

Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr Kenny

26/051	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
26/052	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 th June 2026 were a true and accurate record (unanimous) and signed and initialled by the Chair.
26/053 26/053/01 26/053/02	Public Participation: One member of the public attended. They raised concerns about the drainage channels for the bridge, which are blocked and need clearing. Cllr Lovell will look into this. TL They reported that the pipes under the footpath are blocked and also that a section of the footpath looked as though it may start crumbling. It was noted that the rebuilt footpath acts as more of a dam for the water. County Cllr Epps requested for the pipes to be unblocked last Autumn but this was not actioned. He will follow this up again. The resident also asked about the 20 for a Reason signs – the aim is to get people to pay more attention when they drive through.
26/054 26/054/01 26/054/02 26/054/03 26/054/04 26/054/05	Clerk's Report: Time was spent over the summer reviewing the recommendations made by the internal auditor and preparing the outstanding policies for the Parish Council The Clerk met with Oxfordshire County Council to review the location for the vehicle activated speed sign in Barford St John, which will be at the end of Church Lane. The Clerk will apply for the Councillor's Priority Fund to cover 50% of the costs of the device, in addition to the funding already received from Thames Valley Police. Cllr Lovell will speak to the nearby resident. TL The Clerk also met with representatives from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council as well as the CEO of Lidar Tech to discuss the placement of the proposed flood gauges on the bridge. A level survey will be taken next to determine a baseline. HS The next set of actions is to register the Village Hall. The Clerk spoke with a solicitor who specialises in this and now needs to prepare the paperwork. HS The Diocese of Oxford remains silent about Stonepit Field. The Clerk is continuing to follow this up. HS
26/055 26/055/01 26/055/02	Playground Committee Update: The Duck Race team is busy making preparations for Sunday. Thanks to everyone who came to the public meeting and who is supporting with this event. The two play areas were inspected over the summer and some recommendations were made for repairs. The Parish Council is organising repairs to the toddler play area and the Playground Committee will make arrangements for West Close. The reports have been shared.
26/056 26/056/01	Correspondence: Oxfordshire Speed Limit Review: The Councillors had no comment on the suggested speed changes for A and B roads in Oxfordshire but are interested in the fine-tuning of the 20mph zones in the villages. An update will come later in the month.

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26/056/02	The Parish Council have had further correspondence with the Volunteer Driver Service and have asked the Clerk to request an advert from the service for the next Barford News. They took a vote on whether to award the scheme with the requested £30. Councillors in favour: 4, Councillors against: 1. If they wish to provide leaflets these could be included in the next Barford News delivery. HS
26/056/03	The Parish Council received a concern email about the quality of the mowing in the village this year. Without further specifics, they felt that Thomas Fox were still completing the work to a high standard, particularly during the heatwave.
26/056/04	The Parish Council received a fundraising request from Oxfordshire Mind but did not feel that they had the funds to support events not specifically targeting the villages.
26/057	County Council Report – Gareth Epps:
26/057/01	The new traffic filter system will come into place for Oxford on 28 th Septembers. Cars already registered for the congestion zone will not need to re-register, but anyone new who is anticipating travelling through the traffic filters must register.
26/057/02	Local government reorganisation has led to a three authority model, which now requires a period of “disaggregation” to work out what belongs to which authority. There is also discussion about having a mayor across the three authorities. It is expected that there will be relatively little impact on small parish councils.
26/057/03	District Cllr Rogers and the Parish Council praised County Cllr Epps for his commitment to attending Parish Council meetings and following up actions despite a very busy portfolio of work.
26/058	District Council Report – David Rogers:
26/058/01	District Cllr Rogers is part of a cross-party group for health and wellbeing and is passing updates to the primary care system.
26/058/02	A sum of £178,000 is available for projects that are ready to go in the realm of £20,000 upwards. The money has to be spent this financial year but there may be a similar windfall next year. The Parish Council discussed the possibility of buying land to turn into a car park that could be used by the Village Hall and the Church. The Clerk will start with an expression of interest.
26/059	Parish Matters:
26/059/01	Allotments – Cllr Charman would like to thank Graham Harding for replacing the gatepost. Cllr Charman is currently checking the list of allotment holders is correct and chasing the final agreement with Rignall Farm. A recent water bill may require a review of the rents. CC
26/059/02	Parish Council Assets Register – The Clerk presented a draft asset register. Some adjustments to the number of items were noted and the amended document will be added to the website. HS
26/059/03	List of Councillor Responsibilities – Cllr O’Brien has been given responsibility for signing off financial reporting. Cllr Lovell has been given responsibility for flood protection. Cllrs Turner and Tucker should also be added as representatives for the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Turner to remind the VHMC of this. ST
26/059/04	Village Trusts – New Trustee – The Parish Council approved Margaret Murdin as a new trustee.
26/059/05	Village Hall Management Committee – Cllrs Turner and Tucker are the two Parish Council Representatives for the Village Hall Management Committee.
26/059/06	Hedgerow Cutting – Cllr Tucker noted that the Give Way sign coming from Netherworton Road has been blocked by an overgrown tree. Cllr Charman will

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	speak to the resident. Visibility on Murrays Lane has also been reduced by and overgrown hedge. The Clerk will determine whether this is Highways or private land and issue the resident with a polite letter if the latter. CC & HS
26/060 26/060/01 26/060/02	Planning: 26 01144 CLUE, 19 Broad Close, OX15 0RW – no objections. 26 01902 LB, Rosie's Cottage, Lower Street, OX15 0RH – no objections.
26/061 26/061/01	Reports from Meetings: Hook Norton Low Carbon Club – Cllr O'Brien is arranging a talk from the Club as part of a Barford Environment Network event. It is expected that this will take place in October, and will be advertised in the Barford News. JOB
26/062 26/062/01 26/062/02 26/062/03 26/062/04	Policies: Model Freedom of Information Publication Scheme – approved and accepted by the Parish Council. Guide to Information Available FOI Publication Scheme – approved and accepted by the Parish Council. Pension Policy – approved and accepted by the Parish Council. Complaints Procedure – approved and accepted by the Parish Council. New policies will be uploaded to the website.
26/063 26/063/01 26/063/02 26/063/03 26/064/04	Finance: Review Accounts Against 2026/27 Budget - The accounts were reviewed against the budget and Cllr O'Brien noted no concerns. The accounts for the Playground Committee have now been included and will be backdated. Note Payments Made in July and August – Payments totalling £1,747.79 were made in July and August for the Clerk's pay, grasscutting and the playground inspections. Pay Scale Increase for Clerk – The NALC National Salary Award 2026-27 has increased to £14.83ph and the Clerk's pay will be backdated to 1st April 2026. Approve Upcoming Payments - Payments totalling £717.02 were approved, including the Clerk's pay, new signage for Rock Close and allotment water.
26/064 26/064/01	AOB: Items for information or the next agenda A resident has raised concerns about the growth of brambles around the sponsors sign and around the round bench on West Close Playground. Cllrs Charman and Lovell will attempt to cut this back.

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

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Date

INITIALS: