to this bridge is such that it is considered that no more than 3T vehicles can be carried, without significant risk of rapid deterioration. Due to the blocks being frequently moved and heavier than 3T vehicles still passing, consideration is being given to closing the road, until the bridge can be suitably strengthened. The width restriction has been introduced to help enforce the 3T weight restriction. This has been set at 6'6" as very few vehicles of this width exceed 3T. This width is generally only suitable for mid-size cars, e.g. Audi A3 size and below. Some clearance over and above 6'6" has been provided to enable this size vehicle to safely pass. Drivers of many wider vehicles have attempted to pass, giving them less clearance and resulting in them striking the concrete blocks. Additional clearance was provided, but this is enabling more vehicles of over 3T to squeeze through and other larger vehicles are displacing the blocks. The County Council's term consultant/contractor, has carried out some preliminary design work for strengthening and have indicated that the bridge restored to its original condition will not satisfy the desired loading requirements. Strengthening options have been discussed with the conservation officer who will be dealing with the Listed Building Consent Planning application, but none of those options considered so far satisfy the engineering and conservation requirements. Ideally, the bridge needs to be able to carry 40/44t vehicles and for a busy route such as this some level of abnormal vehicle loading.

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	<p>Abnormal load vehicles need to obtain special permission to use this route, but not all hauliers notify as they should, such that if suitable provision is not made, then there is a risk of the bridge requiring repair again in the not too distant future.</p> <p>The bridge could be repaired and a permanent weight restriction imposed, but compliance with signage is not always very good, such that there would still be a risk of the bridge becoming damaged again, and this restriction may harm local businesses.</p> <p>I do not have any evidence that the bridge has been able to previously support the use of 44t vehicles without this causing any distress and whilst water ingress and loss of pointing will have caused deterioration over time, so will have overloading.</p> <p>A solution is continuing to be sought which reasonably meets the objectives and satisfies the constraints, such that the bridge can be strengthened and re-opened to all traffic as soon as possible.</p>
<b>23/020</b>	<b>County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian: None</b>
<b>23/021</b>	<b>District Councillors Report from Bryn Williams:</b> A comprehensive update was given which can be viewed in the Parish Council Noticeboard in Barford St Michael.
<b>23/022</b> 23/022/1 23/022/2 23/022/3	<b>Parish Matters:</b> <b>Coronation celebrations and commemorative coins</b> – A picnic is being planned for Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May. It was agreed that commemorative coins would be purchased for children in both villages. <b>Thomas Fox Tender</b> – Thomas Fox, who cut grass around the village, has submitted the tender for 2023 which was accepted. <b>S137 Grants</b> – It was agreed that a notice would be placed in the Barford new inviting village organisations to submit applications by the end of April and grants will be agreed in the meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May.
<b>23/023</b> 23/023/1 23/023/2	<b>Planning:</b> <b>23/00466/F</b> – 15 Broad Close – two storey extension – PC has no objection. <b>22/03415/FUL</b> – Mullin Automotive at Enstone Airfield – PC has no objection.
<b>23/024</b>	<b>Reports from Meetings: None.</b>
<b>23/025</b> <b>23/026/1</b>	<b>Finance:</b> <b>Payments</b> - The Clerk gained approval for payments totalling £799.80. The combined bank balances are £8,559.29 after the payments that were approved.
<b>22/027</b>	<b>Any Other Business: None</b>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....