

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 16th February 2026
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON**

Councillors Present: Roger Tyers (Chair), Jane McRobie, Graham Cox, 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.

Members of public = 3

A resident from Holliers Crescent gave an update on his appeal lodged with WODC regarding the Holliers planning application. He confirmed that a number of points highlighted still require answers. He also confirmed that the S106 documents have been reviewed. Elements regarding flooding had not been addressed. The resident has now made an official complaint to WODC and is awaiting an update. If no response is received he will make contact with the Ombudsman. The PC confirmed that they agree with comments made with regard to flooding and highways.

Another resident talked about a recent post on the village Facebook page from WODC '**Putting infrastructure first for new homes in West Oxfordshire**', questioning if this is the case why was the Holliers application approved. Cllr Tyers mentioned that the sewage works in the village had been upgraded. Cllr Tyers asked Cllrs Jackson and Graham if they could find out when the policy mentioned in the article would be applied.

Another resident talked about parked cars opposite the Holliers Crescent turn by the Cinnamon Stick, commenting that it can be dangerous when pulling out onto North Street. He asked if anything can be done about the issue i.e. white lines opposite the junction. Cllr Tyers agreed to write to James Wright, OCC.

General discussion regarding potholes, and the contractor's quality of work when repairing potholes in the village and clearing the drains. The PC will write to OCC to complain. Cllr Graham suggested we start an audit of what needs to be done, what has been done and the quality of the work. Cllr Tyers asked who the main contact is for the contractor's; Cllr Graham will find out and report back.

A resident mentioned a tree outside number 39 Holliers that is taking up the path; it has been marked with white lines. Clerk to check if the tree is on the PC tree list and make enquiries.

1792 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Carter-Windle.

Signed

Date.....

1793 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.

1794 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 19th January 2026 were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

1795 To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –

- a) Issue with tree, Holliers Crescent – The Clerk confirmed she had left two messages for the resident but that they had not called back.
- b) Donation towards installation of Rugby Posts-Playing Fields – This will be reviewed once a decision regarding placement of the posts has been made.

1796 Village Matters – updates

- a) Mill Lane Ford - see below, Reports item (b).
- b) Village litter pick - Out for a Walk? Help Keep Our Village Litter Free – the Clerk is happy to co-ordinate this and will add a post on the village Facebook page. Cllr Tyers mentioned that we should also arrange a village litter picking event for parishioners who are interested.
- c) Village meeting – crime prevention – to arrange a co-ordinated approach - is this something that we should be doing? Our PCSO suggested a village meeting, the Neighbourhood Watch village representative would also attend. The PC will work with both to organise a meeting. Further details to follow.
- d) ANPR/ASWC camera – We are still waiting to hear from the ‘Trainer’ at Westcotec to organise training for the ASWC. Cllr Tyers talked about the offer received from TVP to purchase an ANPR for £2,500 that would be connected to the network. We had previously approached TVP about an ANPR but were told this would not be possible.

Cllr Graham mentioned identify kits that residents can purchase for valuable items.

RESOLVED,

THAT, the purchase of the ANPR was approved

- e) Bleed Kit - The Bleed Kit has been placed in the Defibrillator cabinet located at the Sports and Social Club, the first responder in the village has been informed. The Clerk will post on the village Facebook that if the kit is needed for an incident 999 should be called, they will give instructions on how to use the kit.

1797 Response to Local Government Reform consultation – Cllr Graham gave an update - there will be briefing sessions for Councils. The PC need to consider and circulate ideas.

1798 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)

Full reports can . He on the PC website www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org

Signed

Date.....

Cllr Dave Jackson - I was sorry that I could not attend the flooding meeting at Sandford St Martin on February 4th, as I was away. But fortunately, the chair of SBPC was there to update on progress.

I have had more clarification with the timescale for the local government re-organisation. As stated before, the WODC Bartons ward will disappear in 2028. But in 2027, there will be an election in a new "enlarged" Bartons ward for the proposed "shadow" unitary authority. Hence for a year there will be in effect three councillors serving our area. I am assuming the new shadow unitary councillor will take the opportunity of getting to know the parish councils in the area.

I managed to make a start on pothole marking on January 24th up Church Lane when it was a dry day, but subsequently the wet conditions have made it impossible. A couple of residents have been in touch about the state of the roads, and I have tried to explain the limitations of my OCC volunteer Super user role.

Following the appearance of a "stop" notice on the renovations on the Fox, I contacted a senior planning officer to ask him to investigate and intervene to try to resolve the issues of works being done which required planning permission for a listed building. He convened a meeting with the owner, and works have re-commenced, so I am hoping that some amicable arrangement has been reached.

I had a message from a resident in Frances Road expressing concern that the proposed new rugby post may be situated behind the gardens on Frances Road which could cause issues. I spoke to Chris Puttick re these concerns, and he said no decision had yet been taken on the siting of the post.

I have had no update from WODC or OCC re the annual gulley clearing, nor the proposed road sweeping. I have written again to both authorities to get clarification, and I will update the meeting if I hear from either.

Cllr Andy Graham - Talked about carrying out an audit of work carried out by contractors fixing potholes and clearing gullies.

The Council Budget has been set at the same level as 2025.

The £2.50 park & ride charge has been extended; this has been covered by funds received from the congestion charge.

1799 Reports

(a) Highways (Cllr Barry) - The SIDS data was downloaded showing an average speed at Holliers of 23.6mph and the Rectory 23.9mph. There is still speeding between the cameras and this appears to be getting a lot worse. Hopefully the new speed camera will help catch a few of the speeding drivers. I have again walked a few of the

Signed

Date.....

footpaths, most appear difficult to navigate through the mud. Hopefully this will improve as the weather picks up.

(b) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers) – I attended a meeting of the ‘Enstone Uplands’ or River Dorn local Parishes Flood Mitigation meeting in Sandford village hall on 5th February which was well attended by most local parishes. The discussion centred on the Section 19 Flood Investigation report completed in September last year by OCC, and the alleviation measures that have been implemented since, in particular in Little Tew and Sandford St Martin which seems to be having some effect. The river through Westcote and Middle Barton seems to have managed in recent rains as does the new drain through the School. The pluvial drainage plans for south of Church Lane are progressing slowly but will hopefully be completed this Spring/Summer. The big problem is still the Mill Ford! I’ve had two residents call round to speak to me about the issues over the weekend. We had a DPD van in the Ford on 23 January and an Ocado van off the road into the culvert, making a real mess last Friday afternoon. I raised the issue with James Feest at the meeting in Sandford and he was going to speak to Robin Calvert the head of flooding, but I have heard nothing since. I’ve started drafting yet another email to OCC to see what can be done temporarily until we can get something permanent sorted.

1800 Finance

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

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk salary (Jan)	Annette Fowler	CONF
BACS	Hire of AMH-Oct-Dec	AMH	£60.00

RESOLVED,

THAT, all payments listed were approved.

1801 To receive items for next agenda

Any items to be emailed to the Clerk by Friday 6th March.

1802 For Information only

33 North St planning application – this will be discussed via email as the application information was received after the agenda had been published.

It was agreed that for future meetings the County and District reports would be moved up the agenda to appear after the ‘Updates on action points from the previous meeting’.

1803 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 16th March 2026** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at 8.00pm.

Signed

Date.....