

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

Present: Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Tucker, District Cllr Rogers and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). Eight members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Lovell, Cox, Charman & County Cllr Fatemian

24/042	Declarations of Interest: None
24/043	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 th April 2024 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).
24/044	Matters arising from the minutes: None.
24/045 24/045/1	Public Participation: Grass cutting – Members of the public attended to give their views on the grass cutting which included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The needs of nature should be considered 2. It should be safe and neat but give space to nature 3. The verges should be short at the front but long at the back 4. Advice should be sought from Wild Oxfordshire 5. The grass in West Close is too long except for the triangle at the bottom which should be left uncut until August or September 6. There are places where it is not possible to get off the road with dogs 7. A reduction in cutting would save cost 8. Tall grass by the bridge is dangerous <p>It was agreed that Wild Oxfordshire would be asked to give advice and a decision on grass cutting taken at the September meeting.</p>
24/045/2	Use of Glyphosate weedkiller on the footpaths – A resident repeated a request for Glyphosate not to be used and that “Foam Stream” which uses vegetable oils be used instead. Thomas Fox, the grass cutting contractors had advised that the alternatives are ineffective. Another resident advised that Glyphosate was safe and is used to kill weed in ponds without killing the fish. It was agreed to research “Foam Stream”
24/045/3	Car park in Barford St Michael – A resident asked if any progress had been made to purchase land for a car park. It was reported that no progress had been made.
24/045/4	Village website – A resident has volunteered to help update the information on the website.
24/046 24/046/1	Clerk’s Report: Allotments – Sixteen of the allotment holders have paid their rent but the clerk is chasing payment on the remaining 7. There is currently one spare allotment.
24/046/2	Waste bins – The 3 replacement bins have been ordered but there has been a delay caused by a problem on the website of the supplier.
24/046/3	Dogs out of control in field behind Broad Close – Notices have been put up requesting owners to keep them on leads and not run around in the field.
23/046/4	OCC Highways Engagement Team – The OCC Highways Engagement Team has been invited to the villages to discuss issues with the roads.
24/047	Correspondence: Nothing outstanding
24/048	County Councillor’s Report from Arash Fatemian: None
24/049	District Councillor’s Report from David Rogers: Due to the elections there is nothing to report.
24/050 24/050/1	Parish Matters: 20mph Speed Limit Implementation – Some residents had commented on the implementation on the Barford United WhatsApp group but the Parish Council had conducted a survey, full details had been published in the Barford News and OCC had carried out a full public consultation.
24/050/2	Grass Cutting – This matter had been discussed in Public Participation.

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24/050/3	Barford Bridge Repairs – Rebuilding and repairs will commence on Monday 8 th July. When reopened there will be no weight restrictions. It was agreed that the PC would investigate ways to restrict large lorries using it when it has been reopened.
24/051 24/051/1 24/051/2	Planning: 23/02470/F – Offside The Green – 2 Bedroom bungalow – The appeal against CDC refusal was allowed. No 1 Bishops Close – Building work has been observed here. It was agreed to contact CDC to check that this is allowed under “permitted development” as no planning application has been submitted.
24/052	Reports from Meetings: None.
24/053 24/053/1 24/053/2	Finance: Payments – The clerk gained approval for payments totalling £2,461 including £545 for insurance, £1,003 to Thomas Fox for grass cutting and £331 for renovating two benches. The reserves are currently £12,861. Certificate of Exemption – The certificate of exemption from external audit has been submitted and acknowledged.
24/054 24/054/1 24/054/2 24/054/3	Any Other Business: Weeds in the grass on The Green – It was agreed that a quote would be obtained to kill these. Large Shrub on The Green – It was agreed that this would be trimmed at the end of the bird nesting season. Bernard Lane’s Bench – Cllr Rodney Hobbs is chasing the installation.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:15pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....