

MINUTES of the BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 29th June 2026 in the Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Chairman: Mr. James Coker Mr. Johnny Rickett Mr. Alistair Aitken

Clerk to the PC: Mrs. Julia Hicks Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Mandy MacPherson

Public Present:

Cathryn Aitken, James Hayman-Joyce, Penny Mead, Heather Rutherford

- 1. Apologies:** Mrs. Juley Piney
- 2. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest:** None were highlighted by those present.
- 3. Public Forum:** James Coker addressed the issue of speeding and signage through the village and is awaiting communications from Jo. Barker who is in contact with the Highways Department.
- 4. Minutes of the OGM of 21st April 2026** were agreed by Johnny Rickett and approved and signed by Chairman James Coker with matters arising to be discussed in meeting
- 5. Updates from the OGM of 21st April 2026:**

Grateful thanks to Cathryn for organising the Village clean-up and for all those who contributed on the day of 6th June or prior to the Fete in clearing and weeding their properties and the village.

Maintenance/spraying of village verges

Cathryn and Alistair are pushing the council to commit to designated areas to be maintained; however Richard Ward had kindly mowed the village green in readiness for the fete, which in turn affected Martyn Harvey who had assumed his services were no longer needed and committed to other jobs. Richard has also communicated with the contractor thus breaking down the communication link Alistair was having with the council, Alistair will resume the contact and strive for the Council to commit to specifics.

The Fete Committee had paid for the spraying prior to the Fete and will set a contingency of money aside to cover for maintenance prior to next year's Fete (as the date does not coincide with the Council) James Hayman-Joyce high-lighted that the garden behind the Village Hall is in need of attention and that Martyn Harvey will mow it; Penny Mead suggested that Simon Lofthouse's gardener may be able to maintain the garden.

6. Parish Council Accounts

Item 3 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mandy McPherson, asked councillors to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2025/26. The Council resolved to authorise James Coker, Chairman, and Mandy McPherson, Responsible Finance Officer, to sign the Certificate of Exemption, confirming that the authority met all the stated exemption criteria.

Item 4 – Internal Audit Report

Mandy McPherson confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been audited and approved by the Internal Auditor, Mr Glenn Jones, on 15 June 2026.

Item 5 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Members considered Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26. It was unanimously resolved to approve the statement.

Item 6 – Accounting Statements 2025/26

Mandy McPherson explained that the figures contained within the Accounting Statements were those previously presented to and discussed by the Council at the earlier meeting. She provided an overview of the year's finances, noting that the Parish Council had received income of £1,019 during the financial year and incurred expenditure of £4,274, compared with expenditure of £365 in the previous financial year. The increase in expenditure was attributable to one-off maintenance works and the replacement of village assets, which had been funded from the Council's reserves. Members considered Section 2, the Accounting Statements for 2025/26, and it was unanimously resolved to approve the Accounting Statements.

Item 7 – Exercise of Public Rights

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mandy McPherson, on behalf of the Council, confirmed that the commencement date for the Exercise of Public Rights would be 1 July 2026, in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Council thanked Glenn Jones for the auditing of the accounts.

Penny Mead agreed to check the website to confirm that the AGAR has been uploaded.

7. Planning Application

Dover House – 26/01468/TREE – Felling of Trees – Pending Consideration

8. St. Lawrence Church

Penny Mead updated the meeting with the date for the Harvest Festival, a church service will be held on Sunday 20th September at 11:00am followed by a harvest lunch in the village hall. Details to follow.

AOB:

Update on 2026 Village Fete

James thanked the Fete Committee for yet another successful fete, raising a substantial amount of money (amount to be confirmed at a later date) for the Village Hall, Church and other chosen charities. Next years Fete date has been confirmed as Saturday 19th June.

Repositioning of Defibrillator

The Defibrillator has now been repositioned to the wall of the Village Hall, and the phone box will be removed in due cause. Helen Cathie who has paid for the repositioning will now be able to maintain the wall and foliage to her property.

Next OGM Meeting: Sept. 29th 2026

Meeting ended: 19:01