

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARWICK AND STOFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BARWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 2025, 19:00**



Present – Councillors (Cllrs):

Gwen Findlay (GF) – Chair, Nick Entwistle (NE) – Vice Chair, Tony Fenner (TF), Rebecca Kilburn (BK), Ray Sibley (RS), Jackie Unsworth (JU), Ashley Wrixon (AW).

In attendance:

Kate Fullerton – Parish Clerk, PCC Clare Moody, Inspector Jo Hayward-Melen, and eighteen public members.

I. Public session – an opportunity for the public to speak

- a) PCC Clare Moody addressed the meeting to talk about her strategic and directional role around policing in Somerset and Avon. Clare informed the meeting of her plan priorities and her desire to strengthen neighbourhood policing. The PCC is responsible for setting the strategic direction and the budget for policing in Avon and Somerset.

This involves:

- holding the police to account through the Chief Constable
- being accountable to local people
- setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing
- setting policing priorities in consultation with communities
- consulting, involving, and engaging with local people

Throughout her term as PCC, she is determined to be visible and accountable to the people of Avon and Somerset. You can find out more at the [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner \(OPCC\) website](#).

- b) 25/01385/TPO

All eighteen public members raised a hand to indicate they were present to discuss planning item 25/01385/TPO, the request by the developer (not landowner) to fell the protected oak tree. All public members present indicated they objected to the application to fell the oak tree. The landowner of the oak tree was present and updated the meeting on the current situation. Numerous public members described their objections. Chair Findlay assured those present that the parish council understood their concerns and would consider them fully when formulating the formal planning comment.

II. Somerset Council Councillors report

County Cllrs Hewitson and Patrick circulated their report ahead of the meeting.

19:45 – Meeting opened.

1/25/058 To receive and consider any apologies for absence and resolve to accept or refuse them

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Bruckel.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies.

2/25/059 To receive declarations of interest

AW declared an interest in planning item 3/25/060b)i, being owner of the protected oak tree, the subject of the planning application.

Signed:..... (Chair) Date:

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3/25/060 Planning

a) **To receive feedback from the Keyford Joint Committee (with ECPC) – RS.**

RS shared information regarding the latest email from the joint committee and agreed to feedback comments from the parish council in response to the request for specific planning concerns in relation to the resurgence of the Keyford development.

ACTION: RS

b) **To comment on new planning applications.**

- i. 25/01385/TPO – Kingbere, Church Lane, Barwick, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9TE – Application to fell and replant No. 1 Oak Tree as shown by the SSDC (BARW2) 2011 Tree Preservation Order.

RESOLVED: To strongly object to the application to fell the protected oak tree.

ACTION: Clerk

- c) To consider any recent planning applications from Somerset Council (South), received in the days after the agenda has been circulated and before this meeting. **Interested public and parish councillors; please refer to (South) Somerset Council planning portal for details of planning items that might be discussed under this item: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>**

None.

d) **Determination of applications.**

None.

4/25/061 **To approve the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 21st of May 2025**

RESOLVED: The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5/25/062 **To review actions from the minutes of the last meeting**

Members reviewed the actions and were content with the level of progress made.

ACTION: Clerk

6/25/063 **Finance and regulatory information**

a) **To confirm the quantity required and prices for the additional silhouettes for the Remembrance of World War II - GF**

GF confirmed the cost per silhouette would be £130. GF said she needed to confirm the number required.

ACTION: GF

b) **To consider a grass maintenance quote from Premier Landscaping for The Green in Stoford and the playing fields at Whitcross Recreation Ground.**

Members said they were disappointed with the current service from Somerset Council as some areas do not seem to get cut as often as they should. GF proposed that, should Somerset Council not cut the recreation ground by Friday, then the contract would go to Premier Landscaping.

ACTION: Clerk

c) **To consider a quote from Premier Landscaping, to repair the broken bridge on the permissive footpath behind the Mill.**

The Clerk has yet to confirm whether repairing this bridge will provide a complete route, or whether the missing bridge on the ROW would still impede walkers. Item deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

d) **Invoices and payments:**

- | | | |
|------|---|----------|
| i. | K Fullerton – Clerk salary June 2025 | £ 997.65 |
| ii. | K Fullerton – Clerk expenses and reimbursements for June 2025 | £ 26.00 |
| iii. | HMRC – PAYE June 2025 | |

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iv.	Somerset Pension Fund – Clerk pension June 2025	£ 375.76
v.	ElanCity – Inv SAJ-UK/2025/02553 (transfer power to solar)	£ 564.05
vi.	R Sibley – Reimburse Whitcross costs	£ 54.00
vii.	Octopus Energy – Whitcross pavilion electricity May 2025 PD DD	£ 26.86

RESOLVED: To approve all payments and for two councillors to sign the cheques.

ACTION: GF, RS

7/25/064 Community Hub Development Working Group

a) **To receive and review the Professional Services Contract of appointment from Proctor, Watts, Cole, and Rutter, and to authorise the Clerk to sign the contract on behalf of the parish council.**

RESOLVED: To approve the contract and instruct the Clerk to sign the contract.

ACTION: Clerk

b) **To receive an update on potential grant writing services.**
Item deferred.

ACTION: Clerk

8/25/065 To consider any urgent highway issues

a) **Stoford Bridge width restriction – update from Somerset Council**

Traffic Management have confirmed that the width restriction, although held up temporarily due to miscommunication within Somerset Council, is now progressing through to completion.

b) **To note Road Closure Notices:**

- i. TTRO954726S – Yeovil Road, Closworth – Openreach to carry out tree cutting and poling works - 19th June for 6 hours (09:30 – 15:30).

Noted.

9/25/066 To receive feedback on the Annual Parish Meeting.

GF reported that the meeting was a tremendous success, with positive content and high attendance.

10/25/067 Local Community Network (LCN) – to note any useful meeting dates.

None.

11/25/068 Somerset Council Chair’s Community Award – to consider potential nominees.

RESOLVED: To nominate a local person for this prestigious award. RS agreed to support GF with completing the nomination form.

ACTION: GF, RS

12/25/069 Fairhouse Road – Wildflower Meadow update

a) To receive a quote from Premier Landscaping to mow a pathway along both sides of Fairhouse Road, excluding the designated wildflower area - £80 per monthly cut and collect.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote at £80 per monthly cut and collect.

ACTION: Clerk

13/25/070 Footpaths.

Nothing to report.

14/25/071 To discuss Ranger Matters

No additional Ranger items. The Clerk will ask Highways about the splays at Rexes Hollow and Two Towers Lane.

ACTION: Clerk

15/25/072 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

TF said he and RS have connected the SID solar panels and they are working really well.

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16/25/073 Whitcross Recreation Ground – items to refer to the Recreational Trust

RS has repaired the guttering at the pavilion and cleared the blocked drains. Members thanks RS for his dedication to maintaining the Whitcross facilities.

- Play equipment repairs (£574.32 parts + £400 fitting) – RS will order the parts.

ACTION: Clerk

17/25/074 Correspondence – to record correspondence received

- a) A consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries – closes 11th August 2025.
Noted.
- b) Planning Enforcement in Somerset.
Noted.
- c) Somerset Bus Partnership.
JU offered to be parish council lead contact on bus matters.

ACTION: Clerk

18/25/075 Items for the next Agenda

- BT Box disconnection.

19/25/076 The date of the next meeting(s)

- Parish Council Meeting – 17th September 2025 at 7pm, Barwick and Stoford Primary School.

21.11 – Meeting closed.

Signed:..... (Chair) Date: