

Minutes of the 782nd Meeting of Barrington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 19:00hrs

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

In attendance: Julie Ferguson (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 minutes). 3 members of the public were present and subject raised included:

- Dog waste littering and poo bin provision throughout the parish inc. Barrington Court.
- Hedge/bramble obstruction on the junction of Main Street with the B3168 (Puckington Road). Cllr agreed to take a look to see if anything could be done.
- Request for removal of large tree in Sharlands due to vehicle damage caused by debris from overhanging branches. Cllrs agreed to request SC inspect the tree to see what could be done.

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- **Somerset Councillors (SCllrs).** SCllr Roundell Greene gave a verbal report on SC Budget setting, staffing and Public Health report on measures to help eradicate smoking and vaping in schools.

19:25 SCllr Roundell Greene left the meeting.

19:25 – Meeting opened

24/84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Cllr Weekes had sent his apologies.

24/85 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS. None.

24/86 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26th Nov 24.

24/87 To **NOTE** resignation of Cllr Eustice and posting of Public Notice of Vacancy.

Cllr Bourne expressed gratitude for Cllr Eustice's work whilst serving as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk reported that the notices had been posted.

24/88 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

All matters were on the agenda.

24/89 CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE. Noted.

- a. Have your say on Somerset's Budget for 2025.
- b. SC New Fostering Campaign
- c. Important update for Better Buses for Somerset
- d. Wessex Water Community Drop ins
- e. SALC Community Health & Wellbeing Grants
- f. Somerset Bus Partnership – Update on Bus Funding
- g. SC Devolution EOI – Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire
- h. Levels & Moors LCN Meeting Notes. Dates and bulletins

24/90 PLANNING – Decisions REPORT. None.

24/91 PLANNING – Applications. None.

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

Tel: 07783 475200 E-mail: clerk@barringtonpc.co.uk

24/92 FINANCE – To **APPROVE** the payment schedule for January 25 (December 24 REPORT).

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL DEC 24 & JAN 25 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE			
PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT	
STAFF	SALARY AND EXPENSES - DEC 24	£ 559.28	REPORT
K M DIKE NURSERIES	GROUND MAINTENANCE NOV24	£ 259.00	REPORT
SALC	TRAINING	£ 24.00	REPORT
MARSH COMMERCIAL	ALLOTMENT INSURANCE	£ 157.81	REPORT
STAFF	SALARY AND EXPENSES - JAN 25	tbc	
J FERGUSON	REIMBURSE DOMAIN FEE	£ 230.40	
K M DIKE NURSERIES	GROUND MAINTENANCE DEC 24	£ 259.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 1,000.09	

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the payment schedule for Dec24 and Jan25.

24/93 FINANCE – Q3 Summary

RESOLVED: TO **APPROVE** the Q3 Cashbook/Bank Reconciliation and **NOTE** Budget Summary (1/4/24 – 31/12/24) (Appendix 1).

24/94 FINANCE – Budget 2025-26

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the 2025-26 Budget (Appendix 2).

24/95 FINANCE – Precept Request

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the 2025-26 Precept Request for £22,196.00

24/96 To **CONSIDER** steps to move to a .gov domain and associated email addresses (to include budget provision) (Cllr Harker).

Cllr Harker gave a comprehensive explanation for why the PC should move to a .gov domain:

- Gives a public sector organisation a credible, trusted branding.
- Increases the likelihood of the PC appearing in internet search results.
- Offers increased security against scammers and cyber security attacks as monitored by Central Government Protecting Public Sector Domains Team.
- Helps when dealing with Freedom Of Information (FOI) or Subject Access Requests (SAR), removing the requirement for personal email control to be handed over.
- Enables email accounts to be managed when Cllrs leave or take up office & data handover.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** an application for a .Gov domain and associated email addresses with parish council website provision and IT support as required. A provision of £500 was **APPROVED**.

24/97 To **CONSIDER** adopting a Communication Policy (Cllr Harker).

Cllr Harker explained the reasons for having a communications strategy with the aims to improve communications internally between Cllrs and outwardly with the residents of Barrington. It was agreed that this was an important function of the PC and a working strategy/paper would be brought back to a future meeting for adoption.

24/98 To **CONSIDER** steps towards a Barrington Local Plan (Cllr Harker).

This was deferred to a future meeting.

24/99 To **CONSIDER** tree maintenance required and request for quotes.

Cllr agreed to look at what work was required on all trees on PC owned land and bring back to the next meeting, with quotes if obtained.

24/100 REPORTS – To receive:

- a. Parish Councillor reports
No further reports at this time.

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24/101 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Co-option of a Cllr
- Communication Strategy/Policy (If ready)
- Barrington Local Plan
- Tree maintenance

24/102 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 11 February 2025 (all agenda items to be provided to the clerk by 31 Jan 25).

21:10 – Meeting Closed

Appendix 1

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 2024-25 - Q3 SUMMARY						
Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2025						
	Last Year	This Year	Budget	Remaining	Remaining	Variance
	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	between yrs
RECEIPTS						
Precept	£ 20,171.00	£ 21,180.00				£ 1,009.00
Deposit Interest	£ 179.65	£ 147.53				-£ 32.12
Allotment Fees	£ 162.50	£ 137.50				-£ 25.00
Grants	£ -	£ -				£ -
VAT repayment		£ 597.02				£ 597.02
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 20,513.15	£ 22,062.05				£ 1,548.90
PAYMENTS						
Salaries	£ 5,551.27	£ 4,573.38	£ 5,600.00	£ 1,026.62	18%	-£ 977.89
Administration	£ 1,640.27	£ 1,119.40	£ 1,800.00	£ 680.60	38%	-£ 520.87
Ground Maintenance Contract	£ 2,569.51	£ 1,766.88	£ 4,500.00	£ 2,733.12	61%	-£ 802.63
Ranger	£ 1,936.54	£ 352.09	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,147.91	86%	
Village Hall Hire		£ -	£ 180.00	£ 180.00	100%	£ -
I/T & Website	£ 424.44	£ 161.53	£ 350.00	£ 188.47	54%	-£ 262.91
Subscriptions	£ 242.71	£ 138.55	£ 160.00	£ 21.45	13%	-£ 104.16
Insurances	£ 709.38	£ 886.13	£ 650.00	-£ 236.13	-36%	£ 176.75
Training	£ 460.00	£ 75.00	£ 200.00	£ 125.00	63%	-£ 385.00
Footpath Maintenance	£ -	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	100%	£ -
Grants (inc. PCC & VH)	£ 1,050.00	£ 750.00	£ 1,400.00	£ 650.00	46%	-£ 300.00
Asset Management	£ 473.42	£ 302.30	£ 1,000.00	£ 697.70	70%	-£ 171.12
Field Lease (Allotments)	£ 506.00	£ 506.00	£ 506.00	£ -	0%	£ -
Defibrillator	£ 2,636.33	£ -	£ -	£ -	0%	
VAT incurred	£ 992.33	£ 431.94				-£ 560.39
RESERVES CONTRIBUTIONS			£ 1,200.00			
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 19,192.20	£ 11,063.20	£ 20,146.00			
Exc of Recpt over Paymts	£ 1,320.95	£ 10,998.85				
plus balances b/fwd	£ 33,160.79	£34,481.74				
Balances c/fwd	£ 34,481.74	£ 45,480.59	CASHBOOK BALANCE			
Reconciliation with bank accounts as at 31 Dec 2024						
Natwest Current Account		£ 31,783.78				
Natwest Reserve Account		£ 13,696.81				
Total balances at bank		£ 45,480.59	STATEMENT BALANCES			

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Appendix 2

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL APPROVED Budget 2025-26

Budget Line	FY24-25 Budget	APPROVED Budget FY25-26	NOTES
Clerks Salary (Gross)	£ 5,600.00	£ 6,100.00	
Admin & expenses	£ 1,800.00	£ 1,800.00	
Fees Subscriptions	£ 160.00	£ 160.00	
S137/ Grants	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
Village hall hire	£ 180.00	£ 180.00	
IT & Website	£ 350.00	£ 500.00	.gov migration
Training	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	
Field Lease (Allotments)	£ 506.00	£ 506.00	
Ground Maintenance Contract	£ 4,500.00	£ 4,500.00	
Asset Management	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	
Insurance (PC & Allotment)	£ 650.00	£ 950.00	
Defibrillator	£ -	£ -	
Ranger Scheme	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	EoY to DRAINS RESERVE
Parish Bins	£ -	£ 1,000.00	NEW (2 bins/yr + 1 new)
Footpath Maintenance TO RESERVE	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	RESERVE
Fitness Equipment TO RESERVE	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	RESERVE
Highways & drainage TO RESERVE	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	RESERVE
Defibrillator TO RESERVE	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	RESERVE
IT Replacement TO RESERVE	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	RESERVE
St Marys PCC (Grant)	£ 650.00	£ 750.00	
Village Hall (Grant)	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	
Total	£ 20,146.00	£ 22,196.00	

Reserves	Reserves at 31/3/2024	Additions current yr	Reserves at 31/3/2025	Notes
*IT repacement fund (ring fenced)	£ 580.13	£ 100.00	£ 680.13	
Defibrillator replacement fund (ring fenced)	£ 513.67	£ 100.00	£ 613.67	
Footpaths Reserve (ring fenced?)	£ 2,874.73	£ 100.00	£ 2,974.73	
Outdoor Fitness Fund (ring fenced)	£ 2,928.07	£ 500.00	£ 3,428.07	
Highways & Drains	£ 3,644.82	£ 500.00	£ 4,144.82	Ranger surplus add at EoY
*Election costs (ring fenced)	£ 350.00	£ -	£ 350.00	
*Enhanced PC Website (ring fenced)	£ 250.00	£ -	£ 250.00	
Winter Warmer Fund	£ 1,500.00	£ -	£ 1,500.00	
Legal Expenses	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 500.00	
Admin reserve - 50%-75% running costs	£ 21,340.32	£ -	£ 27,220.58	
Total Reserves	£ 34,481.74		£ 41,662.00	Predicted