

STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Monday 20th January 2025  
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

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

**Also in Attendance:** Councillor Dave Jackson and Councillor Andy Graham

**Clerk:** Annette Fowler

**Public: 0**

**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.

**1643 To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllrs Barry and Sinclair-Pearson

**1644 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

**1645 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on 9th December 2024 were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

**1646 To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –**

**a) Flooding**

Cllr Tyers recently attended a site meeting with OCC & WODC to look at the hole being eroded on the corner of the footbridge, Mill Lane and the collapsed footpath edge on the Dock. Repairs to the Dock have been scheduled for mid-February but the flooding issues in Mill Lane Ford will take much longer to solve.

Discussion about the possible closure of the Ford. The Clerk to contact Highways/OCC to point out the danger of people driving through the Ford and apply for a temporary closure notice.

Signed .....

Date.....

**b) Repairs to the Dock** – Highways have confirmed the repairs are scheduled for mid February.

**c) White lines - B4030 – Cllr Jackson** – reminded Chris Grain about the lines and will follow up.

**1647 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)**

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

**Councillor Dave Jackson –**

**HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

I was disappointed that the highways department was not able (before Christmas) to sort the accumulation of mud down Kiddington Road, especially at the junction of Fox Lane. I have been in touch again with Chris Grain the highways engagement officer, and he has given me a date of Thursday January 23rd for it to be done. I will put a notice on the railings by Fox Lane a couple of days in advance to prevent cars being parked by the dog/litter bin. I also asked again for an update on the white lining on the B4030 at the bend down from The Holt, and the collapsed drain on Enstone Road down towards the bridge in Westcot Barton. My thanks to the SBPC clerk, Annette, for "chasing up" a timescale for the work to repair the footpath by the footbridge in The Dock. The response is for "Mid February" which is somewhat disappointing.

**FLOODING**

I have been in touch with the chairs of three local parish councils (Steeple, Westcote, Sandford) about the feasibility of meeting together to discuss future possible measures to help alleviate flooding. This followed the Sandford St Martin P.C. meeting before Christmas where there were useful contributions from a number of residents, including the Estate Manager at Sandford Park.

I was copied into an e mail from Laurence King the "Flood Risk Manager " at WODC, which he sent to the chair and clerk of Steeple Barton PC. He was suggesting a meeting in "early January". As yet I do not know the date of such a meeting, whether it would be face-to-face or online, and whether the other P.C s might find it beneficial. I have spoken to Andy Graham and between us we will try to get some update before next Monday's meeting.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION**

There is a meeting planned for councillors on January 23rd to update us about possible changes, as outlined by the new government. We have had initial discussions in our Liberal Democrat Group with fellow county councillors, and it seems that eventually all the services will be under the control of a Unitary Authority, and that West Oxfordshire District Council will disappear. As yet we do not know for sure the area of the Unitary Authority, or when these changes will come into effect.

**As soon as we get more definite details, I will ensure the Parish Council is kept up to date.**

Signed .....

Date.....

I will check the drains around the village that need clearing and schedule the required work.

**Councillor Andy Graham –**

**OCC NEWS**

Budget setting: OCC has analysed funding announcements by the government and proposed a balanced budget for 2025/6, with a recommendation for a 4.99% rise in council tax (with 2% ringfenced for social care).

**Devolution:** OCC has responded to the government’s White Paper on devolution and local government reorganisation. The government is seeking to abolish district councils in favour of unitary councils and create groupings of unitary authorities (which can come with a mayor). Oxfordshire County Council is the lead authority in the process for our area and has expressed to the government a wish to be included in the first wave of changes. There are clear advantages to this, including avoiding a prolonged period of uncertainty. OCC’s response focuses on what geography the strategic authority should take, expressing an interest in forming a Thames Valley authority. Options being suggested for unitarization include an Oxfordshire wide unitary authority, or multiple unitary authorities within Oxfordshire.

Local elections 2025: OCC’s letter to the government’s White Paper, includes a preference for local elections to the county council scheduled to take place in May to go ahead as planned.

**1648 Village Matters - updates**

**a)** Cllr Tyers asked Cllr Jackson if a wheelie bin had been provided at the end of Fox Lane as debris is still there. Cllr Jackson will chase up the wheelie bin and confirmed the mud had been cleared.

**b) Review of the agencies following the November floods** - is there any update from on the review of the ‘agencies’ on the local floods? Cllr Graham confirmed that the District & County Councils will have a meeting soon. The current process is that when 5 properties or more are impacted by flooding there is then an investigation. Cllr Tyers referred to the Flood Investigation report the ‘Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit’ and confirmed the village is included.

**c) School Buses – Cllr McRobie**

The last arrangement was only temporary for a year, and is up for review this year. What are the Council thinking and what is the timeline? Cllr Graham confirmed he had talked to the cabinet member responsible, there will be a consultation this month. Cllr Graham will give an update at the next PC meeting. Spare seat consultation will be after the May elections. Fyi Martin Goff, OCC deals with School transport.

Signed .....

Date.....

**d) ANPR** – Cllr Tyers confirmed that the camera is now referred to as ASWC (Automated Speed Watch Camera). A quote had been received from Wescotec, but TVP have suggested the PC look at Sentinel who are cheaper. The feeling is that we should stick with Westcotec for compatibility.

**e) Donation towards a piece of play equipment to the Playing Fields –**

As previously discussed, and approved. A donation towards the purchase of a Twin Toddler Swing costing £4,440.00. The PC will donate £3,440.00 and the Destiny Foundation will donate £1,000.

**1649 Reports**

**(a) Highways** (Cllr Barry) - Report emailed to the Clerk and circulated

Kiddington road to north street has mostly been cleared along with the drains there are now road works at North Street junction for the electricity company these should be completed this week. Jacobs Yard/ Mill Street this still has a lot of debris from the recent flooding by the ford the builders from Quaker Cottage have spent time clearing some of this but more needs doing several residents are making requests on fix my street. Debris from the builders at the Mill has made its way into the River Dorn and now has raised the riverbed and causing restriction to the flow. Once again, the drains down Jacobs Yard overflowed causing considerable damage to property. Thames water should be maintaining these on the minimum of a yearly basis, but this has not happened the drains are now being lined to prevent root ingress, this should be carried out on Friday 24/01/25.

I have had a request from some residents of Church Lane if the school sign to the east of the school could be repositioned to before the school grounds I will investigate this on my return.

The SIDs are showing an average speed of 23.4 mph, although when the one in Westcote Barton in 3 locations shows an average of 26mph for the traffic going down Eynsham hill, 24mph outside the rectory looking to Sandford and only 21mph outside the hairdressers. This is because of the parked cars near the Fox and the traffic having to slow to get round. This movement of the SID does cause traffic to continue to speed past the church and rectory without slowing till they hit the area of parked cars.

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

Covered above. MB School work is scheduled to commence w/c 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

Work on the Playing Fields will commence the first week in February. There have been a lot of offers of help to dismantle the old equipment from the residents. Fund raising is slow, however, the AMH will hold a fund-raising event in March. Andy thanked the PC and the Destiny Foundation for their donation towards the purchase of a Twin Toddler Swing. There will be plaques for each piece of equipment purchased.

**1650 Finance**

Signed .....

Date.....

**STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**(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 **20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>BACS</b>	Clerk Salary (Dec)	Annette Fowler	CONF
<b>BACS</b>	PAYE Q3	HMRC	£245.40
<b>BACS</b>	Membership renewal SLCC (Society of Local Councils)	SLCC	£110.00
<b>BACS</b>	Annual website maintenance	Coded Creations	£300.00
<b>BACS</b>	PAYE prep Oct-Dec	TP Jones LLP	£ 59.40

1651 **To receive items for next agenda.**  
School bus

1652 **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.

1653 **Date and location of next meeting**  
To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.00pm**.

Signed .....

Date.....