

Cary Moor Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Cary Moor Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on
Tuesday 10th March 2026 in North Barrow Community Hall commencing at 7.15pm

Councillors Present:

Mark Main (Chairman)
Terry Bird
Marie-Helene Robinson
Andrew Wake

Martin Roberts (Vice Chairman)
Kevin Horne
Ross Perkins

In attendance: Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and one member of the public (MoP).

❖ **Public Question and Comments:** No comments.

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger reported as follows:

- Somerset Council (SC) has approved a balanced budget for 2026/27, transitioning from a financial emergency to a recovery phase. The Government had agreed to pay off 90% of SC's loan for special educational needs and disabilities costs (SEND).
- Octagon Theatre. SC recently approved the £15m plans to revamp and reopen the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil, which would mainly be funded by grants. It is hoped the changes will mean the theatre can host a wider range of productions, with more complicated sets and attract bigger acts/shows.
- Leonardo Helicopters. The UK Ministry of Defence recently awarded Leonardo a £1 billion contract to supply 23 AW149 medium-lift helicopters for the New Medium Helicopter (NMH) program, which was great news, providing job security in the area.
- Flooding. Local MPs Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance have been challenging the Government to do more to prevent flooding in Somerset and the effect floods are having on Somerset's residents, agriculture, state of the roads etc. Sarah Dyke welcomed the Government's Flooding Minister to Somerset for a day of visits to flood-affected communities.
- Highways. The Government had released extra funding for potholes.
- Castle Cary. Pot hole repair on Station Road postponed until April 2026, the road would most likely be closed for two weeks. Funding for the landslip had now been approved for the works to be carried out at the end of summer 2026.

26/12. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllrs Jim Shannon and Martin Trott. Somerset Cllr Henry Hobhouse also tendered his apologies.

26/13. Declarations of Interests:

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and NALC Model Code of Conduct adopted May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

26/14. Minutes:

To approve the Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

26/15. Planning:

- a. **To consider the following planning applications (PA):** None received.
- b. **Somerset Council (SC) Decisions:** None received.

26/16. Parish Council Accounts:

a. **Balance of the Council's Bank Account and Bank Reconciliation:**

To receive the full council accounts and bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED: The Clerk previously circulated the PC's Accounts, which were agreed and Barclays bank balances at 6th February 2026 of £20,010.85 in the Business Premium account and £5,830.12 in the Community account were reconciled, approved and signed.

b. **Accounts for payment.**

To receive and approve a schedule of items of expenditure (incl. VAT):

- i. Clerks allowances & expenses £66.24

RESOLVED: All items of expenditure were approved unanimously.

c. **To consider the following grant applications:**

- i. Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance – request for contribution towards portable life-saving medical equipment for the aircraft.

RESOLVED: A grant of £250 was approved unanimously.

- ii. Crimestoppers South West – request for a community safety grant of £200 to help increase reporting of crime, improve public confidence to report and increase community safety.

RESOLVED: No grant approved.

26/17. Rights of Way Working Group (RoWWG):

- a. Blocked Footpath WN 18/4 North Barrow – update.

RESOLVED: Cllr Trott previously reported that his father had cleared the pathway within the garden and Cllr Trott was hoping to build the stile soon.

- b. Update on request from Somerset Ramblers Area Footpath Officer for PC's comments on two paths in Alford parish that are on the Definitive Map but are no longer on the latest OS map.

RESOLVED: The Vice-Chairman reported the Somerset Ramblers Officer had recommended that the PC submit a letter drafted on behalf of the PC to SC. Following a brief discussion the Chairman agreed to speak with the landowner in the first instance.

26/18. Report from Emergency Plan WG (EPWG):

Update.

RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

26/19. B3153 Traffic Management WG:

Update.

RESOLVED: Covered under agenda item 26/20.

26/20. Request for Lovington Village Signs:

a. To consider request for Lovington Village signs to be erected on the North Barrow and Hornlotton approach roads to the south and north respectively.

RESOLVED: Cllr Roberts reported that the PC had received an estimate in the region of £350 to £400 from SC for the cost of two signs plus four posts (current rates). As SC expect a rate increase when the contractor reviews its rates after 1st April, councillors agreed to the erection of the two signs in principle; their precise location and cost be delegated to the Parish Clerk for approval in consultation with the Chairman and the Lovington PC members up to £500, following a site visit with Andrew Barron, SC Traffic Engineer.

b. To consider request for speed mitigation measures in Lovington.

A MoP was present to represent the Lovington Primary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in its request for a speed indicator device (SID) to be installed near the school, particularly in the vicinity of the double bend adjoining The Old Chapel, due to numerous incidents of dangerous driving and speeding vehicles. The PTA also asked whether the PC would request SC to extend the 30 mph speed restriction southwards to the church.

RESOLVED: Following a full discussion it was agreed that to remove the risk would be in the best interest for the safety of the children walking to school from the south. Councillors suggested that if the public footpath was used to the side and at the rear of High Barton, either via the existing gate into the school grounds, or one installed further north via an extended pathway to the existing Children's Entrance gate adjoining school the car park, this would provide a safe route for children to walk to school from the south by removing the risk of walking on the highway via the double bend adjoining The Old Chapel. Other safety measures would be discussed with Andrew Barron during his site visit to include possible locations for SIDs and would be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. The School would be advised of this discussion and Resolution, it being noted that no comments had been received directly from the School concerning this matter.

26/21. Change of Date and Format for Annual Parishes Meeting May 2026:

To approve change of date from 12th May 2026 and discuss potential change to format to make it more of a social event.

RESOLVED: Change of date agreed to 19th May and the Clerk agreed to look into the provision of refreshments for the Annual Parishes Meeting.

26/22. Items for Report and Future Business:

a. North Barrow councillor vacancy. The Clerk reported that there hadn't been any applications for the vacancy since it was first published in April 2024 and asked councillors to encourage those who may be interested to come along to a meeting/apply.

b. To consider booking a CPR and Defibrillator Awareness Session with Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Cllr Terry Bird agreed to look into arranging a session in North Barrow Community Hall.

c. Request for speed mitigation measures in Lovington. To be on the agenda for the next meeting.

d. Cllr Perkins was pleased to report that a Tree Preservation Order had been made for the two oak trees immediately east of the new dwelling being built at the far end of the Foster's Farm, South Barrow.

Next meetings: Annual Parishes, Annual Parish Council and Ordinary meetings to be held on 19th May 2026 at 7.00pm in North Barrow Community Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: