

Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Turner, Hobbs, Cox, Tucker, Charman, Lovell, O'Brien, County Cllr Gareth Epps, District Cllr David Rogers, Ms Snell (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Apologies for absence: None

26/001	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 th November 2025 were a true and accurate record (unanimous) and signed by the Chairman.
26/002 26/002/01	Public Participation: Abby Jeffs, Community Relations Advisor at RAF Croughton, spoke about her role and the aim of rebuilding relations with the community. This could include asking personnel to volunteer for village events. She is also spoke about a plan to run a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) programme in local primary schools delivered by personnel. If there are any issues with personnel behaviour in the local community or operational issues to get in contact. It is unclear whether the signage for RAF Barford St John will be coming down at the present.
26/002/02	A resident asked for an update on the allotments. Cllr Charman confirmed that these were still being discussed with the owner and that the old contracts were being rewritten. An increase in rent is not expected, and until the contracts have been written, rent is not requested either.
26/002/03	The resident also asked for an update on the water tap. Cllr Charman confirmed that some piping had been cut out after a leak had been identified and that someone would be coming out to reconnect it once the weather was dry and clear enough. CC The Clerk has been asked to look for the old allotments rental book. HS
26/003 26/003/01 26/003/02 26/003/04	Clerk's Report: A precept request of £12,000 for this year has been submitted. OCC Highways Walk – the Clerk has contacted OCC Highways for an update on the items discussed in the village walk and talk last March and will arrange another meeting for March/April 2026 for further updates. HS The Clerk advertised for a volunteer for a Fix My Street Super User but received no responses so will do the training this week. This means she will be trained to flag work orders to OCC Highways. Residents can submit issues to Fix My Street as usual but the Clerk can escalate these. Cllr Tucker will send an article to the Barford News about how to log issues on Fix My Street. DT&HS
26/003/05	The Playground Committee has arranged for a quote from Sovereign play equipment for repairs to the basket swing, benches and timbers on the activity tower at West Close playground. This was originally quoted at £1,677.90 but since some items are still under warranty, this has been reduced to c.£700. A second quote has been sought from another company for comparison.
26/003/06	The Parish Council will have a full reelection in May 2026 and all nominees need to submit a form by 9 th April. This opportunity will be advertised widely.
26/003/07	A Help Wanted advert will be sent to the Barford News asking residents to share their expertise and knowledge with the Clerk and Parish Council. HS
26/003/08	All Parish Councillors to stay for photos or send them in for the website.

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26/004 26/004/01 26/004/02 26/004/03	Correspondence: <p>A resident had been in contact about a community weather station. The Parish Council does not currently have funding for this, but there may be a grant that can be applied for next year if this can be tied in with a wider community plan. The resident has been asked to produce a business plan. The Clerk had been contacted about a new grasscutting tender from an alternative contractor but they have not provided a quote in time for this meeting. That Parish Council are pleased with the service offered by Thomas Fox and intend to continue with this.</p> <p>A resident had sent in feedback on the new flooding procedure and asked if more real time information can be made available. The Parish Council have already explored options with OCC Highways and are only able to put out signage warning of floods or a road closure at this point, and provide this information to Highways. This is currently the best available option and the Parish Council will endeavour to act more promptly in putting out and collecting in signage. Cllr Lovell suggested looking into a floodstick or other measure so that drivers can make a more informed decision. It was agreed that choosing to drive through a flood remained at the drivers' risk and that the bridge would be closed when fully impassable. HS</p>
26/005 26/005/01 26/005/02 26/005/03 26/005/04 26/005/05 26/005/06	County Council Report – Gareth Epps: <p>Particular issues to note include a £6.5 million gap in the government's budget, which is expected to lead to a raise in council tax.</p> <p>There is likely to be a consultation on local government reorganisation in February/March.</p> <p>From next week there will be a booking system for household waste recycling centres.</p> <p>Hempton Road will be closed 12-15 January for the installation of build ins. Cllr Tucker raised concerns that there had been local objections to the Hempton build ins, but that this had been approved on appeal.</p> <p>With the addition of glass recycling in domestic bins it is expected that bottle banks will removed by the end of April.</p> <p>Cllr Tucker also asked about 20 speed lighting and signs. County Cllr Epps will send more information over.</p>
26/006 26/006/01 26/006/02 26/006/03	District Council Report – David Rogers: <p>Work is beginning soon on removing the illegal landfill in Kidlington. Another development has been approved in Hook Norton. Cllr Turner asked about the "titled balance" in the District Cllr's Report – the government made a manifesto pledge to increase the housing and where housing proposals are refused they can be overturned by appeal (at cost to Cherwell District Council).</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to complete the Rural Services Network Delivering for All Survey.</p>
26/007 26/007/01 26/007/02 26/007/03	Parish Matters: <p>Allotments – update covered from public participation question.</p> <p>Grasscutting tender - approved. The Clerk is to request that Thomas Fox take more care with cutting around the wooden poles in the play area to avoid damage. HS</p> <p>Assertion 10 – The Parish Council have resolved to set up a new compliant .gov.uk domain and associated email addresses for the Councillors and Clerk. Parish Online was approved. The Clerk will contact residents who</p>

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26/007/04	are existing users on the Barford Villages website to see if they want to migrate content to the new Parish Council website. HS Stonepit Field – Bretherton's are no longer able to represent the Parish Council and have returned the downpayment made in 2024, as the field now has an associated tenant and requires an agricultural tenancy agreement as well as the Land Registry transfer. Taking advice from a resident as well as alternative solicitors, the field will require a transfer in part, before producing an individual (rolling) tenancy, and whilst the Land Registry transfer from the Diocese of Oxford continues. SE Solicitors in Banbury have quoted c.£1,500 for the work, and the councillors approved for the Clerk to make arrangements with SE Solicitors to represent the Parish Council. HS
26/007/05	Defibrillator – the councillors resolved to keep the box locked and to put the code inside the box window so that it could be used easily in an emergency. There will also be sheet to log monthly box checks.
26/008	Planning - no objections to recent requests
26/009 26/009/01	Reports from meetings The Clerk attended a Climate Adaption Workshop and provided a summary. There was particular emphasis on producing a Community Emergency Plan and there may be funding available for this.
26/010 26/010/01 26/010/02 26/010/03	Finance: Upcoming payments were approved. Updated accounts were received – no questions. SLCC Membership – the councillors approved sponsoring membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the Parish Clerk. HS
26/011 26/011/01 26/011/02 26/011/03	AOB: Items for information or the next agenda The councillors thanked a resident for trimming back the pyracantha on The Green, but agreed that it required further work with more professional equipment for hard-to-reach areas. Cllr Charman will be continuing to follow this up. CC The Christmas lights did not get put up on The Green this year and the current Clerk will now arrange to collect these from previous Clerk. HS Cllrs Hobbs and Charman gave apologies for the next meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Date