



Barton St David

Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29th June 2026

PRESENT: Cllrs S Jackson (Chair), M Love and S Cranfield.

IN ATTENDANCE : C Potts (Clerk), 7 members of the public. Somerset Council Cllr S Page

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Concerns were raised about the reinstated ticketed event at Gaia's Sanctuary and also a private party in the next door field, both on 11th July. Issues highlighted were noise, traffic, sanitation and fire risk. The PC agreed to notify Somerset Council Licencing, the Neighbourhood police and head of Planning Enforcement to ensure legal requirements were in place. Action Clerk.

SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR REPORT – £50 million has been secured from DEFRA for flood defences and protection. SC Cllr Page requested an update of Barton's key problems. Action Cllr Jackson.

A G E N D A

Meeting commenced at 7.52pm

52.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

SC Cllr T Kerley and Cllr J Stafford D Rowley, E Rice, A Hicks.

53.26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - none

54.26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - none

55.26 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES

Confirmed and signed as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th May.

56.26 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO or DECIDED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL

a) Applications – None

b) Decisions

26/00821/FUL. Address: Hill Farm Jarmany Hill. Proposal: Widening of existing vehicular access to include the relocation of a speed repeater sign and provision of a tarmac threshold, together with the construction of a detached timber-framed garage and associated driveway works. Status: Approved

57.26 WORKPLAN UPDATES AND ACTIONS

To resolve any decisions made on the workplan

A. Infrastructure

1)Bleed Kits

The PC was approached by Andrew Martin about installing Bleed Kits beside the defibrillators which he was willing to fund. These kits are registered nationally with the emergency services and if bought through HeartSafe they are automatically restocked when used or run out of date by Avon and Somerset Police. RESOLVED approved, the Chair thanked Mr Martin for his generous offer. Action Clerk to seek permission to site them and liaise with Mr Martin regarding purchasing.

The Clerk raised whether a free first aid course for the village covering these new kits, CPR, and other general conditions would be a good idea. Costs would be approximately £300. RESOLVED approved. Action Clerk to arrange for the Autumn. (Date confirmed as 17th October).

2) Drainage – Cllr Jackson and Clerk

Quotes for gulley clearing

The Clerk had circulated 3 quotes for 3 days work for gulley cleaning, jetting and root grinding. The quotes varied from £3015 to £3198 plus VAT. RESOLVED Oneline approved, although they were the most expensive they have done a good job and provided useful information for the past 2 years. Action Clerk to award contract.

Update on Environmental Agency and Internal Drainage Board site meetings

Meetings have taken place with the Environmental Agency and Internal Drainage Board at Tootle Bridge to try and resolve the issues with the road and areas of the Mill House and Cottage flooding.

Outcomes:

- IDB confirmed that their sluice gate on Mill House is closed (down) on 1 Apr and opened (up) on 1 December (the same dates as EA operates their sluice to the north of Mill Pond Cottage).
- The IDB can be contacted if there is a risk of flooding and that gates need to be operated at different times telephone - 01278 789906
- IDB confirmed that they are responsible for the culvert from the Mill Stream, under Mill Road to the rhyne to the west of Tootle Bridge and for the rhyne running NW from Tootle Bridge. They said that they cleared the culvert last year, but acknowledge it is blocked.

Next Steps:

- IDB will:
 - Clear the culvert that goes from the Millstream under Mill Road to the IDB Viewed Rhyne at the west of Tootle Bridge. This would also include attempting to remove the orange 'hosepipe' running through the culvert
 - Consider if there are any options to remove the existing 4-inch pipe in the culvert with a larger ~600mm pipe – to increase the flow of water away from the Millstream.
- The Parish Council will:
 - Provide grant information and contractor details to the property owners so that they can apply for a grant to have the Mill Stream and River Brie cleared.

Improvements to Plotgate paid for by SRA grant

Expensive drainage work has been carried out in the fields and ditches to the left of Double Gate Drove, in the form of bungs and leaky dams to hopefully prevent future flooding. Thanks were expressed to the residents who's considerable time and effort went into securing this work and grant. The PC facilitated the grant finance – see payments, but will be reimbursed via the grant.

3)Footpaths and Trees – Cllrs Love

CPRE membership - £60

RESOLVED benefits acknowledged in joining the CPRE. Action Clerk to add to payment list.

Several overgrown footpaths have been highlighted. RESOLVED Clerk to raise in the newsletter, Cllr Jackson to contact landowners along Barton Brook.

4) Somerset Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Information has been circulated about the consultation. RESOLVED Cllr Jackson will complete the survey on behalf of the PC.

58.26 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- a) Additional dog bin feasibility – carry forward, still awaiting information.
- b) Quote to repair Stock Green gate post – Les Hawes £264
RESOLVED - approved
- c) Review IT policy with AI addition
RESOLVED - approved. Action Clerk to add to website
- d) Carnival Stall – resources. Clerk to arrange a timetable for stall manning.

- e) Somerset Council Community Award nomination
Chair to communicate with Councillors regarding thoughts on nomination.

59.26 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED OR CARRIED FORWARD

Cllr Rowley has seen samples of an engraved metal plaque which will be suitable for the War Memorial QR coed – Estimated cost £100. RESOLVED Proceed, Cllr Rowley to produce a design for Cllr Love to approve and then place order.

60.26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON 27th JULY

Issues with accessibility were highlighted at this meeting. Clerk to raise with Cllr Rowley for the next Village Hall meeting and report back.

61.26 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

a) Approval of Payments

The payments to be made:

- 1) Clerks Salary for June £520.12 including 1 Bank Holiday and 5 days holiday (23 remaining)
- 2) Grant application from Wheathill Priory Community Transport £100
- 3) Ryan Lester £2300 and £1750 for drainage work at Plotgate to be refunded through the approved SRA Hills to Levels Grant.
- 4) Jump printing of newsletter (large edition 20 pages) £146

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 £1805.51, Saving (instant access) £25795.59 Account TOTAL £ 27601.10

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 9.13pm

Signed:

Dated:

Clerk and responsible financial office to the Council: Caron Potts
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