

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 27th October 2025
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

Councillors Present: Roger Tyers (Chair), Kate Carter-Windle (Vice), Jane McRobie

In Attendance: 7 members of the public, Councillor Andy Graham

Clerk: Annette Fowler

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the council meeting commencing there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to make comments and to ask questions of the Parish Council.

A member of the public asked for an update on the current situation regarding the Holliers Field planning application. See below 1742 (b).

1739 To receive apologies for absence

The Council received apologies from Councillors Barry, Cox and District Cllr. Jackson.

1740 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct (and section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992).

None

1741 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 15th September 2025 were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

1742 To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –

a) ASWC (Automatic Speed Watch Camera) – Cllr Tyers – advised the meeting that unfortunately there hasn't been any progress in getting Speedwatch members together for training. This matter will be brought forward to the November meeting.

b) Holliers Field Planning Application – Cllr Tyers - Hallam Land secured a Resolution to Approve, subject to a satisfactory Section 106 Agreement at the Uplands Committee Meeting last Monday. He thanked Cllr Jackson & Cllr Graham for their contributions to try and persuade the Members to refuse the application. Unfortunately, despite almost 100 objections from residents and the Parish Council's objections and arguments against approval, the Members were persuaded by Officers to vote for its approval. It was a split vote with 4 for and 4 against with the Chair casting his vote in favour of approval.

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Peter Virk a resident from Holliers Crescent has submitted a Pre-Action Protocol letter to WODC challenging the decision on several counts including unlawful public-law grounds, so Cllr Tyers handed over to Mr Virk so he could explain his actions and the process. Cllr Tyers advised that if there was anything the Parish Council could do to assist, we would.

1743 **Village Matters – updates**

- a) **Update on the Mullins** - Cllr Tyers – Advised that the project would be known in future as “The Cotswold Automotive Experience”. Cllr Tyers attended the Mullins Forum meeting on 23 September and gave a brief update. He said that the meeting was not well attended for the first time and neither was the online meeting the following week. However, there were a few updates: A new ‘Forum’ website is being built, but we didn’t have any details yet; negotiations in respect of the S278 Highways agreement are well advanced; the Section 73 Planning application to vary certain features and conditions attached to the original planning permission is being processed and they are looking at discharging a number of the pre-development conditions, so things are moving forward at a pace. They are also looking to utilise building stone and aggregates either from the deposits on site or the local quarry and were hoping to retain all spoil and materials on site, if possible.
- b) **Mill Lane Ford** - Cllr Tyers - James Feest, OCC Flood Risk Officer has been away for the past three weeks so unfortunately nothing has moved forward. He had prepared some draft notes on the condition of the ‘concrete ramps’ (berms) and the floor of the ford, especially where the hole is by the footbridge. He advised that James Feest needed to draft a full report to send to his manager to gain traction. Once we can get an approval to the work being sanctioned to make the ford safe, then we will try to arrange for some improvements to the flow from the culvert where it enters the main river.
- c) **Village appraisal** - No update, so bring forward to November agenda.
- d) **Email from Bartons Community Benefit Society Ltd re the Fox** – Raising funds to buy the pub - Our last response in September 2023 remains the same. All Councillors agreed that this was a ‘Community matter’ and not something the Council could get involved in particularly as the premises is in Westcote Barton Parish. However, it could be reconsidered in the future depending on how things progress.
- e) **Youth Shelter** - email from Playing Fields - drug paraphernalia was found during the Scouts recent litter pick. Should the shelter be taken down? This was discussed, with a suggestion made to ask the Playing Fields committee if they could include the shelter in their regular checks of the area/play equipment, and report back to the PC if any issues occurred. The Clerk will contact the Playing Fields to ask if this could be considered.

1744 **Donation request** - from the Playing Fields for a contribution of £2,000 towards the maintenance of the public toilets.

RESOLVED,

THAT, the PC would donate £2,000.00.

Signed

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- 1745 **Donation request** - from Steeple Barton PCC for a contribution of £200.00 towards the Steeple Barton Chase

RESOLVED,

THAT, the PC would donate £200,00.

- 1746 **Donation request** - Oxfordshire Bell Target League – request for donation towards hire of the Jubilee Room at the Sports and Social Club – Clerk to ask if they have considered increasing their annual subscription and weekly fees to help cover the increased costs.

- 1747 **Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)**

Full reports can be found on the PC website www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org

Councillor Dave Jackson (WODC)

PLANNING APPLICATION:

LAND NORTH OF HOLLIERS CRESCENT

At the Uplands Planning meeting on Monday 20th October, the outline planning application for 80 houses was narrowly approved. The vote was 4 for and 4 against, but in the event of a tie, the chair had the casting vote, and he voted to accept the proposal. I had proposed to refuse the application on the grounds of size. It is fair to say that if it was refused it might well have been overturned on appeal. I say this, because under the new local plan that is in the discussion stage, the land north of Holliers Crescent has been earmarked as a "Strategic Site Option" for Middle Barton. In other words, once the new local plan comes into operation, I think it would be inevitable that an application (perhaps even bigger) would have been approved.

KIDDINGTON ROAD

I was intrigued when green lines appeared round the worst areas of tarmac on Kiddington road, up past the last house, The Thatched Cottage. I also noticed a yellow sign indicating the road will be closed on 22nd October. I spotted a few of months ago some OCC highways chaps measuring up, and they indicated some "patching" work was due on the road. So I assume that this will be done imminently. I am not sure if the frequency of my reports of potholes and the very bumpy nature of the road has highlighted the need, or whether it was on a schedule, but hopefully the surface will be smoother particularly for pedestrians, cyclists, buggies and (ironically) mobility scooters.

WHITE LINING

I was also pleased to see a white lining team going round the village a week or so ago. I had put in a request a few months ago for re-marking the lines by the shop (after a resident had contacted me), and at the same time I highlighted the need to re-do the GIVE WAY triangles on Kiddington Road. Again, the lining may have been on a schedule, because they did a lot of lines around the village. Whatever the reason, it seemed a job well done, and I have sent a message to the OCC highways officer Chris Grain, expressing my thanks.

Councillor Andy Graham (OCC)

Woodstock Surgery

Real progress has been made towards delivering a new surgery for Woodstock.

The GPs have developed a specification for a new surgery building, which the NHS has approved in principle. An in-principal commitment has been secured from the NHS to provide finance for the running and operation of a new surgery. Three potential sites have been

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identified on Blenheim owned land for a new surgery, with the Hensington Road site ruled out because it does not have the expansion potential to cope with the anticipated growth in patient numbers. Work is underway to draw up outline plans for the surgery. Viable funding models to deliver the new surgery are being reviewed and finalised. If progress is maintained, we could expect planning permission by late summer 2026 and a new surgery to be opened by the end of 2028.

Congestion charge

You can apply for a pass so that you don't need to pay. However, recommends everyone use the Park and Ride services which will be free for two months.

Local government reorganisation - all Councils will publish their proposals this week for discussion next week.

1748 Reports

(a) Highways (Cllr Barry)

No report.

(b) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers) – Reported that he had met with the new owners of 24 Church Lane through whose driveway the Pluvial floodwater flows onto Church Lane at the top of Mole Lane. He also reported that he had earlier that day met with the former owner of 24 Church Lane who still owns the field along the rear of the properties. Both have agreed to allow flood mitigation work to be considered and probably undertaken through their respective land. Cllr Tyers next move was to liaise with James Feest and get a plan drawn up for a drainage ditch along the northern boundary of 'Jupps Field' to a SUDS basin from which the flood waters can have a controlled outflow through to the Storm Drain in Church Lane. Work on this was ongoing. Nothing else to report.

1749 Planning

25/02121/ FUL -Land East Of 34 Church Lane - Erection of two bungalows with associated landscaping - This application was received after the September agenda had been posted. Comments to be received by 2nd October. The application was emailed to all Councillors and comments posted on the portal on to say that. The majority view was to support the application with concerns regarding flood/waste management issues. Further details can be found on the WODC planning portal.

25/02141/OUT-Enstone Airfield Industrial Estate – demolition of existing buildings, redevelopment and expansion – general discussion as notified via Enstone PC.

1750 External Audit - to receive and note the External Auditor's Report

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit carried out by Moores had been completed with The following comments: -

- a) The inspection period for the exercise of electors' rights was set for 31 days instead of the regulatory 30 days.
- b) The breakdown of 'Reserves held' included 3 months PC running costs. This should be included in the general Reserves.

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The Council RESOLVED to accept the External Audit report and certificate. The report and certificate had been published in the August 2025 Finance section of the website and the Conclusion of Audit notice was also published on the website and posted on the noticeboard.

1751 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment

i) To consider and approve accounts for payment

ii) Accounts not on Agenda submitted by 8pm on **15th September 2025**

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary (Sept)	Annette Fowler	CONF
BACS	Renewal of Microsoft subscription	Annette Fowler	£ 84.99
BACS	PAYE Q2-payment made on 9/10/25 as payment due date before the meeting	HMRC	£273.24
BACS	Payroll preparation Jul-Sept	TP Jones & Co LLP	£ 59.40
BACS	Weed spraying	Complete Weed Control	£540.00
BACS	Hire of AMH – July-Sept	AMH	£ 50.00
BACS	Planting 4 flower boxes	Eric Pribbitts	£275.00
BACS	Training course for Roger Tyers	OALC	£ 78.00

RESOLVED

THAT, all payments listed were agreed.

To confirm receipt of the 2nd Precept payment of £10,780.00 on 25/9/25.

1752 To receive items for next agenda.

Any items to be emailed to the Clerk by Monday 10th November.

1753 For Information only

None

1754 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 17th November 2025** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.00pm**.

Signed

Date.....