

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Cllr. Alan Rees - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. Marie Whiteman
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. John Milner
Cllr. Dave Walton

1. Apologies:

Cllr. Peter Davies - Chairman
Cllr. Joe Harris – GCC Councillor
Cllr. Paul Hodgkinson – CDC Councillor

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13TH November 2023

One correction to the minutes: £107.88 for the Website domain name, the renewal will last ten years not three years. The minutes of 13th November were then agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Dave Walton and seconded by Cllr. Peter Moran.

3. Matters arising

Village Green – Gloucestershire county Council have requested more documents which have been sent.

Potholes – The potholes we requested to be repaired have been done.

Drains -The issue with two of the drains in the village has been rectified.

4. Report from Councillor Hodgkinson

1. The Council will be setting its budget on 21/2. The proposal is to increase council tax by £5 a year for a Band D property. CDC's share of our total council tax bills is 7%.
2. Leisure centres - the new contract with Freedom Leisure is now going well after some teething problems in the first few months. New changing rooms will be coming in the next 6 months.
3. Local Plan - the Cabinet has agreed to update the current plan and to start the process for the next plan which will take the district through to 2041. It doesn't impact Baunton directly as it is not one of the settlements in which new development will be sought but more info will be coming out this year.

4. General Election voting. The new North Cotswolds constituency of which Baunton is a part also contains the side of Baunton Lane which was previously in the parish. This is because the Boundary Commission had taken the previous parish boundaries in it's proposal which then went through Parliament. So that is now fixed until the next time the parliamentary boundaries are changed. CDC is in the process of deciding where Baunton Lane residents will vote for the General Election and she will write to those residents soon. I'll let you know the outcome of that as you may get questions.
5. Parking strategy - this is also being consulted on and there's still time to give views.

5. Cllr. Harris sent his apologies

6. Responsible Finance Officer report

There was only one transaction in Q3 of 2023/2024 and that was the receipt of £167 as our part of the Community Infrastructure Levy relating to the cottage NE of Mill View.

The CIL is a charge that local authorities can set on new developments in order to raise funds to help pay for the infrastructure, facilities and services - such as schools or transport improvements - needed to support new homes and businesses.

The Precept for 2025/26 will be discussed at the November meeting.

At this meeting each year we decide how much we donate to local charities. After a discussion and a vote it was unanimously agreed that permission would be given to Cllr Potter, the Responsible Finance Officer to go over the £300 which he is authorised to pay. This year we will donate the following:

Action: Cllr. Potter will send payment for the following amounts to:

£400 to Cirencester Citizens Advice

£400 to Cirencester Food Bank.

£200 to the Church – hire charge for holding BPC meetings.

7. Emergency Plan

Cllr. Moran updated the Emergency Plan. The Council approved the amendments. A new copy will be sent to all Members of the CRG, a new copy will go in the Battlebox which is held in the Church and the clerk will send a copy to Cotswold District Council.

8. The Council for the Protection of Rural England CPRE - membership

A discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should become of member of CPRE. After a discussion and the knowledge that a resident in the village has represented the CPRE at planning meetings we didn't feel it was necessary to join.

9 Baunton Polling Station and new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Cotswold District Council has agreed that our Church/Community Centre can be used as a Polling Station for all future elections.

The new North Cotswolds constituency of which Baunton is a part also contains the north side of Baunton Lane which was previously in the parish. This is because the Boundary Commission had taken the previous parish boundaries in its proposal which then went through Parliament. So that is now fixed until the next time the parliamentary boundaries are changed. CDC is in the process of deciding where Baunton Lane residents will vote for the General Election and they will write to those residents soon.

10 Planning

23/03273/FUL – Baunton rise, Cheltenham Road. Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. Replacement dwelling and garage/workshop. Application withdrawn

23/03734/TCNR - The Grain House, Baunton. 10 Various trees – prune back to old pruning points (canopy reduction of approximately one third). Approved

24/00344/AGFO – Ermin Way Farm, Gloucester Road. The Parish Council has received a prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage barn.

This is a prior notification application, so putting a building up to 1000 sq. metres on a holding larger than 5 hectares is permitted development. CDC is able to look at the siting/design as well as the need for the building. The Parish Council agreed we will keep in touch with CDC about this application.

11. Parish Action Sheet

Flooding/Riparian Group – update from John Whitaker

Nothing to report really except the tree that came down across the river on Paul Amins land was cleared from the channel very quickly and the remains will be cleared when conditions allow.

The river level has dropped dramatically in the last 10 days and is now well within the banks.

The website link below is very good at showing the present and historical water levels. As you may see it is currently at 0.44m which is pretty well in the middle of the normal range.

<https://riverlevels.uk/churn-cirencester>

13. Correspondence – from a Willersey resident

Correspondence was received from a resident of Willersey to alert us to a potential threat which has already impacted their village. As part of the government's policy of rolling out fibre optic broadband systems as fast as possible, network installers are forcing overhead poles and cables on communities, often against residents' wishes and in duplication of existing fibre optic networks. The Parish Council discussed the letter, have been in touch with CDC and will stay alert.

14. Any Other Business - None

15. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting which is the Annual General meeting will take place on Monday 20th May 2024 starting at 7.00p.m.