

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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Minutes of the 783rd Meeting of Barrington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 19:00hrs

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) – Don Bourne (Chair), Jane Harker, Peter Oakes, Rob Stenner

In attendance: Julie Ferguson (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 minutes). 8 members of the public were present and subject raised included:

- The Tree at Sharlands. The Clerk explained that this was owned by Somerset Council and should not be worked on by anyone else.
- Thanks to the Parish Council for helping on the day of the torrential rain, road blockage and flooding.
- Suggestions for a Whatsapp group for sharing details at times of emergency flooding incidents, also setting up a Parish Flood Working Group to work alongside the authorities for flood incidents and prevention.
- Cllr Oakes reported that he had taken delivery of a large number of wood gates, stiles and galvanised gates, some of which were not part of the original order placed by the footpath group to SC Rights of Way for replacement along the footpaths throughout the parish. Cllr Roundell Greene agreed to report the excess items delivered so that they may be collected/returned to SC.

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Somerset Councillors (SCllrs). SCllr Roundell Greene gave a verbal report:

- Council Tax rise of 7.5% approved by Government.
- SC trying to balance the budget, will need to declare a Sect 114 Notice if they fail.
- Flooding Forums hosted by MP Adam Dance in Ilminster later that week.
- Request to provide details of all flooding incidents in the Parish. **ACTION: All Cllrs**
- Offered to organise a meeting in the parish between SC Highways officer and Parish Cllrs to discuss highways areas of concern.

19:25 SCllr Roundell Greene left the meeting.

19:30 – Meeting opened.

24/103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85(1)). None.

24/104 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS. None.

24/105 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the minutes of the parish council meeting on 14 Jan 25.

24/106 To **NOTE** resignation of Cllrs Weekes and Rowsell and posting of Notice of Vacancy. Noted.

24/107 CO-OPTION – To **CO-OPT** a member to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the CO-OPTION of Christine Sheffield. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

24/108 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Clerk reported that the new .gov domain, new website and email addresses for all Cllrs was up and running and data input completed. All Cllrs were asked to get their email addresses set up (details had been provided) with some urgency and contact the website support if help needed.

24/109 CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a. [SC Flooding Update: Recovery Options PC Flood Report–Self Service](#). **ACTION: Cllr Bourne**
- b. [Community Health & Wellbeing Programme Newsletter February 2025](#)

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- c. [Somerset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)
- d. Levels & Moors LCN Active Travel WG Notes
- e. Levels & Moors LCN Highways WG Concerns and Queries
- f. Flood Wessex – Storm Eowyn & Herminia Flood Warden Updates
- g. SALC Councillor Training Events (Feb/Mar25)
- h. Complaint from SC Arboricultural Team: Mature Tree at Sharlands. The clerk was asked to apologise to SC Arb Team and suggest a meeting with them at Sharlands to discuss planting a small number of trees in the centre of the grassed area, in the case that the larger trees need to be removed in the future.

ACTION: Clerk

24/110 PLANNING – Decisions REPORT. None.

24/111 PLANNING – Applications. None.

24/112 FINANCE – PAYMENT SCHEDULE

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FEB 25 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE		
PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
STAFF	SALARY AND EXPENSES - FEB 25	£ 575.02
K M DIKE NURSERIES	GROUND MAINTENANCE JAN 25	£ 259.00
PINNACLE	PAYROLL FEE	£ 49.20
NEIL MCLEAN	REIMBURSE TREE PAINT	£ 6.64
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 889.86

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the payment schedule for February 25.

24/113 FINANCE – GRANT REQUEST FOR BARRINGTON IN BLOOM

BiB in conjunction with the Barrington & District gardening club will be asking the PC for £500 towards plants and seeds for re-establishing the wildflower meadow and restoring the flora of the woodland area at the BVH. Any grant agreed would be paid into the Gardening club bank account.

Breakdown of predicted costs identified are below. Please note that BiB intends to add to these funds for plants and provide some bird boxes. We are also providing some locally grown primroses. The Gardening club members will grow plants from seed to support the project too.

Predicted cost of meadow and woodland work phase 1 = £562.56 inc p&p which is for:

- 1kg damp meadow mix £76.01
- 150 yellow rattle plugs £182
- 2 small packets meadowsweet seeds £5.60
- 1 small packet ragged Robin £3
- 150 primrose plugs £168
- 500 snowdrops in the green £95.99

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** a grant request from Barrington In Bloom and Barrington and District Gardening Club for £500:

24/114 To CONSIDER adopting a Communication Strategy (Cllr Harker).

Cllr Harker had circulated a Communication Strategy and Policy, supported by an Action Plan which would help with the implementation of the aims of the Strategy. The Action Plan was to be kept under review and updated as needed.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the adoption of a Communication Strategy and Policy.

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24/115 To **CONSIDER** tree maintenance required and request for quotes.
Cllrs Bourne and Oakes agreed to source quotes for any tree work required on Parish Council
Trees and bring to a future meeting for consideration.

ACTION: Cllrs Bourne and Oakes

24/116 REPORTS – To receive any Parish Councillor reports.
Cllr Harker had attended the recent Levels and Moors LCN Local Plan Workshop and explained how the lack of a 5yr land supply in Somerset (quota: 4000 homes/yr needed) would override any Parish Local Plan wrt planning applications and how permission is granted in the future. The Somerset Council Local Plan is underway and a 'Call for Sites' campaign is ongoing, meaning no area is out of bounds for planning consideration. It was agreed that some sort of parish survey would be useful, possibly based on what had been carried out previously. It was agreed that this could be taken forward as part of the Communication Action Plan.

24/117 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Budget for litter picking
- Annual Parish Meeting arrangements (May 25)

24/118 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 11 March 2025 (all agenda items to be provided to the clerk by 28 Feb 25).

20:50 – Meeting Closed