

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Monday 15th April 2024  
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

**Councillors Present:** Roger Tyers (Chair), Kate Carter-Windle (Vice), John Parry, Jane McRobie, Steve Rogers, Graham Cox

**Also in Attendance:** Alison Umney (School Liaison Governor)

**Clerk:** Annette Fowler

**Public: 1**

**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.

**Apologies:** Councillor Barry and Andy Hinton

**1543 To receive apologies for absence.**

The Council received Cllr Barry and Andy Hinton's apologies.

**1544 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

**1545 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on **18th March 2024** were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

Matters arising:

None

**1546 To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –**

**a) Flooding – see Reports (b) below.**

Signed .....

Date.....

1547 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)

Full reports can be found on the PC website [www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org](http://www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org)

**Cllr Jackson –**

It has been rather quiet since I returned from holiday last month when I had to miss the last meeting.

The bag of sand for sandbags was emptied when we had the horrendous rain a couple of weeks ago. I have ordered more sand to be delivered to the end of the Sports and Social car park. I still have dry sandbags in my garage, so I will take them up once the sand arrives. Last time the sand arrived quickly.

I have noticed some nasty potholes have again appeared within the area that I am allowed to mark and schedule action (i.e. in the speed limits except the main road). Church Lane is again a problem towards the school. Hopefully I can have a dry day when I am not too busy!

Unfortunately, I can't mark holes between the villages, but I will still report them on Fix My Street for the OCC highways officer to mark. A friend has mentioned the road to Holt before you get to Barton House, and I have spotted others in the Bartons ward, but not in S.B. parish, like beyond Sandford St Martin.

**Cllr Graham –**

**New special schools:** The county council is planning two new special schools in the Didcot area to serve southeast Oxfordshire. One will specialise in educating children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs. Another special school is due to be built within the Valley Park development and will specialise in educating children with Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and other needs.

**Taking on potholes:** OCC is launching a £7m programme this spring to refurbish nearly 100 roads across the county this spring from 8 April to 3 June. It is the biggest surface dressing programme for 20 years. The £7m is made up of £2.6m from the department for transport and additional budget for highways agreed in the 2024/2025 Lib Dem/Green budget (not supported by the Tories).

**Money for cycling and walking:** Oxfordshire has been awarded £2.384 million for improving walking and cycling infrastructure. The award will be used for expansion of the school streets programme countywide and projects in Abingdon and Witney.

There was a discussion about bottle recycling as it had been mentioned that the contents of the black bottle boxes were being tipped in to the blue lid recycling bins during the collections. Cllr Jackson will take this up with UBICO and report back. The Clerk will then include details in the bulletin.

1548 **Donation request for £600.00 from the Barton Bulletin**

**RESOLVED,**

**THAT a donation of £600.00 was approved.**

Signed .....

Date.....

1549 **Village Matters**

- a) **D-Day celebrations** – On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June the Social Club are holding an Aunt Sally evening, £5 to play with proceeds going to the British Legion and lighting the Beacon at 9.00pm.
- b) **Transport to School** – OCC recently sent a letter to parents confirming changes to the Spare Seat scheme. Some seats may be withdrawn. Cllr McRobie explained the current situation to the meeting.

At least 50 children go to Chipping Norton School and two buses have historically serviced the village, the charge is £800 per year per child. However, not all parents in the village are asked to pay. When queried, the response from the Council often doesn't make sense as the reasons for charging some and not others appears to be based on distance rules which are hard to rationalise in the Bartons. The PC will formally write to Andy Graham with the village case to take forward.

1550 **Reports**

**(a) Highways** (Cllr Barry)

The traffic data will be downloaded and the SIDs moved this week, I will send out a report once this is done. A bracket is being made for the traffic mirror at the top of Mill Lane once I receive this I will install it. Cllr Parry asked about the ANPR, Cllr Rogers confirmed that he is waiting to hear back from Steve Ferrelly, Westcote Barton Parish meeting.

**(b) Drainage and Flood Protection** (Cllr Tyers)

More flooding in Mill Lane and the Mill Cottages. Cllr Tyers had asked a Flood Risk Assessor to look at the report that the Mill owners supplied regarding the two bridges. He agreed entirely with the findings of the report and confirmed that with both bridges remaining in situ, widening the foot bridge would help to alleviate some of the build-up in the Mill Ford. Cllr Tyers also asked what if the access bridge to the Mill was removed or rebuilt higher with more height if that would help to solve the problem. His view was that it probably would, however, it would need a further flow report to be undertaken using the existing data which Cllr. Tyers has received an estimate for of £1,300. Cllr. Tyers asked if the PC would be prepared to consider making a contribution towards the cost of the report? He said that there might be funds from OCC that we could request from their 'Priority action' funding. Unless something is done, the situation is only going to get worse. The School also had a bad flood just before Easter caused by water coming off the field opposite. Cllr Tyers attended the school in the evening to help with the filling and transportation of sandbags from the MBMPF to the school and also to assist with the clear up.

The Highways Drain in front of the school which is currently only a 4" drain should probably be made bigger as that drain has to cope with all of the flood water from the fields to the south. It runs through the school grounds and connects into a new 9" Storm Drain on the Manor Barns Development Site which would hopefully have the capacity to take it into the River Dorn. The builder of the Manor Farm Barns development came to the School whilst we were there and expressed his concerns that the water was flowing straight down the footpath into the school and across the grounds into the back of his new houses and was building up along the rear patio's. He expressed his annoyance that OCC and the school had not upgraded their pipes as he had spent a considerable sum in providing the

Signed .....

Date.....

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storm drain and leaving a connection for them. Cllr Tyers has registered the flooding at the School with OCC to try to secure funding from the 'Priority Action' Fund.

- (c) Sports and Social Club/Playing Fields (Andy Hinton), Bowls Club Andy Barry
No report

1551 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 15th April 2024

Table with 4 columns: Payment Method, Purpose, Payee, Amount. Rows include Clerk Salary (Mar), Payroll prep Jan-Mar, and PAYE Q4.

1552 To receive items for next agenda.

To be emailed to the Clerk

1553 For Information only

None

1554 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for Monday 20th May 2024 at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at 8.00pm.

Signed .....

Date.....