

Cary Moor Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Cary Moor Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on
Tuesday 8th September 2026 in North Barrow Community Hall, commencing at 7.15pm

Councillors Present:

Mark Main (Chairman)
Kevin Cressey
Ross Perkins
Martin Trott

Terry Bird
Kevin Horne
Jim Shannon
Andrew Wake

In attendance: Somerset Councillors Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and two members of the public (MoP).

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

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

Councillor Henry Hobhouse reported as follows:

- Flood Funding Update – 1st October 2026 is the closing date for schemes covering an area up to Bridgwater and Taunton and to be completed within two years. All of the River Cam is included. Various schemes in local parishes are also included and progressing. Unfortunately there weren't many options re the river Alham, north of Alford; work needs to be carried out at the Evercreech end. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hobhouse for attending the Alford site visit on 4th August 2026.
- Phosphates – Cllr Hobhouse was happy with the change to Somerset Council's (SC) policy on phosphates, which was progressing. Proposal for a separate Levels and Moors fund from housing developments to be properly managed.
- Castle Cary Railway Station Housing Development - Following a question from a MoP, Cllr Hobhouse asked the MoP to email with the source of the rumour regarding the new houses in Castle Cary on the way to the station having been purchased by or on behalf of Birmingham Council, which could be going to be used to house immigrants from that area.
- North Barrow to Castle Cary Road Closure – Following a question from a MoP Cllr Hobhouse agreed to hasten Somerset Highways for a progress report.
- Castle Cary A371 Road Closure – Repairs to Ansford Hill would no longer be carried out this year.

26/56. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr Martin Roberts. Cllr Marie Helene Robinson was recorded as absent.

26/57. 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: Cllr Trott declared an 'Other Personal Interest' at item 26/63.a. as the son of the landowners on whose land footpath WN 18/4 was in the process of being re-opened.

26/58. Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council and ordinary meeting held on 28th July 2026.

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

26/59. Planning:

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

26/60. 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 7th August 2026 of £26,634.70 in the Business Premium account and £847.31 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. S137 Grant – Friends of Castle Cary Library	£150.00
ii. S137 Grant – SSCAT Bus	£150.00
iii. S137 Grant – CAB South Somerset	£150.00
iv. Clerk's backpay due to salary award and allowances 1 Apr to 31 Aug 2026	£126.00
v. N Barrow Community Hall hire May & Jul 2026	£50.00
vi. North Barrow Phone Kiosk – N Connolly reimbursement of cost for materials	£34.03

RESOLVED: All items of expenditure were approved unanimously.

c. **Requests for Grants:**

- i. Bleed Kit – Wendy Cohen gave her presentation outlining in more detail the reasons she believed there was a need for a bleed kit at £229 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: Following a full discussion, councillors agreed by a majority vote to grant £50 towards the purchase of a bleed kit if additional funds were raised.

- ii. Lovington Primary School – donation of gardening equipment or funding towards a new outdoor learning space 'The Discovery Patch'.

The Clerk previously responded to the Headteacher of Lovington Primary School that the PC cannot provide funds towards a project that would not be accessible by or benefit the whole community. Generally, parish councils cannot directly fund core educational activities or statutory responsibilities of schools, but they can often fund extracurricular community projects, special events, or equipment through specific legal powers or local PTA groups, provided it directly benefits local residents. For example: extracurricular activities, after-school clubs, community-accessible playground equipment on school grounds, or special events outside the standard national curriculum.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously that the PC could not provide a grant, however, there were other practical ways the PC can help support the School, and would continue to do so, such as lobbying for the school directional signage on the B3153 when requested, and recently, concerning Highway Safety Issues.

26/61. Flood Resilience Funding:

Report on meeting in Alford on 4th August 2026 with Somerset Councillor, Henry Hobhouse, Chairman, Mark Main and resident, Helen Cleaveland.

RESOLVED: The Chairman previously circulated his report on the meeting, which can be found at Attachment 1.

26/62. Lovington Telephone Kiosk:

Plans for refurbishment.

Cllr Roberts previously circulated his report: "Philip Mallett, previous longstanding resident and farmer of Lovington, very kindly offered to meet the cost of local painter and decorator Dai Walters of Lovington repairing and redecorating the Lovington phone box. Dai is currently undertaking this work and will repaint the phone box in its traditional colours. Local electrician of Lovington Steven Vaux has checked the electricity supply and confirmed this is still connected. Under BT's Adopt a Kiosk Scheme, BT will continue to provide electricity (if already in place) to power the light for adopted phone boxes, free of charge. This could also be used to install a defibrillator in this location, the phone box being nearest to the greatest concentration of housing in the widely dispersed village of Lovington. The Parish Council is merely being requested to reimburse the cost of materials for repainting the phone box as per previous practice with the other phone boxes owned by the PC."

RESOLVED: Councillors approved unanimously the reimbursement for the cost of materials and recorded their thanks to Philip and Dai.

26/63. Rights of Way Working Group (RoWWG):

- a. Re-opening of Footpath WN 18/4 North Barrow – update.

Cllr Roberts previously circulated his report having walked the full length of Public Footpath WN 18/4 from the gate opposite School Lodge to the garden of 836 North Barrow. The gate opposite School Lodge was chained and padlocked; there is also no signpost here showing where the public footpath leaves the public highway, which is a legal requirement. The pedestrian gate at the mid-point was also chained and locked and he had to take a long detour. All faults were reported again on <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>

He confirmed that the landowner has provided a stile and gate at the original exit point in the hedge on the southern boundary of 836 North Barrow as the definitive line of the footpath. From this point a permissive path has been provided just inside the southern and eastern boundaries of 836 North Barrow emerging through a gate at the NE corner of this property onto the public highway opposite 829 North Barrow.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to email Eve Wynn, SC Footpath Warden asking if she can follow up these matters to enable and help facilitate the public to use the full length of public footpath WN 18/4 and request the need for a signpost and signs making the route of the permissive path through the garden of 836 North Barrow to the point where this rejoins the existing public footpath WN 18/4. Cllr Perkins agreed to discuss the requirement and provision of footpath signs with the Mendip Ramblers Association.

26/64. Items for Report and Future Business:

- a. South Barrow notice board – repair or replace?

RESOLVED: Cllr Perkins reported that he had assessed the condition of the notice board and although he was unable to repair it, he would ask a contact who may be able to refurbish it and would report back at the next meeting.

- b. Alford notice board – Cllr Terry Bird had carried out the repairs to the notice board and would submit receipts to the Clerk for reimbursement of materials used as agreed.

Next meetings: Extraordinary meeting date 13th October 2026 at 7.15pm in North Barrow Community Hall to consider **PA 26/02012/OUT**. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved save for access, for up to five dwellings, with an access, landscaping, and associated infrastructure on land to the north of Sparkford Road - land centred coordinates 360433 127403, Sparkford Road, Sparkford.

Cllrs Roberts, Horne and Perkins agreed to carry out a site visit prior to the extraordinary meeting.

Ordinary Meeting to be held on 10th November 2026 at 7.15pm in North Barrow Community Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: