



Barton St David Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27th July 2026

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

IN ATTENDANCE : C Potts (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Concerns were raised about the number of mobile homes, caravans and permanent large tents taken up residence at Gaia's Sanctuary, 17 were last counted with the total number of residents unknown but it is believed that some are children. The PC agreed to notify Somerset Council Planning Enforcement. Action Clerk.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT – A full accessibility survey has taken place and actions taken to immediately improve access. Longer term improvements are being costed.

A G E N D A

Meeting commenced at 7.51pm

62.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

SC Cllr S Page, Cllrs J Stafford and S Cranfield

63.26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - none

64.26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - none

65.26 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES

Confirmed and signed as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29th June.

66.26 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO or DECIDED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL

a) Applications – None

b) Decisions

26/01158/DOC1 Discharge of Conditions No. 06(BEMP) and 09 (active bird nests) of planning application 25/02418/S73A. Location: Land Os 5522 Part Mill Road. Decision: Conditions discharged.

c) Other

Planning Application 25/03038/FUL Erection of 22 homes together with new vehicular access, parking and associated landscaping. Land Off Main Street

The Planning Officer is still waiting for input from Highways. The decision expiry date has now been delayed until 31 August. The Planning Officer has 3 x Options: approve the application; refuse the application; or refer to the South Somerset Planning Committee for a decision – in which case, the Parish Council will be able to attend and represent the Village's views. RESOLVED update the PC when Highways' input is published.

67.26 WORKPLAN UPDATES AND ACTIONS

To resolve any decisions made on the workplan

A. Infrastructure

1) Drainage

The Clerk confirmed that Oneline had been awarded the contract and that the gully works will take place on 15 – 17th September. Thanks were expressed to Simon Chamberlain who is again coordinating and overseeing these works.

Cllr Jackson confirmed that the IDB had cleared the sluice gate beside Mill House and removed the orange pipe within the culvert running under the road. They have also requested funds to increase the size of this pipe from 100mm to 600mm from the new SC drainage fund.

The Clerk has provided grant information and contractor details to the property owners so that they can apply for a grant to have the Mill Stream and River Brue cleared.

2) Somerset Bus Franchising Proposal

Cllr Rice summarised the consultation document. RESOLVED approval given to Cllr Rice to respond if required on the PC's behalf.

3) Footpaths and Trees

Cllr Love raised concerns regarding the TPO oak tree on the Black Barn's land at the top of Jarmany Hill. It recently lost a couple of branches requiring Highways to deal with. Other maintenance work is required to make it safe and to preserve it. RESOLVED PC to contact the landowner. Action Cllr Jackson.

Cllr Rowley raised whether the large walnut tree which is mentioned on the 1840 OS map, should also have a TPO. RESOLVED Investigate further. Action Cllr Love to provide Cllr Rowley with a list of what information is required.

4) Mobile Mast

Cllr Rice summarised the 3 location options. RESOLVED the village hall is the preferred route as it is in a good location and provides good coverage. Action Cllr Rice to inform the church and Jarmany Hill of our decision. Cllr Rowley to discuss with the village hall and to follow up on conversations with potential suppliers with Cllr Rice.

6) Emergency Plan

Cllrs Rice, Rowley and Love have had a initial meeting to discuss. RESOLVED this group will form a working party to explore further and Cllr Rowley to raise it with the village hall.

B. Asset Management

War Memorial

Cllr Rowley showed his suggestions for a QR plaque. RESOLVED version in appendix approved. Action Cllr Rowley to progress- invoiced to PC. Clerk to make amendments to the webpage to include additional images of all services and a female.

68.26 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

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

a) Additional dog bin feasibility – carry forward.

b) Carnival review

The PC stall didn't attract many visitors and it was felt that it wasn't worth taking up next year although some PC presence was felt important but needs to be more approachable. RESOLVED continue with first aid training

c) Date for workplan meeting confirmed as Wednesday 12th August 3.15pm

d) Bleed kits and first aid training

Approval has been given by the village hall and the Barton Inn to put up the bleed kits.

First aid training has been booked for Saturday 17th October, this will be free to residents. 5 people have signed up so far. Information is on the notice boards, and to be placed in both newsletters, email list and on the website.

69.26 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED OR CARRIED FORWARD

Broadband

Thanks to Anthony King who attended a local Wessex Internet meeting, we have now got a meeting arranged with them to discuss how they might be able to help us. Cllr Jackson obtained the following update by visiting the BD UK website address checker: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-your-gigabit-broadband-availability>

Summary:

Silver Street, Withy Farm Lane.

- Gigabit broadband is planned for this area
 - Part of Project Gigabit contract
 - Expected to be completed by 30 Sep 29
 - Provided by Wessex Internet – and confirmed on their website
- Jarmany Hill. :
 - Vast majority are “Planned” through the voucher scheme
 - Provider is Gigaclear. Gigaclear website, for this post code, says “we haven't reached your place yet. Register your interest and we'll get back to you with more information”.
 - So we should assume that Gigaclear will NOT be providing.
 - All of the new “estate” have already got highspeed broadband
 - I have found one ‘older’ house for which it says that Gigabit Broadband is available and to check with OFCOM which provider. It is recommended that householders visit the website above to check.
- Mill Road and Plotgate area (TA11 6DF)
 - All are “planned” through Gigaclear. So, again, we should assume that Gigaclear will NOT be providing.
- Mill Road near Tootle Bridge
 - Gigabit broadband is planned for this area
 - Part of Project Gigabit contract
 - Expected to be completed by 30 Sep 29
 - Provided by Wessex Internet – and confirmed on their website
- Rest of Village. All being considered for the voucher scheme, through Gigaclear. But, to the best of my knowledge most believe they have adequate broadband through the BT system – and so may not be interested in an early upgrade through someone else.

RESOLVED update the PC following the Wessex Internet meeting.

70.26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON 28th SEPTEMBER

Items for the joint PC/VH meeting.

71.26 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

a) Approval of Payments

Payments to be made:

- 1) Clerks Salary for July £487.61 including PC PAYE payments £91.45
- 2) CPRE membership £35
- 3) Ryan Lester £2100 for last part of the drainage work at Plotgate to be refunded through the approved SRA Hills to Levels Grant.
- 4) JaLee first aid training £90
- 5) Jump newsletter printing £80
- 6) Hedge cutting Mill Road Hugh Davey £50
- 7) Bleed kits x 2 Heartsafe £588.50

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 £3282.39, Saving (instant access) £21917.15 Account TOTAL £ 25199.54

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 as detailed on the monthly financial report (see attached).

Meeting closed at 9.11pm

Signed:

Dated:

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Caron Potts
Withy Lane Farmhouse, Silver Street, Barton St David, TA11 6DD.
Telephone 01458 850875 Email clerk@bartonstdavidparish.gov.uk

Appendix

