

**MINUTES OF THE BARWICK AND STOFORD ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BARWICK AND STOFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 21ST OF JANUARY 2026, 19:00**



Present – Councillors (Cllrs):

Gwen Findlay – Chair (GF), Ray Sibley (RS), Rebecca Kilburn (RK), Tony Fenner (TF), Ashley Wrixon (AW), Rob Bruckel (RB).

In attendance:

Kate Fullerton – Parish Clerk and four members of the public.

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

No public session items.

II. Somerset Council Councillors' report

County Cllrs Hewitson and Patrick circulated their report ahead of the meeting. Cllr Hewitson spoke about the successful completion of the Ham Hill Visitors Centre – 15,000 visitors in the first month of use. Cllr Hewitson also spoke about Somerset Council's budget setting for 2026/27, with its many challenges, which they are not sure they can overcome.

19:15 – Meeting opened.

1/25/144 To receive and consider any apologies for absence and resolve to accept or refuse them

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nick Entwistle and Jackie Unsworth.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies.

2/25/145 To receive declarations of interest

None.

3/25/146 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. 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/>

i. 26/00022/HOU & 26/00023/LBC – 1 School Cottages, Barwick, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9TH - Demolish existing porch and erect a new porch.

RESOLVED: To support the application.

ACTION: Clerk

c) Determination of applications.

None.

4/25/147 To approve the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 19th of November 2025

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

5/25/148 To review actions from the minutes of the last meeting

Members reviewed the actions. Clerk to contact Network Rail to maintain the verges New Road to Court Lane. To contact P Rowsell regarding Jack the Treacle Eater Follie – fallen tree, although this might be ROW or Ranger work.

ACTION: Clerk

6/25/149 Finance and regulatory information

a) To receive a grant request from Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment.

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

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- RESOLVED:** To grant no monies as funds are currently required for the new community hub project.
- b) To receive a quote from Taun-Tech for CCTV installation at Whitcross Pavilion.
RESOLVED: To explore other options at this time, with a budget of £150 in mind.
- ACTION: Clerk**
- c) To receive a quote from Somerset Council for grass maintenance 2026/27.
Members asked the Clerk to obtain a quote from Premier Landscaping to compare.
- ACTION: Clerk**
- d) To receive a quote from Somerset Council for quarterly playground inspections 2026/27.
RESOLVED: To accept the quote for quarterly playground inspections. Clerk to explore options for weekly inspections by someone local. To appoint through the Recreational Trust.
- ACTION: Clerk**
- e) To receive a 2026/27 budget recommendation from the December Finance Meeting.
The budget was reviewed. No changes were made.
- f) To adopt the 2026/27 budget.
RESOLVED: The expenditure budget was set at £44833.64, the earmarked reserves were set at a total of £537639.19 (community hub), and the general contingency was set at £43,303.51.
- g) To consider and approve the precept for 2026/27.
RESOLVED: The precept figure of £69624.00 was approved. This being an increase of 1.77% annually per Band D property: a rise in cost of £2.87 a year.
- ACTION: Clerk**
- h) To receive the bank reconciliation for all bank accounts.
Received, showing a capital balance of £558,014.61 as of the 31st of December 2025.
- i) Invoices and payments:
- | | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| i. | K Fullerton – Clerk salary January 2026 | £1026.92 |
| ii. | K Fullerton – Clerk expenses and reimbursements (planning) for January 2026 | £ 102.08 |
| iii. | K Fullerton – Reimburse Building Control costs (Whitcross) | £2750.00 |
| iv. | HMRC – PAYE January 2026. | |
| v. | Somerset Pension Fund – Clerk pension January 2026 | £ 387.88 |
| vi. | R Sibley – Grant to Santa’s Sleigh for sweets Dec 2025 | £ 35.63 |
| vii. | Premier Landscaping - Ranger December 2025 | £ 255.00 |
| viii. | Premier Landscaping – Fairhouse Rd, cut & collect | £ 415.70 |
| ix. | Somerset Council – INV 32011779 Quarterly playground Inspections | £ 97.78 |
| x. | Somerset Council – INV 32012234 – Grass maintenance 2025/26 | £3497.18 |
| xi. | Information Commissioner’s Office – PD DD | £ 47.00 |
| xii. | The Elec Group – PAT Testing Inv BC8945 | £ 216.00 |
| xiii. | Octopus Energy – Whitcross November DD | £ 50.01 |
| xiv. | D Higgins – Whitcross Pavilion cleaning January 2026 | £ TBA |
- RESOLVED:** To approve all payments and for two councillors to sign the cheques.

ACTION: RS, GF

7/25/150 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 will add the formal PWLB agenda items to the February agenda. The application form is mostly complete and is based on a maximum loan of £275,000.

ACTION: Clerk

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- c) To form a fundraising working group – RK, RS, NE.
RB offered to join the fundraising working group. RK will set up a WhatsApp group for this purpose.

ACTION: ALL

8/25/151 To consider any urgent highway issues

- a) To receive the Somerset Council road safety defects report.
Received.
- b) Meadow View double yellow lines installation – follow-up action.
The parish council has received an email from a resident suggesting that double lines should also be installed opposite the junction on the right, to prevent parking. However, the parish council were not in support of this request at this time. Additionally, Somerset Council Traffic Management would not usually place double yellow lines opposite a junction.

ACTION: Clerk

9/25/152 Local Community Network (LCN) – to note any useful meeting dates.

None.

10/25/153 Footpaths.

Nothing to report.

ACTION: Clerk

11/25/154 To discuss Ranger Matters

- Ranger – could install CCTV at Whitcross.
- Clear drain by the church.
- Clear the drain by the salt grit bin on New Road.
- Remove the cherry tree from The Green.

ACTION: Clerk, TF, Ranger

12/25/155 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Nothing to report.

13/25/156 Whitcross Recreation Ground – items to refer to the Recreational Trust

- CCTV – contact a company for advice on best positioning.
- Football fees 2025/26 now due.
- Metal box now installed to protect the incoming electricity supply. Clerk to write a thank you letter to the volunteer who supplied and fitted the box .

ACTION: Clerk

14/25/157 To record correspondence received.

- a) Yeovil Junction Station – Access for All Scheme.
Noted.
- b) Letter from resident regarding the BT kiosk removal.
Clerk has responded.
- c) Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan engagement survey.
Noted – for all to respond individually.
- d) Letter from resident regarding double yellow lines at Meadow View.
Noted – Clerk to respond that councillors are not supportive of more double yellow lines being installed opposite the junction on the right-hand side of Meadow View from Newton Road.
- e) NALC - Open letter from the Chair.
- f) Email from resident of The Green, Stoford regarding damage to a grassy area.
TF will see if the area still shows damage.
- g) Wessex Water Community Drop-ins – Noted.

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15/25/158 Items for the next Agenda

- The Green, Stoford – Tree surveys.
- PWLB agenda items.
- Remembrance soldier silhouettes.
- Grass maintenance quotes – February 2026.

16/25/159 The date of the next meeting(s)

- Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday the 18th of February 2026 at 7pm, Barwick and Stoford Primary School.
- Recreational Trust Meeting – TBA.

20.20 – Meeting closed.

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