

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Turner, Tucker, Cox, District Cllr Rogers and Mr Best, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).  
 No members of the public attended the meeting.

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

24/068	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None
24/069	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 were a true and accurate record (unanimous).
24/070	<b>Matters arising from the minutes:</b> None.
24/071	<b>Public Participation:</b> None
24/072 24/072/1 24/072/2 24/072/3	<b>Clerk's Report:</b> <b>Allotments</b> – There are currently two allotments available. Two allotment holders have not paid their rent despite a reminder email being sent by the clerk. The water has been turned off. <b>OCC Councillor Priority Fund</b> – The clerk has applied to Cllr Arash Fatemian for a grant towards the defibrillator. <b>Wild Oxfordshire advice on management of grassed areas</b> – The clerk met with a representative of Wild Oxfordshire and walked round the village with her so she could compile a report with recommendations.
24/073	<b>Correspondence:</b> Nothing outstanding
24/074	<b>County Councillor's Report from Arash Fatemian:</b> None
24/075	<b>District Councillor's Report from David Rogers:</b> Report attached to Minutes
24/076 24/076/1 24/076/2 24/076/3 24/076/4 24/076/5 24/076/6 24/076/7 24/076/8	<b>Parish Matters:</b> <b>Grass Cutting</b> – Thomas Fox has carried out less than the contractual number of cuts this year. It was agreed that the clerk will enquire why more cuts weren't done. Some of the recommendations from Wild Oxfordshire will be adopted. It was agreed that the grass in West Close needs to be kept shorter. Only 8 of the 12 cuts were carried out this year. <b>2025-26 Budget and Precept</b> – The draft 2025-26 budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed and it was agreed not to increase the Precept. <b>Website Update</b> – Emma Best, who administers and provides the Barford Villages Website, confirmed that the website had not been working because the SSL certificate had expired but this has been renewed. She is resetting the clerk's log in so that the parish council section can be updated. A login has been requested for Sam Brown who has offered to update other areas of website. It was agreed that the cost of a ".gov" website would be investigated as this is recommended by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. <b>New Litter Bins</b> – These have not been installed yet as the clerk has had an operation on his leg it was agreed that a contractor will be employed to do this work. <b>Christmas Tree Lights</b> – Replacement lights have been ordered and they will be put in the tree on The Green and be switched on from 1 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Gateway from corner of churchyard to footpath</b> – A new gatepost has been obtained from OCC and will be installed by the clerk when he has recovered from his leg operation. <b>Remembrance Sunday Donation</b> – It was agreed to donate £100 to the Royal British Legion <b>Clerk's Pay</b> – The hourly rate has increased from £14.70 to £15.33.
24/077 24/077/1 24/077/2 24/077/3	<b>Planning:</b> <b>24/01465/F S</b> - Stretford End – Single storey extension – PC has no objections <b>24/01366/F</b> – Swere Villa – Two storey extension – CDC Permitted 14/10/2024 <b>24/01949/F</b> – St Michael's Church – Reroof – CDC Permitted 29/10/2024

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

<b>24/078</b>	<b>Reports from Meetings:</b> None.
<b>24/079</b> 24/079/1	<b>Finance:</b> <b>Payments</b> – The clerk gained approval for payments totalling £1,008.69.
<b>24/080</b> 24/080/1  24/080/2 24/080/3  24/080/4	<b>Any Other Business:</b> <b>Request for dog owners to control their dogs</b> – Dogs being walked on West Close by a parishioner were attacked by a dog being walked by another parishioner. Will dog owners please control their dogs and put leads to prevent this happening. <b>Verges damaged during road resurfacing</b> – This has been reported to OCC. <b>Tree on The Green dying</b> – It was agreed that this would be taken down. It was also agreed that the pyracanthas hedge will also be drastically pruned. <b>Conservation status for the villages to prevent large lorries driving through</b> – It was agreed that this will be applied for.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

District Councillor report – November 2024

**Cherwell Local Plan review**

The draft Cherwell Local plan review documents have been made public.

The final version will be presented to the Executive at its December meeting and then out to consultation for 8 weeks over the Christmas period.

**The Plan has three key themes:**

- Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change and Ensuring Sustainable Development
- Maintaining and Developing a Sustainable Local Economy
- Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities

**Our places**

The plan has policies for its key areas which are:

- Banbury Area
- Bicester Area
- Kidlington Area
- Heyford Park Area
- Rural Areas

The plan retains the focus of development on Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

It also details where the additional housing mandated by the Government will go.

For the rural areas, Policy Villages 2 and the categorisation of villages has been reworked.

**What's the benefit?**

An up-to-date Local Plan is important for a plan led approach to decision making and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

This draft Plan has been informed by three formal public consultations, continuous engagement and cooperation and evidence gathering.

**What happens next?**

The comments from 12<sup>th</sup> November Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be taken into account by the Executive at its meeting on 2 December 2024, be revised and then go out to "Regulation 19" consultation. Upon later submission of the Plan for Examination, its legal compliance would be considered by an independent Planning Inspector in early 2025.

**How do I comment on this?**

As soon as public consultation opens, we will be in touch with the final version and how to comment.

This is the link to [Local plan review](#) main documents and maps of the proposed additional sites is [here](#).

Alternatively, you can get to the whole report pack and associated documents via the Cherwell Website and look at the 12<sup>th</sup> November Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting documents.

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

### Primary Healthcare developer contributions

Cherwell District Council came together to support a motion calling for an improvement in Primary Care Services. The motion, below, was carried unanimously.

Motion from Cllr David Rogers:

This Council recognises the need to improve 'Primary Care' health services across North Oxfordshire.

Primary Care expansion is the remit of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System Board ('BOBICS') whose Primary Care Estates Strategy acknowledges the scale of developer contributions that are available to support such vital public services.

Regrettably, since the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document in 2018, it is estimated that only 15% of funds available have been requested and secured within the Cherwell District Council area. This must improve.

Accordingly, this Council request that its Leader writes to the Chief Executive of BOB ICS, copied to its Place Director for Oxfordshire and its Senior Primary Care Estate Manager, to request that it:

- (i) more consistently requests developer contributions on all planning applications of 10 or more dwellings;
- (ii) considers using this funding in part for ICT Infrastructure to support primary care expansion;
- (iii) work more closely with this Council to ensure the release the Section 106 contributions currently allocated to, or held by, Cherwell District Council; and
- (iv) works with this Council on both its Local Plan review, the Community Infrastructure Levy consultation and its review of the Supplementary Planning Document to ensure better and more coordinated provision of vital health services.

This Council further calls on its Leader to request a meeting between BOB ICS and Leaders of all political groups and Officers to discuss how we could improve the delivery of Primary Care across North Oxfordshire.

The Leader of the council expressed his willingness and I have received expressions of support from members and officers alike.

I've also had a further meetings with members of the Integrated Care Board, members of the Executive, Senior Managers at Cherwell District Council, Senior Managers at Oxfordshire County Council, local GP surgeries and PPG's.

Whenever I get the chance, I raise this issue with elected members and officers at other authorities just to see if this issue is unique to BOB ICB or is a wider issue.

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

### SLCC Awards

Congratulations to every Parish Clerk, your hard work was recognised in the SLCC awards Ceremony on 8<sup>th</sup> October and I would like to thank every Clerk for the hard work put in to make local democracy work and to keep our parishes functioning in the excellent way that they do.

### Flooding reports

Cllr Andrew McHugh continues to collate information about surface water flooding for each Parish. If you haven't already, please do get in touch with Andrew who is keen to have a complete surface water flooding picture for the Parishes in the Ward.

### Parish Precept

A gentle reminder that Parishes are being asked to return their Precept requests by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Precept setting handout is attached.

### Your thoughts on free Parking in Banbury and Bicester for December

At the most recent Budget Planning meeting a suggestion was raised to the Portfolio Holder that the Executive consider free parking in Banbury and Bicester for December. The idea is to make shopping in these Town Centres more attractive in the most crucial trading season.

What do you think?

### Information from Cherwell District Council

#### [Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\) Business Grant Scheme](#)

OXLEP Business will deliver Cherwell District Council's REPF business grant scheme.

This new scheme has been developed to boost businesses operating within the Cherwell District's rural economy.

REPF Grants are available to existing micro and small businesses which have been trading within the Cherwell area for at least 12 months at the point of submission of Expression of Interest.

The scheme looks to support capital investments in the following priority sectors:

- Retail - serving local community;
- Farm diversification (non-agricultural)
- Food and drink production sector
- Hospitality and Leisure
- Manufacturing sector

For information and to apply please visit: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/repf/>

**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**

[Business Accelerator](#)

The Cherwell Business Accelerator programme provides expertise and support to help small businesses in Cherwell grow and thrive.

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) funding will be closing soon HUG2 supports Oxfordshire residents at risk of fuel poverty by improving the comfort of their homes, often reducing their energy bills.

Residents have until 31 October to [apply](#).

[Residents able to declutter for charity with new service](#)

We have teamed up with [Anglo Doorstep Collections](#) to allow our residents to declutter their homes while giving back to charity with free doorstep collections.



[Key housing plan goes to consultation](#)

People can now comment on a five-year strategy for improving accommodation and tackling homelessness in north Oxfordshire. The [consultation](#) closes on Thursday, 28 November.



**Barford St John & St Michael Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in Barford Village Hall**