

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Mike Rapp and Graham Smith

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), five villagers and three villagers from Barford St John and Barford St Michael

25/12. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Lucks (personal) and Cllr Wilson Medhurst (personal), County Cllr George Reynolds and District Cllr David Rogers

25/13. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/14. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

25/15. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

A letter of resignation had been received from District Councillor Andrew McHugh.

The drain on the High Street by the Poleaxe has been inspected. Its too small and has been reported on FMS again.

25/16 To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A brief report had been received from County Cllr Reynolds. Council tax will rise by 5%. When local government is reorganized it looks as though there will be a unitary authority. Oxfordshire may have a mayor. Parishes will remain.

A report was received from District Cllr Rogers. The main points included:

Cherwell Local Plan Review, Neighbourhood Planning, Local Government Changes, Primary Care Funding, Flooding Super Users, Flooding News. The full report can be read on the village website www.southnewington.co.uk.

25/17. To discuss the following Planning application by Oxfordshire County Council, for planning permission: Section 73 application to continue the development permitted by permission MW.0080/15 (Change of use of Agricultural Barns to Topsoil storage and screening for Topsoil business, a new lean-to 10 x 30m barn and new farm access for Barford Road Farmhouse), altering condition 2 from no more than 12 HGV movements per day to no more than 24 HGV movements per day and no more than 36 HGV movements per day during exceptional operations, with exceptional operations to last no more than six weeks per year at Barford Road Farm, Barford Road, Sout Newington, Oxfordshire OX15 4JJ

This new application is to support the growing business and increase the HGV movements from 12 to 24 per day which is a big increase. The Parish Council have been given an extension to respond by 17th April 2025.

There are concerns such as safety issues, loss of amenity and how the movements will be managed. Enforcement notices have been issued in the past as the business does not currently operate within the operating times, days and hours agreed by the previous planning application.

South Newington is a non HGV village. There are advisory signs on the A361 directing lorries to the B4031 and along the Barford Road. Barford Road is used by lots of walkers, has blind bends and a hill. There are no passing places despite one document saying there are. Barford Road is 60mph and the only wide section in the road is Barley Lane. There is no signage when lorries leave the site. This means the lorries can drive back through South Newington to get onto the A361. A solution could be to impose a weight limit off the A361. Only recently a villager saw an articulated lorry coming down The Slibber which is a very narrow road. He was delivering to NOTS. Previously Barford St Michael and Barford St John Parish Council had asked for a speed survey. OCC advised they could not monitor speeds as it was too dangerous to work along the road.

By altering one planning condition will mean that soil tonnage will naturally increase. This will lead to many more lorry movements as lorry sizes will differ. The traffic survey carried out over 5 days in early December 2024 shows movements east and west. There is no breakdown of types of vehicles which makes the survey irrelevant. The average was 204 per day. In the 2016 planning application two vehicles were listed. There are now at least four large vehicles on site. A HGV is larger than 3.5 tonnes.

The exceptional operations to last no more than six weeks per year were discussed. This will incorporate larger lorries from building estates who will queue outside the property. The six week period per year will be hard to manage. The applicant has said he will let the planning team know in advance. Is this an acceptable solution?

Councillors will try to find out more about the possibility of a weight limit and know more about movement numbers and types of vehicles. This is a rural business with a right to expand. However there are concerns such as safety and loss of amenity. A village meeting will be held which was agreed after all the work and issues at The Little Forge. Work at the Little Forge was temporary whilst the property was renovated but this is a permanent site.

25/18. To discuss and agree a date for a litter pick

It was agreed to hold a litter pick on 5th April.

25/19. To discuss new compost bins and a spring clean up in the Poleaxe

It was agreed to purchase a compost bin costing £140.00.

25/20. To receive an update following the AED and CPR training

12 villagers attended a course on 25th February and it was very well received.

25/21. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

- 25/00579/TCA, T4 Cherry - Reduce crown by up to c.2.5 metres T5 Walnut - Reduce crown by up to c.1.5 metres MT1 Fastigate Oak - Reduce height by c.1.5m and over extended side growth by up to 2.5m to improve shape and form T2 Cypress - Fell T3 Cypress - Reduce height by 2 metres at The Barn, Green Lane. It was agreed to support.

Determined

- 25/00059/LB, Retrospective – Installation of CCTV cameras to enhance security at Sands House, Moor Lane. Granted by CDC.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

- £36.00 to Sort It (February maintenance)
- £36.00 to Sort It (March maintenance)
- £216.00 to OALC (membership)
- £545.70 To Parish Clerk (hours)

- £136.40 to HMRC
- £59.40 to Parish Clerk (mileage)
- £37.04 to Parish Clerk (expenses)
- £120.00 to South Central Ambulance Charity (AED/CPR training)

Correspondence

- Village footpaths. There is concern about the footpath at the top of High Street, bordering The Close opposite The School House. The moss and debris from hedge cutting makes it difficult for pedestrians.
Action: A villager to put on FMS.
- CDC, Increase in dog bin emptying costs. Costs will increase from £1.95 to £2.05 per bin from 1st April 2025.
- Villager, Update from National Grid on overhead lines. National Grid have advised the overhead lines will be put underground in June/July time. They will provide written notification of a timetable.
- Highways, Road Closure at Swerford, Swerford Heath Hill on 19th May. Contents to be put on the notice-board nearer the time.
- OCC, Flood Project Funding Expressions of Interest. There is funding available for communities to deliver small scale works to reduce flooding from surface water run-off, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. Expressions of interest have to be submitted by 18th April.
- OCC, Invitation to workshop on part night lighting and street lighting. There are a series of workshops aimed at developing proposals for a part night street lighting framework for Oxfordshire.

25/22. Councillors Reports

The beech hedge at Turnpike Cottage, Main Road is overhanging the road.

Action: The Parish Clerk to get advice from Highways about how it can be cut back as the homeowners cannot be contacted.

25/23. Public participation session (*Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes*)

A villager asked if there was an update on the building on the land by the pumping station which was erected without permission.

Action: The Parish Clerk to chase CDC Enforcement.

The Welcome pack was last updated in 2022. Changes may be needed to ensure it is up to date.

The Parish Clerk to forward 2025 meeting dates to Sue Robertson for the website.

The footbridge over the Swere has rotting planks. It will be reported to the Countryside Service.

The footpath at the top of Wom'll requires attention. A board has fallen out and there are screws sticking out. It will be reported to the Countryside Service.

The Fourth Field is impassable.

Action: The Chair to report to the Countryside Service.

The grassed area at the top of High Street was discussed. Vehicles cut the corner and damage it. Bollards have been discussed in the past and would preserve the historic element of the village.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Highways.

25/24. To note next meeting date and time

Annual Parish Meeting on 10th April 2025

Meeting finished at 8.35pm.