

STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 16th October 2023

THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

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

Also in attendance: Cllr Jackson, Alison Umney (School Liaison Governor)

Clerk: Annette Fowler

Public: 3

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

1464 **To receive apologies for absence.**
Cllrs Parry, Rogers, Cox, Graham and Andy Hinton

1465 **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).

None

1466 **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes from the meeting held on **18th September 2023** were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

Matters arising:

Minute reference 1452 update on school crossing – correction made, the comment was made by Cllr Tyers and not Cllr Rogers.

1467 **To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –**

a) Update on traffic calming

Cllr Tyers confirmed the flashing speed signs (SIDS) have been delivered. We now need to arrange for a team to put together and erect. Cllr Tyers will organise this when Steve Ferrelly is back. We also need a schedule of where they are to be placed.

b) Request for traffic Mirror at the top of Mill Lane

Still no response from BT. Cllr Barry will chase this up.

Signed

Date.....

1468 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)

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

Cllr Jackson –

DEVELOPMENT ABOVE HOLLIERS

I wrote to the planning officer, Joan Desmond, after the last SBPC meeting. She replied that an extension has been granted until 17th November, and that the application will be reported to the Committee "in early November". I think that should say early December. I will check. I forwarded her message to both Roger Tyers and Jane McCrobie.

MEETING WITH CHRIS GRAIN, OCC HIGHWAYS OFFICER.

On September 22nd, Roger Tyers and I met Chris at our house. He explained the changes to the role of highways officers due to come into force on November 1st. In a nutshell there will not be a designated officer for our area, but there will be officers allocated to various tasks, including liaising with folk like the parish councils. Chris hopes he may be given such a role, hopefully covering our area.

SUPERUSERS

I asked Chris Grain if it would be possible for me to be trained as a Superuser, so I am allowed to mark and report potholes. I thought this would be a sensible thing to do, as I periodically do a "tour" of the Bartons Ward and logged a whole batch on Fix My Street for the highways officer to mark up.

A chap called Nigel Clark from OCC highways has been in touch and I am booked to do the training this coming Wednesday (October 11th).

SPEEDWATCH

I sent all the trained Speedwatch volunteers a lengthy email after the last SBPC meeting outlining the progress with the portable flashing signs we are getting and asking their views on the future of Speedwatch. The response has been slightly disappointing in terms of replies, but of those I have heard from, they all seem to want to carry on as we are, so my intention is to try to keep doing at least one a week.

NB: Potholes – it would be worthwhile having a Councillor as a Superuser, in the past Cllr Parry had the role but maybe Cllr Rogers could take this on if Cllr Parry no longer able to do this.

1469 **Request for funding from St Mary’s - Parochial Church Council** – assistance towards graveyard maintenance and the cost of security equipment and internet.

RESOLVED,

THAT, the PC would make a donation of £650.00 towards the graveyard maintenance, the Clerk will include this in the October payments.

The request for a donation towards security measures will be carried over to the November meeting when Cllr Parry will be present.

Signed

Date.....

Cllr Carter-Windle asked Cllr Jackson if there would be any grant/crowd funding available, he will make some enquiries. Also, could he ask if Cllr Graham could help.

1470 **Village Matters**

- a) **Village parking** (Cllr Rogers) - This will be brought forward to the November meeting when Cllr Rogers will be in attendance. The Clerk will ask the PCSO to attend.
- b) **Dead tree** – Holliers Crescent – A resident had reported that a Cherry Tree in Holliers Crecent had died. All agreed that it should be removed; the Clerk will obtain quotes for the work. Cllr Tyers suggested KP Tree Care (Kevin Preston). Cllr Barry will send the Clerk the name of another company to approach.
- c) **Future plan for WODC up to 2041** – Cllr McRobie attended a meeting on 10th October – comments below -
 There is a consultation in place regarding the development of West Oxfordshire, for the future of housing, transport and employment. There is a link:
<https://yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/ideas-and-objectives-consultation>
 The consultation closes on 25 October, and I think we should comment as SBPC.
 I attended a meeting last Tuesday with other local councillors, where we discussed a number of options.

Much of the discussion focussed around housing, as this is perhaps the most contentious of the proposals. The council offer a number of ways of thinking about development, including concentrating on local centres (Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton), or focussing on distributed development or hierarchical development -which puts the emphasis of how many units should be built in multiple locations, proportional to existing settlements. (There are six possible ways of distributing the development burden, see the link).

- There is also a set of objectives for
- “An enhanced natural and built environment”
- “Attractive, accessible and thriving places”
- “Tackling the climate and ecology”
- “Healthy safe strong and inclusive communities”
- “Meeting the housing needs of All”
- “A vibrant resilient and diverse local economy”

A further strand is the opportunity for councils and residents to propose development sites, or development they would like to see.
What that means is that if we as a community have some suggestions as to what could be developed in our community, they are interested in hearing about it. I’ve heard a community farm mooted, for example, or encouragement of artisan small businesses as a way of diversifying local employment and development of brown-field sites.

One thing that was lacking from the discussion, and not referred to directly in these proposals (although WODC and OCC are thinking about it) is local transport. It is essential that communities are able to access other local amenities -not just the larger towns but also smaller ones. So transport is key in any of these development proposals.

Signed

Date.....

Finally, a point I mentioned, there is no discussion or provision in this consultation about the impact of schools on local development. We of course suffer particularly from an uncertain school transport provision and we are not alone in that in Oxfordshire.

So questions for councillors and the community:

Are there plots of land or brownfield sites we would like to see developed?

Are there things we would encourage within our community – plots for housing?

Are there elements of infrastructure we want to see – a pharmacy? A GP surgery?

Enlargement of the school?

What about transport? Are there specific gaps or routes which would be worth pursuing?

1471 **Reports**

(a) School Governors report - (Alison Umney, School Liaison Governor)

Attendance data this term has been very good with an average of over 97% attendance. In addition to a wide range of exciting learning opportunities children at Middle Barton school have also enjoyed

- Various after school clubs including, Eco club, football, sports training and Art club
- Black history month
- Yoga sessions
- Forest school and Outdoor Learning for all children
- Hosting a Macmillan coffee morning raising £280
- Y5 and 6 football competition at Chipping Norton School
- Showing visitors what they were learning during the ‘Open afternoon’ last week and at the end of the day Oak class had a cake sale to raise money for their class. All classes will take a turn at doing this.
- Using the running track in the mornings. Over 60 children have taken part in the Morning run in the last week.
- ‘Junior Citizens’ [Y6] at Oxford Fire Station where they learned how to Stay Safe and Protect others

Fombs are organising the Fireworks night celebrations on 2nd November and tickets will be available soon.

(b) Highways (Cllr Barry)

Most things are running smoothly. The surveyors for Gigaclear have been in the village and have found numerous sites around the village that do not have an acceptable finish. Therefore these areas are being dug up and sorted to make the footpaths and roads better. Another issue I have had from several residents is parking as we have too many cars, vans etc parking on pavements or across dropped kerbs. The main areas of concern are –

Outside the shop, east on the opposite side of the road to the Fox, near the AMH on North Street and Kiddington Road, Church Lane by the school, especially drop off and pick up times. At the junction of Mill Lane and North Street there was a van on the pavement on North Street and another over the dropped kerb on Mill Lane. Also, cars parked on the white lines as you go into Hollier’s reducing the width of the access road.

(c) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers)

Nothing to report.

Signed

Date.....

(d) Sports and Social Club/Playing Fields (Andy Hinton, Playing Fields, Steve Rogers, Social Club, Andy Barry, Bowls club)

No report

1472 **Planning applications** (Cllr McRobie)

a) 23/02419/HHD - First floor front extension, 100 North Street

As the cut off date for comments was October 13th the following was posted on the WODC planning portal –

SBPC have some concerns over this development as the property would increase in size but the parking becomes more limited. Whilst we accept that the parking space is in theory still present, it will be difficult to use and with access to North Street more restricted than is currently. We are concerned about this proposal as we feel it will contribute to parking issues.

b) 23/00818/OUT - Amended Hallam application

Comments have been posted on the planning portal – summary below –

The development plan for the Hallam development have been changed. The settlement has been moved further South within the field, to offer remedy to the environment officer who felt that the high point of the field would be intrusive on the wider landscape. The design has provision for a ‘kickabout space’, an orchard, and a wildlife area. The layout of the development has also changed in response to the concerns from the Police that parked cars were not visible from homes and thus vulnerable to break in.

Out substantive concerns about surface water management and the potential flooding effects on the Cockley Brook and River Dorn remain, as do our concerns about access, increased vehicles on narrow roads in built-up areas, and the potential for more pedestrians to be crossing North Street.

It is noted that there is an image of a pedestrian crossing on the portal, but its location is not consistent with what has been advised by Highways/OCC, and there seems to be no associated explanation of who might pay for this crossing.

We have the opportunity to comment on this proposal, but as the design of the housing is only indicative, my view is that the issues remain the same.

The biodiversity impact statement points out that the revised plan still does not conform to the promised delivery of net gain, and specifically, grassland which is allowed to develop naturally (and therefore not accessible to disturbance by the public). They also note:

“Currently the information submitted is considered insufficient to demonstrate the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features of Middle Barton Fen SSSI, therefore, the proposal is currently contrary to local plan policy EH3, paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).” And further: The skylark has been identified as breeding in the field. It is on the endangered list, and the proposals say nothing about how to mitigate the development impact for this species. “The submitted ecological addendum has not outlined on-site compensatory nesting sites or suitable alternative off-site provisions. Likewise, the most recent illustrative masterplan has not included these features. Skylark is classified in the UK as red under the Birds of Conservation Concern (2021) and is a rapidly declining species due to habitat loss, this species is also listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as a priority species. Local plan policy EH3 makes it clear development will not be permitted that results in the loss, deterioration or harm to UK priority species unless there are exceptional circumstances where the importance of the development significantly and demonstrably outweighs the harm, and the harm can be mitigated through appropriate measures and a net gain in biodiversity is secured. Therefore, the proposal is contrary to local plan policy EH3.”

Signed

Date.....

Also, the PC submitted a request to the planning officer asking why things were being posted on the portal after the original cut-off date. The planning officer confirmed that this was not unusual, in that applicants were permitted to address objections and technical issues raised during the consideration of the application. It is anticipated that this application will be reported to the Uplands Planning Committee on November 13th 2023.

1473 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment

i) To consider and approve accounts for payment (*Appendix B to agenda*)

ii) Accounts not on Appendix B submitted by 8pm on **16th October 2023**

(b) The Clerk confirmed that the 2nd Precept payment of £10,760 had been received in the bank account.

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary (Sept) + Microsoft office renewal £59.99	Annette Fowler	CONF
BACS	Donation (agreed September)	Citizen's Advice West Oxon	£250.00
BACS	PAYE Q2	HMRC	£210.00
BACS	AMH – hire of hall (Jul-Sept)	AMH	£ 40.00
BACS	Replacement Defib pads (North St)	WEL Medical	£ 79.08
BACS	Donation towards graveyard maintenance	St Mary's PCC	£650.00

1474 To receive items for next agenda.

- Village parking
- Donation request from the PCC, St Mary's for security measures
- Gully and gutter clearance – letter to residents
- Pothole superuser

1475 For Information only

The PC had received a thank you letter from Steeple Barton Chase for their recent donation.

1476 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 20th November 2023** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.00pm**.

Signed

Date.....