

MINUTES OF THE BARWICK AND STOFORD ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT BARWICK AND STOFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, 19:00



**Present – Councillors (Cllrs):**

Gwen Findlay – Chair (GF), Ray Sibley (RS), Tony Fenner (TF), Ashley Wrixon (AW), Rob Bruckel (RB), Jackie Unsworth (JU).

**In attendance:**

Kate Fullerton – Parish Clerk.

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

No public session items were raised.

**II. Somerset Council Councillors' report**

County Cllrs Hewitson and Patrick circulated their report ahead of the meeting. Cllr Hewitson highlighted the significant rise in reported potholes and encouraged residents to continue reporting issues online: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

**19:15 – Meeting opened.**

**1/25/160 To receive and consider any apologies for absence and resolve to accept or refuse them**

Apologies received from Cllrs Nick Entwistle and Rebecca Kilburn.

**RESOLVED:** To accept apologies.

**2/25/161 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**3/25/162 Planning**

a) To comment on new planning applications.

None.

b) To consider any recent planning applications from Somerset Council (South), received in the days after the agenda has been circulated and before this meeting. Residents 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.

c) Determination of applications.

None.

**4/25/163 To approve the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2026**

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

**5/25/164 To review actions from the minutes of the last meeting**

Members reviewed the actions. Clerk to contact P Rowsell regarding the fallen tree at Jack the Treacle Eater Follie.

**ACTION:** Clerk

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

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**6/25/165 Public Works Lending Board (PWLB) Loan**

- a) Report to council / Business Case- To receive a summary report on the new Community Hub Building.  
Item deferred pending receipt of the full project budget costing.
- b) Understanding the need for and implications of a PWLB loan.
  - i. Effect on budget.  
Item deferred pending receipt of the full project budget costing.
  - ii. Effect on precept.  
Item deferred pending receipt of the full project budget costing.
  - iii. Repaying the loan and the 'Plan B Scenario'.  
Item deferred pending receipt of the full project budget costing.
- c) Resolution to Borrow
  - i. To table a proposal to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to apply for a PWLB loan of up to £275,000, over the borrowing term of 20 years, to finance the new Community Hub at Whitcross Recreation Ground. The annual loan repayments will cost an estimated £22,972 annually. It is not intended to raise the precept for the purposes of repaying the loan.  
Item deferred pending receipt of the full project budget costing.

**7/25/166 Finance and regulatory information**

- a) To receive a second quote for CCTV installation at Whitcross Pavilion.  
**RESOLVED:** To purchase a system costing under £100; Ranger to install.
- b) To receive two quotes for grass maintenance 2026/27.  
**RESOLVED:** To award the contract to Premier Landscaping for a cut-and-collect service at Whitcross, The Green, and Fairhouse Road footpath for £4,400 annually.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- c) To receive the bank reconciliation for all bank accounts.  
Received, showing a capital balance of £550697.36 as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2026.

d) Invoices and payments:

i.	K Fullerton – Clerk salary February 2026	£ 1027.12
ii.	K Fullerton – Clerk expenses and reimbursements (planning) for Feb 2026	£ 33.98
iii.	HMRC – PAYE February 2026.	
iv.	Somerset Pension Fund – Clerk pension February 2026	£ 387.88
v.	The Elec Group – PAT Testing Inv BC8945 – RE-ISSUE LOST CHQ	£ 216.00
vi.	SALC – Training AGAR New Assertion 10	£ 25.00
vii.	PWCR – Inv 38/12/5060(25)5 Building Regs	£13084.50
viii.	Clear Councils – Annual insurance policy PC & Rec Trust	£ 821.55
ix.	T Garrett – 5 x Remembrance Soldier Silhouettes	£ 130.00
x.	Octopus Energy – Whitcross January 2026 DD	£ 62.66
xi.	D Higgins – Whitcross Pavilion cleaning February 2026	£ TBA

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

**ACTION: RS, GF**

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

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**8/25/167 Community Hub Development Working Group**

- a) To review progress on the Football Foundation grant application - £25,000.  
The Clerk confirmed the application is in progress.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- b) To discuss progress on the application for a Public Works Lending Board (PWLB) loan.  
The Clerk is awaiting budget costing before the PWLB loan application can be completed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- c) To request stakeholders' letters of support for the community hub project, detailing the positive impact and opportunities the new facility will provide to the group.  
Noted. No letters received to date.

- d) To form a fundraising working group – RK, RS, NE.  
Nothing to report at this time.

**ACTION: RK, RS, NE, RB**

**9/25/168 To consider any urgent highway issues**

- a) Proposal for parking restrictions on the corner of The Green – RB  
Proposal received from RB for double yellow lines to improve visibility at Newton Road/New Road around The Green. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Somerset Council Traffic Management Officer Andy Barron.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- b) To receive the Non-safety Defect Report.  
Not received.

Additionally, the Clerk was asked to approach Highways to ask about the unadopted track by The Green, New Road to Court Lane - would Highways consider adopting the track?

**ACTION: Clerk**

**10/25/169 Local Community Network (LCN) – to note any useful meeting dates.**

Nothing to report. Item to be removed from future agendas.

**11/25/170 Footpaths.**

A fallen tree on Sandy Lane was reported - possible task for the Ranger.

**12/25/171 To discuss Ranger Matters**

- Install CCTV at Whitcross.
- Annual leaf clearance at The Green (September).
- Plant a replacement cherry tree at The Green.

**ACTION: Clerk, TF, Ranger**

**13/25/172 Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

No updates.

**14/25/173 Whitcross Recreation Ground – items to pass to the Recreational Trust**

- CCTV installation.
- Football fees due for 2025/26.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**15/25/174 To set a date for the Annual Parish Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> June)**

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

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**RESOLVED:** Meeting to be held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm, The Royal Oak Stoford. RS to book the function room.

**ACTION: RS**

**16/25/175 The Green, Stoford**

- a) To consider planting a tree to replace the fallen cherry tree.  
**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to plant a new Cherry Tree. TF to liaise with the Ranger.
- b) To discuss and arrange a professional survey of the trees on The Green.  
**RESOLVED:** To commission a professional survey of all trees on The Green.
- c) To consider the adoption of a maintenance plan for the tree on The Green.  
**RESOLVED:** To procure a maintenance plan for all trees on The Green.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**17/25/176 To record correspondence received.**

- a) Crime Stoppers – Grant request.  
**RESOLVED:** Declined.
- b) Citizens Advice Somerset – Grant request.  
**RESOLVED:** £250.00 approved.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- c) Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance- Grant request.  
**RESOLVED:** £250 approved.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**18/25/177 Items for the next Agenda**

- Defibrillator socket at The Royal Oak.
- Community Hub project costing (April).
- PWLB Loan (April).

**ACTION: Clerk**

**19/25/178 The date of the next meeting(s)**

- Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7pm, Barwick and Stoford Primary School.
- Annual Parish Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2026, 7.30pm, The Royal Oak Stoford.
- Recreational Trust Meeting: TBA.

**20.20 – Meeting closed.**

Signed:..... (Chair)      Date: .....