

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 15th December 2025
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

Councillors Present: Roger Tyers (Chair), Kate Carter-Windle (Vice), Jane McRobie, Andy Barry

In Attendance: Councillor Andy Graham and Cllr Dave Jackson

Clerk: Annette Fowler

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the council meeting commencing there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to make comments and to ask questions of the Parish Council.

No questions.

1767 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Cox.

1768 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct (and section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992).

There was none.

1769 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 17th November 2025 were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

1770 To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –

- a) ASWC (Automatic Speed Watch Camera) - Cllr Tyers – Demonstration of the camera - the AMH is booked for Monday 12th January 8pm.

1771 Village Matters – updates

a) **The PC received an email from a resident regarding Speedwatch/ASWC, Flooding and Village clean-up/litter picking** - the email had been circulated to the Councillors before the meeting and was read to the meeting by Cllr Tyers. **ASWC** - the resident has been informed of the planned meeting. **Flooding** - a list of properties that front onto or back onto the River Dorn has been prepared and the last flood letter updated. This will be delivered to residents shortly. Cllr Barry objected to the letter being sent out, commenting that it would be better to send in the Spring. **Litter pick** - this is something that the PC would like to re-introduce but it will need a lot of assistance from our community. As far as the mud/leaves are concerned, WODC are scheduled to come into the village to sweep the roads but we are not sure of the exact date.

Signed

Date.....

b) Salt bins – Topping up - A number of the salt bins are either low or empty.

We have almost two one-ton bags of salt available, and a vehicle that can be used to take it round to all the bins in the village. However, we will need help from the community to do this. If you are available to assist, please contact the Clerk, clerk@steeplebartonpc.co.uk.

c) Recent crime incidents/Cameras – Cllr Cox has asked if there is any way we could have fixed ASWC's to help combat the recent crime incidents. The Clerk had already made contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison officer for Cherwell/West Oxon, he responded that virtually every front door cam can 'see' the road outside a property. Purposely pointing a camera onto a public road can be objected to, however, this can be allowed if part of your building is covered by the camera.

d) Holliers Field Update – A resident who had written an email to WODC regarding the Holliers planning application had finally received a response from the planning officer, however, the email had an attachment with no content, this will be chased up. The Planning officer confirmed that the S106 agreement would be published online 7 days prior to the planning decision being issued.

1772 Donation request from Citizens Advice Oxfordshire

RESOLVED,

THAT, the PC would donate £250.00.

1773 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)

Full reports can be found on the PC website www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org

Dave Jackson - Pothole: the large pothole in Worton Road has finally been fixed. **Road sweeping:** I have asked Phil Martin, WODC to chase up issues relating to UBICO. **Council Tax:** there is a "Council Tax Support" scheme to help residents on low incomes who are struggling with paying council tax. I will publicise this option in a forthcoming Bulletin, and in other ways.

Andy Graham - Proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire, was submitted to government on 27 November 2025. This is our preferred option and one of three options for Oxfordshire.

Attended a meeting on Town and Parish council Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Proposal Options. There will be another meeting in January.

Fire service remodelling is in consultation, they are not going to rush a decision. Recommend the Council review the information and make comments.

Signed

Date.....

1774 Reports

(a) Highways (Cllr Barry) - The average speed through the village at Holliers is 23.9 MPH but up Enstone hill it is 27.2 MPH. There is still speeding through the village between the cameras and this appears to be getting worse.

(b) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers) - The draft plan for the flood alleviation across the back of Church Lane properties has been sent to James Feest, OCC. I will contact Robin Calver/James Freeman, OCC Highways regarding Mill Lane Ford to chase up a response to my email sent on October 29th. I believe that OCC have visited the site and take some measurements.

1775 Finance

a) Precept - The Clerk gave a report following the Finance Sub Committee meeting to consider and agree the Budget and setting of the Precept level for 2026/27.

Our expenditure ytd is £29,557, higher than normal as this includes £10,580 for the School drain work, and £4,407 for the ASWC for which we received a grant and S106 funds to help cover the cost.

The current budget tracker was reviewed in order to set the Precept for 2026/27. Following the meeting the draft budget was emailed to all Councillors for review. The 26/27 budget is showing an expected expenditure of £31,584.00, this includes a contingency for any unexpected donation requests that may be received during the year, this can be reduced if necessary and reserves transferred if required.

Current bank balances -

Business Reserve account = £6,891

Business Current = £12,996

Business 35-day access = £31,087

Income for 26/27 is budgeted to be around £25,598 + bank interest.

The finance committee recommend that the Precept is held at the same level as the past five years, this being £21,560.

RESOLVED,

THAT, a budget of £31,584 was approved for the 2026/27 financial year with the Precept remaining at the same rate of £21,560.

The Clerk will complete the Precept application.

(b) Accounts for Payment - To consider and approve accounts for payment

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary	Annette Fowler	CONF

Signed

Date.....

STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

BACS	Traffic Mirror cleaning	CTF Window Cleaning	£25.00
BACS	Christmas Tree celebration posters/cards	University of Oxford	£179.37
S/O	Donation to Our Bus	Our Bus	£100.00
D/D	Email hosting	Ionos	£ 19.20
D/D	Electricity supply	SSE	£ 21.83

RESOLVED,

THAT, all payments listed were approved.

1776 To receive items for next agenda

Any items to be emailed to the Clerk by Friday 9th January.

1777 For Information only

CLlr McRobie talked about the recent Planning Consultation meeting. An objection to the plans for Middle Barton had been emailed on the 24th November; No response has been received.

1778 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 19th January 2026** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.30pm, the time has been amended as the Councillors will be attending another meeting beforehand.**

Signed

Date.....