



Barton St David

Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT: Cllrs S Jackson (Chair), D Rowley, E Rice, M Love, A Hicks and S Cranfield.

IN ATTENDANCE : C Potts (Clerk) 5 members of the public (part bar). SC Cllrs T Kerley and S Page

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – The Clerk has received a question expressing concerns regarding the parking on the Park Lane junction off Mill Road. The council recognised that parking is an issue in several areas in the village. Action Clerk to add a note in the next newsletter requesting that people refrain from parking their cars near junctions.

SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR REPORT Details of the 3 year settlement from Central Government have been received, Council Tax will not be increased above 5%, 90% of Social Care debts will be covered but business rates will increase. £25m still required to balance the budget.

A G E N D A

Meeting commenced at 8.29pm

12.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr J Stafford.

13.26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr S Cranfield for the planning application on Chalice House and Cllr A Hicks for the planning application on 6 Mill Road.

14.26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - none

15.26 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES

Confirmed and signed as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26th January.

16.26 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO or DECIDED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL

a) Applications

Application Number	26/00118/HOU
Location	Orchard Cottage Gosling Street
Proposal	Two storey and single storey rear extension. Detached single storey garage/studio building.
Comments	Council unanimously recommended approval. They would however like to raise questions regarding how the additional water runoff created from the new garage and additional driveway hard standing was going to be managed and also a bio-diversity concern regarding bats with the removal of the old garage.

Application Number	26/00258/HOU
Location	Chalice House Brook Lane
Proposal	Conversion of existing integral garage to habitable space, and new detached double garage.
Comments	Council unanimously recommended approval

Application Number	26/00271/HOU
Location	6 Mill Road Barton St David

Proposal	Removal of existing porch, erection of a single storey extension to front of property and internal alterations
Comments	Council unanimously recommended approval

b) Decisions

Application Number	25/02418/S73A Alternative Reference: PP-14374956
Location	Land Os 5522 Part Mill Road
Proposal	S73A application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials), 5 (parking area), 8 (vegetation reduction), 12 (third party credits), 16 (floor levels), 17 (SUDs report) and 18 (air source heat pump) of approval 24/00406/FUL for Erection of single storey dwelling and detached garage.
Decision	Approved

17.26 WORKPLAN UPDATES AND ACTIONS

To resolve any decisions made on the workplan

A. Infrastructure

1) Traffic calming –

Cllr Jackson presented costs and considerations for purchasing a Speed Indicator Device. RESOLVED by a majority vote **not** to proceed

2) Footpaths

Cllr Love was pleased to announce that Simon Chamberlain has volunteered to be our Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO) and has already actioned some footpath repairs in liaison with SC footpaths and Mendip Ramblers. She asked if the PC was happy to approve this appointment. RESOLVED unanimously approved with thanks. **Action Clerk** to clarify situation regarding public liability insurance.

3) Drainage

The council has received a request to pay for materials (estimate £2-300) to repair the culvert at the field gate just past Witherleigh Farm, Mill Road to improve surface water issues. RESOLVED unanimously approved. Funds in 2026 drainage budget. **Action Cllr Jackson** to contact the landowner to seek permission.

4) Mobile Mast

Cllrs Rowley & Rice confirmed that they had no new information to report. RESOLVED approach the Church to see if they would be interested/allowed to put up a mast. **Action Cllrs Rowley & Rice**

5) Environmental Agency Withdrawal of Maintenance – Consultation

Information had been circulated regarding the above. RESOLVED PC to respond. **Action Cllr Jackson** to draft reply.

6) Electric Car Charging Station

Somerset Council has received £3.78 million in capital funding to significantly expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county and are requesting location suggestions – strict criteria apply which appear to preclude all locations in the village. RESOLVED don't apply.

B. Asset Management

1) War Memorial name preservation

Cllr Love confirmed that the new website page has been updated and she has a QR code. A plaque required. RESOLVED proceed. **Action Cllr Rowley** to get quotes.

2) Stocks Green Improvements and Accessibility

Cllr Rowley reported back on meetings held with the working party who are in favour of reinstating the footpath to enable better access and adding some seating – possibly covered. RESOLVED more information required. **Action Clerk** to investigate the archive to find any original information and arrange to a site visit so Cllrs can look at and discuss the options in situ.

18.26 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

To receive updates from the Clerk and to resolve any matters proposed.

a) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED Sara Saunders to be appointed having reviewed her qualifications.

b) New Assertion 10 – data and website compliance

As part on the new section 10 Assertion on the audit this year, our website needs to conform to Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA. The only way to guarantee this would be to pay for a new site to be built. The Clerk has attended an accessibility training course and following this together with the assistance of Vikki Vaux has started making our site as accessible as possible. See appendix for more information.

The Clerks recommendation is to follow the guidance below taken from the practitioners' guide; page 47, point 5.123:

Website accessibility - Where a smaller authority is subject to the requirements of website accessibility it does not have to buy a new website to comply with accessibility law if it places a disproportionate burden on the authority. At a minimum all authorities' websites must include an accessibility statement on their website and keep it under regular review. This statement should include reasons for not meeting accessibility requirements, ways to source alternative copies of non-accessible documents and a point of contact.

Cllr Rice suggested that AI could assist and offered to explore this.

RESOLVED proceed as per Clerks recommendation and approve payment to Ms Vaux for additional support and Cllr Rice's AI expenses. **Action Clerk and Cllr Rice** to continue improving accessibility and present new accessibility statement for approval at April PC meeting.

c) Carnival

RESOLVED PC to take a stall and pay for first aid training. **Action Clerk to book.**

d) Invitation from Rainbow Roots CIC to visit Dove Barn, Manor Farm

RESOLVED to accept invitation. **Action Clerk** to arrange a visit.

19.26 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED OR CARRIED FORWARD

20.26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON 30th MARCH

Hampshire Trust bank update

21.26 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

a) **Approval of Payments**

Approval given to the following payment

- 1) Clerks Salary for February £428.55 including Microsoft 365 renewal - £74.95

b) **Payments made since the last meeting**

Received and signed as a correct record, the payments list and the bank reconciliation figures against the bank statements as detailed on the monthly financial report (see attached).

Current Account £2175.88, Saving (instant access) Account £22673.36 - TOTAL £24849.24

Payment received from the Village Hall for £192 as 50% contribution to Newsletter printing costs

c) **Budget vs Spend to Date**

Received and signed as a correct record, the latest budget Vs spend to date in the cashflow spreadsheet which correlates with the bank reconciliation figures.

Meeting closed at 9.41pm

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix

New Assertion 10 for AGAR

The Clerk has attended courses on the new assertion 10 and website accessibility

Assertion 10 Digital and data compliance

To warrant a positive response to assertion 10, the authority needs to have taken the following actions:

1. **Email management** - Every authority must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain, for example clerk@abcparrishcouncil.gov.uk or clerk@abcparrishcouncil.org.uk rather than abcparrishclerk@gmail.com or abcparrishclerk@outlook.com for example.
2. **All websites must meet:** the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018

80/20 rule

We can do a few simple things to improve accessibility but without rebuilding the site from scratch, getting it to 100% and getting it signed off as approved is unrealistic.

Actions to date

1. Checked all photos have captions and descriptors
2. Check the site can be navigated using the keyboard only
3. All pages have correct heading - H1, H2 & H3
4. Links are descriptive – eg not click here but click here to view ...
5. Paul has significantly reduced the number of images on the history club pages which was stopping the site backing up

Actions still required

1. All PDF files need accessibility checking – the PC logo is an image so needs a description adding.
2. Accessibility statement need updating and approving

Suggested way forward

There is a get out clause, see the practitioners guide; page 47, point 5.123:

Claim a disproportionate burden and continue as we are and write it into our accessibility statement with all good intentions of making it as accessible as possible going forward

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