

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 19th August 2024
In Baunton Church

Present:

Cllr. Peter Davies - Chairman
Cllr. Marie Whiteman - Clerk
Cllr. Dave Walton
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. John Milner

1. Apologies:

Cllr. Alan Rees - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Paul Hodgkinson – CDC Councillor

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th May

The minutes of the AGM were agreed as a true record. Approved by Cllr. Peter Moran and seconded by Cllr. Dave Walton.

3. Matters Arising

Note from Cllr. Hodgkinson:

At the last parish council meeting I was asked about Cirencester Market Place/Cricklade Street. Here is the info I've gleaned from the county councillor for Cirencester Park division:

'The surface in the market place is one that is regularly discussed. You'll know of course that Highways is a department in difficulty, and that certainly extends to the way it operates its partnership agreements. There is an agreement between GCC and Cirencester Town Council in relation to the market place, however, GCC has reneged on it on multiple occasions by repairing the market place with incorrect/sub standard materials...hence the poor surface. The Town Council continue to battle this issue out with the central Highways team.

Regarding Cricklade Street there is slightly better news. A barrier was ruled against by GCC after the TRO consultation period. However, what has been agreed is the installation of ANPR cameras at the top of Cricklade Street instead. These will be used for enforcement purposes and will – I hope – drastically curb the ingress of traffic down what is supposed to be a pedestrian area during most of the daytime. The current timeline for installation of the camera is this coming autumn.'

4. Minutes of the Parish meeting held on 20th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2024 were agreed as a true record. Approved by Cllr. Adrian Potter and seconded by Cllr. Peter Moran

5. Matters Arising - None

6. Report from Cllr. Paul Hodgkinson

District Council Update

The Robin

Although we have the regular Number 51 bus every day going to and from Cheltenham and Swindon, there's a really good addition now called The Robin which is operated by Gloucestershire County Council. It follows the successful

Robin pilot in the North Cotswolds which has been operating for the last 2 years.

This is the new on-demand bus service serving the 'South Cotswolds' area. You can travel anywhere within the South Cotswolds zone (stretching between Northleach to the north, Westonbirt and Tetbury to the west, Lechlade to the east and South Cerney to the south for £2.50 a trip. Bus passes are valid too. The service operates Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 7pm. You book the bus by going online, using the Robin app on your phone, or phoning 0345 263 8139.

The service will pick you up at a bus stop in our location. I know that people have already been using it to get to Kemble station for instance.

To learn more about the service please go to: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/>

Bins

Since the change of bin day collections around the district there have some problems with collections not happening or happening later than stated. I'm not aware of major issues in Baunton but if there are please let me know.

Whiteway crossroads

The crossroads at the Whiteway and Welsh Way (coming from the A429 and Bagendon) has seen some accidents this year.

One of the issues there is visibility coming from the Bagendon direction. Looking right in particular is difficult and with vehicles coming at speed from Cirencester.

I met with the local highways manager and asked her again to look at what else can be done to help visibility at this location (hedge cutting at a minimum by the landowner).

Cirencester Leisure Centre

Cirencester Leisure Centre is undergoing significant refurbishment and is due to be completed by the end of August (probably as you're reading this).

The plans will modernise the facilities as well as adding the latest equipment and technology to help make a visit to the Leisure Centre better.

Other areas of focus during the works are the improvements to the accessible facilities, providing better changing and fitness space to those needing extra support.

The improvements include:

- Refurbished changing rooms and showers
- New water play features for younger swimmers on the poolside
- State-of-the-art indoor cycling studio
- New flooring for the existing group exercise studio
- Assisted gym area to be created.

As always, if there's something I can help you with please get in touch

7. Cllr. Joe Harris - apologies

8. Responsible Finance Officer

Update from Cllr. Adrian Potter. We've received 75% of the Council's precept (£1,538) and paid out £263.66 for Insurance and £30.25 for the AGM expenses.

The Parish Council would like to register their thanks to Trevor Trim who carried out the Internal Audit, again, on our behalf this year.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Parish Council would continue to pay the PCC £1000 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Post meeting note from Cllr. Milner:

As secretary of the PCC I am writing to the Parish Clerk to record the PCC's grateful thanks for the continued support of churchyard maintenance.

The churchyard is an asset to the village scene and without joint effort we would struggle to keep it in good order.

Triangle at the top of the hill:

A discussion took place about the Triangle at the top of Baunton Hill, the grass needs cutting more often than Highways do it at the moment. Cllr. Milner was meeting with Highways on 21st August and was going to raise the problem.

Post meeting note: Cllr. Milner reported the following after his meeting with Highways:

It seems there is a way for the village to be licenced to take over the grass cutting and benefit from some funding towards the cost. They are going to research it and let me know the process.

9. Village Green

Over three years ago we applied to register the Village Green under the Commons Act 2006 to protect the land for the use of future generations. After much correspondence with GCC, we finally heard recently from GCC that the Commons Registration Authority has deemed that the land is not owned by anyone but is officially part of the public highway. This apparently means it is not eligible for formal registration but it also means that the public has a right to use the land without permission and that nobody can develop it, which is all we were trying to achieve. We have written to GCC asking whether they will now take responsibility for maintaining the village green as it is part of the highway.

10. Planning

Planning Ref. 24/02263/FUL – Fairlight Cottage, Baunton.

Erection of rear extension and installation of 2 roof lights to rear roof slope.

The application was supported by the Parish C

11. Parish Plan Action sheet

Flooding/Riparian Group

We were informed that the river is clogged with grass cuttings again. Apart from it being an offense to put grass cuttings in the river it is ecologically catastrophic.

12. Correspondence

Cotswold Conservation Board now known as Cotswold National Landscape – Cllr. David Broad who represents 29 parishes, including Baunton wrote to us in June asking if we were interested in the organisation and being represented. After a discussion it was agreed that we would continue to support the CNL and receive information from them.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr. Broad

20 MPH

A resident of the village wrote to the Parish Council with concerns about the speed of some vehicles going through the village and asked if we could consider requesting if the speed limit could be reduced to 20mph through the village.

Post meeting note: Cllr. Milner raised this issue with Highways when he met them on 21st August, their response was that it is a major bureaucratic exercise to gather data on traffic volumes and speeds and then submit a case. They saw several vehicles passing through and said that if that was typical in their view it would be a waste of effort.

Overhead cables and Poles

Correspondence has been received from Willersey Parish Council re Overhead fibre optic cables and poles it was agreed that the Parish Council would not be contributing to the Crowd Funding being organised by Broadway residents to pay for a Judicial Review.

13. Dates of future meetings for 2024/25

November 18th 2024

February 17th 2025

May 19th 2025