

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd January 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Charman, Deane, Cox & District Cllr Williams, and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). No members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Lovell & County Cllr Fatemian

24/001	Declarations of Interest: None
24/002	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2023 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).
24/003	Matters arising from the minutes: None.
24/004	Public Participation: None
24/005 24/005/1 24/005/2	Clerk's Report: OCC Grant for the Defibrillator – The clerk has applied to OCC for a contribution towards the cost of the defibrillator at the Village Hall. Precept request – The clerk has applied to CDC for the 2024-25 precept. It was agreed at the November meeting that there would be a 5% increase in the Precept.
24/006	Correspondence: None
24/007	County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian: The report has been published in the Parish Council noticeboard by the Village Hall.
24/008	District Councillors Report from Bryn Williams: Happy New Year to you all, I'd like to thank everyone for their support throughout the past year, I regard it as a privilege to represent the parish and its residents and hopefully I've made a difference to one or more through my efforts at CDC. My inbox last year mainly consisted of planning queries and complaints as well as a fair share of concerns about speeding through our villages. This affects me as much as anyone, but I do advise residents to contact Arash and the County Council Highways Dept or Thames Valley Police as they are ultimately responsible. CDC made considerable progress in 2023 creating 'Warm Spaces' within communities and extending financial support to those and to foodbanks in the district. Change of CEO - Yvonne Rees is leaving CDC and a new incoming one has been appointed by the Personnel Committee and ratified by the Executive, his name is Gordon Stewart and he'll begin his tenure on January 8 th , 2024. He is a former chief operating officer of the Institute of Cancer Research and registrar and secretary of the University of Plymouth, where he was responsible for professional services and governance. A long list of candidates was agreed by the authority's four party leaders in October and interviews were held on 20 and 27 November 2023. Gordon Stewart has a range of experience in senior leadership in complex delivery environments across industry, the public sector and the higher education and charity sector." His most recent role was at the Institute of Cancer Research from 2020 until earlier this year. He has also served as a governor for London's Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. He was the executive director for corporate services at the Science and Technology Facilities Council between 2012 and 2017. Household Support Funding – we are allocating Round 4 of this funding to support the cost-of-living initiatives. There is money available to extend the current food voucher scheme. This will continue to be shared between those who refer residents to CDC (Banbury -Mosque/Trussell Trust Foodbanks, Bicester Foodbank, Kidlington – Cherwell Collective and North Oxon Foodbank). The food vouchers will increase from £50 to £75, with the new vouchers also now available if people previously received a £50 one. Following consultation with partners, we have set up a new Household Support Fund Equipment Grant. Community groups can apply for up to £5,000 to purchase equipment for residents to receive free air fryers, kettles, toasters, blankets, etc. Information will be shared widely eg. the Warm Welcome network, foodbanks, etc.

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd January 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

	<p>Interactive warm spaces map - forging strong local partnerships and signposting people to crucial advice and support is essential. As part of this work, a new interactive warm spaces map is one of our latest innovations.</p> <p>The district has nearly 50 warm spaces, allowing people to make friends and escape the cold. They are also essential sources of information about the cost of living support. If you are in contact with residents you think might benefit from a warm space, direct them to the map. Our main Cost of Living webpage also includes the link. You can read more about this initiative here.</p> <p>Garden waste renewals go live - current garden waste subscriptions for 2023/24 end soon, and our residents can renew or sign up from December 4th 2023, to ensure they are ready for the 2024/25 subscription year.</p> <p>Our green-fingered residents can apply for an annual subscription licence of £49 per brown bin, covering them for a fixed calendar year from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025, regardless of when they subscribe.</p> <p>People can find out more about our recycling services and purchase a garden waste subscription at cherwell.gov.uk/Recycling</p> <p>Relocation of CDC HQ - At December's Full Council meeting we were informed that the transition to the new HQ at Castle Quay is a minimum of 12 months away as repurposing works are required at the new facility. I also enquired with the Leader and relevant dept's regarding onsite parking for officers, members and visiting members of the public. I was reassured that there is sufficient parking available, but no details were forthcoming at Monday's meeting.</p> <p>Motions - At the same meeting, four Motions were passed, a Solar Energy Strategy, to increase our renewable energy production within the district. Period Poverty, to investigate and report back on the number of accessible locations across the Council's estate where free sanitary products can feasibly and sensitively be provided and recommendations on implementation.</p> <p>Section 21 Notices, abolish Section 21 Notices and include this as part of its Private Renters Reform Bill. Service Hubs, investigate the feasibility of creating service hubs within our localities and what they can usefully provide, including considering best practice from other local authorities. The development of Libraries was suggested to include ATM's and Banking facilities as so many local bank branches are being closed.</p>
<p>24/009 24/009/1</p> <p>24/009/2</p> <p>24/009/3</p>	<p>Parish Matters:</p> <p>20mph speed limit – The clerk carried out a survey of residents at the Barford Christmas Market in December on whether they wanted a 20mph speed limit in the Barfords. 40 residents responded to the survey. 78% of residents were in favour of implementing a 20mph limit and 22% were opposed. This information was given to OCC and it is anticipated that the lower speed limit will be introduced later this year.</p> <p>Grass cutting contract – Thomas Fox Landscaping and Maintenance have advised of a 5% increase in the cost of cutting the grass. This was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Christmas tree lights – The lights in the tree on The Green were switched on at the beginning of December but unfortunately some of the sections of the LED lights were not working. They were left on but the remaining lights started flashing and so they were turned off. It was agreed that the lights will be taken out of the tree, investigated and new lights purchased if they cannot be repaired.</p>
<p>24/010 24/010/1 24/010/2</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>23/01836/F – 2-4 Mead Road – Rebuild conservatory – CDC permitted 2/12/2023</p> <p>23/03370/F – Buckingham's Cottage – Extension – The Parish Council objected to this.</p>
<p>24/011</p>	<p>Reports from Meetings: None</p>
<p>24/012 24/012/1</p>	<p>Finance:</p> <p>Payments - The Clerk gained approval for payments totalling £302.62. The year to date accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. Income and expenditure is on budget</p>
<p>24/013 24/013/1</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Road Improvements following the death of Harry Dunn at Croughton – The government produced a report with recommendations on road improvements which it provided to OCC Highways</p>

Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd January 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall

24/013/2	but no improvements have been implemented. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the government and OCC Highways asking when the improvements will be implemented. Hedge by the bridge – This is growing into the road and forcing traffic going towards the bridge from Barford St Michael into the path of oncoming traffic. It was agreed that the clerk would report this to OCC Highways.
24/013/3	Missing footpath sign – It was reported that the sign is missing to footpath 121/13 which runs from the start of Netherworton Road past Spring Hill Farm to Iron Down Farm. This will be investigated and reported by the clerk.
24/013/4	Path from Bloxham Road to Barford St John Church – It was reported that there is a locked gate along this path however it is not a public footpath.
23/013/5	Map of footpaths in the parish – It was agreed that a map of footpaths will be displayed in the parish council noticeboard by the village hall. Residents can view the OCC interactive map of footpaths in Oxfordshire at: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/access-maps
23/013/6	Please be aware that it is slow to respond. Defibrillator Training – Cllr Rodney Hobbs will organise defibrillator training and provide a link to an online training video to village groups.
23/013/7	Bridge Repairs – No further updates have been received so it was agreed that the clerk would write to OCC Highways for an update.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....