

STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 9th December 2024
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

Councillors Present: Roger Tyers (Chair), Kate Carter-Windle (Vice), Jane McRobie, Steve Rogers, Graham Cox, Andy Barry, Jay Sinclair-Pearson

Also in Attendance: Councillor Dave Jackson and Councillor Andy Graham

Clerk: Annette Fowler

Public: 12

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.

A member of the public asked if the PC had an update on the Worton Road development appeal; it was confirmed that the appeal had been dismissed.

1629 **To receive apologies for absence.**
None

1630 **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

1631 **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes from the meeting held on 16th September 2024 were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

1632 **To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –**

None

1633 **Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)**
Full reports can be found on the PC website www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org

Councillor Dave Jackson

SANDBAGS

I sent a hasty email to WODC on Monday 25th November to order more sand for the sandbag "depot" on the Sports and Social Club car park after the stock was depleted after

Signed

Date.....

the torrential rain of that weekend. A load of sand was delivered the following day. I saw the officer in charge of this department (Bill Oddie) at a council meeting the day after and asked for our thanks to be passed on. He also said he would provide a wheelie bin for the sandbags to go in, including the stock of hessian ones, plus cable ties.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

On Friday 29th November, Chris Grain popped in to see me as he was in the area, and I wanted to catch up on a number of issues, including a couple in Westcot Barton and Sandford. He inspected the mass of debris left by the flooding down Kiddington Road and assured me that he will try to get a team out before Xmas to give the whole area a good clean up. I mentioned again the lack of white lines on the bend down from Holt on the B4030 which several residents have mentioned over a period of time. He was surprised with the situation and will make urgent enquiries. I also mentioned the concerns addressed at the November SBPC meeting about the method of working of the pothole filling contractor.

Councillor Andy Graham –

Floods – On December 19th there will be a review of the response of the agencies involved in the recent floods.

Bus fares will be £1 every Sunday in December.

1634 **Village Matters**

a) Annual payment to SBPCC for graveyard maintenance is due.

RESOLVED

THAT, the annual payment of £650.00 was approved.

1635 **Donation request** – from the Sports & Social Club for a contribution towards the Seniors Christmas party.

RESOLVED,

THAT, a donation of £250 was approved.

1636 **Donation request** - the History Group for a donation towards the cost of 125 acid free storage boxes for archive documents.

RESOLVED,

THAT, a donation of £500.00 was approved.

Signed

Date.....

1637 Reports

(a) Highways (Cllr Barry)

The SIDS data had been downloaded showing that the average speed through the village has decreased. The feeling is that this is more because of the weather conditions rather than drivers taking notice of the 20mph signs. Cllr McRobie asked if there were any updates on the Dock repairs, no updates received. The Clerk will follow up.

(b) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers)

Following the serious flood on the 23rd/24th November several Cllrs reported issues with drains etc. in parts of the village. Were these notified to OCC on FixMyStreet? I received a very informative email from Simon Wheeler which I have forwarded on to OCC and WODC and I have requested a meeting with both as soon as possible to investigate the issues.

The exceptional flooding a couple of weeks ago appeared to be exacerbated due to an issue upstream, between Westcote Barton and Soho Farmhouse. There has been speculation that it could have been caused by the malpractice of an individual, but there is as far as I know no evidence of that being the case, but blockages do occur and if they then become overwhelmed by exceptional rainfall a surge can arise and cause major issues. We all need to ensure that the flow of the River Dorn is not impeded to avoid this type of event. My view is that we should contact other Parishes/landowners upstream to get them to keep their stretch of the river clear of debris.

County and District Cllrs in Deddington Ward and Cherwell District have pulled together an informative document which I believe we should get our Cllr representatives to produce a similar version!

During the last 12/18 months, in my opinion we have achieved quite a lot. A new storm drain through Luke Carter’s development of Manor Farm Barns to allow a connection through the school to alleviate flooding of the classrooms. We have secured just over £12,000 funding from OCC for the installation of a new drainage chamber on Church Street and a 225mm storm drain through the school grounds to connect to the storm drain in Manor Farm Barns. The limit per Parish from OCC was for £5,000. The work unfortunately cannot be done until the February Half Term.

(c) Sports and Social Club/Playing Fields (Andy Hinton), Bowls Club Andy Barry

No report.

1638 Planning Applications

24/02901/OUT - Land North off Holliers Crescent - Outline planning with some matters reserved for residential and associated development (up to 80 dwellings) including means of access, access roads, green infrastructure, drainage and other infrastructure.

Signed

Date.....

A member of the public asked for clarification between this and the last application. Cllr McRobie explained that they had commissioned a water report, and a bird survey. The commissioned reports confirmed that there is some uncertainty about the porosity of the land (so that water will not naturally drain), and that the mitigation strategies for both water and birds could be inadequate. As a consequence the SSSI at Cockley Brook could incur damage, and there will be detriment to the Skylark population. The surface water draining into the Cockley brook is a significant concern, not detrimental to the proposed development but certainly having the potential to cause further flooding both in the village and conservation area, and across the b4030 Residents expressed concern about the proposed water retention ditches and pond being above existing housing and the potential for new areas of flooding.

Cllr Tyers talked about the letter from Dr Rocke, Director or Rocke Associates that stated that all matters of detail are reserved with the exception of means of access which is to be determined. There are a lot of points in the report that need clarification.

Cllr Tyers reminded the public to post their own objections. The PC will post an objection on the portal in due course along with pictures of the recent flooding.

Previous objections can be used, but residents will need to contact planning to ask them to re-post. The Clerk will post details on the village Facebook pages and in the bulletin.

It was confirmed that OCC are involved as the strip of land in front of the field is highways.

1639 **Finance**

(a) Precept – The Clerk gave an update from the Finance Sub Committee from the meeting held on Tuesday 26th November, and to consider and agree the Budget and setting of the Precept level for 2025/26.

YTD expenditure is £16,603.77.

During the recent finance meeting the current budget tracker was reviewed in order to set the Precept for 2025/26. Following the meeting the draft budget was emailed to all Councillors for review. The 25/26 budget is showing an expected expenditure of £30,575.00, and income of £24,347.00. The finance committee recommended that the Precept is held at the same level as the past four years; we will do this by using some of the reserves. A vote was taken.

RESOLVED,

THAT, a budget of £30,575 was approved for the 2025/26 financial year with the Precept remaining at the same rate of £21,560.

(b) 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 **9th December 2024**

Signed

Date.....

STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary	Annette Fowler	CONF
BACS	Contribution towards St Mary's graveyard maintenance	SBPCC	£650.00
BACS	Clerk training- Experienced Clerk Refresher	OALC	£72.00
D/D	Email hosting	1&1	£6.00
S/O	Donation to Our Bus	Our Bus	£100.00
D/D	Electricity supply	SSE	£19.51

1640 To receive items for next agenda.

School bus
ANPR

1641 For Information only

Our sincere thanks to Cllr Kate Carter-Windle for all the work involved in getting a superb Christmas Tree beautifully lit up and for her organisation of the lighting event.

1642 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 20th January 2025** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.00pm**.

Signed

Date.....