

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022 @ 6.00 P.M.

In the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Present:

Cllr. Peter Davies - Chairman
Cllr. Alan Rees - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. Elaine Drayton
Cllr. Marie Whiteman – Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr. John Milner
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. Joe Harris – GCC Councillor
Cllr. Jenny Forde – CDC Councillor

2. Minutes of the Parish meeting held on 15th November 2021

The minutes of the Parish meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Peter Moran and seconded by Cllr. Alan Rees

3. Matters arising

Adoption of the Village Green: The Parish Council is still waiting for the registration of the village green to be completed.

Pot holes: Pot holes are still an issue in the village as they are everywhere. Roger Clark and the Clerk report them on a regular basis. We will contact our County Councillor and District Councillor to chase.

4 Responsible Finance Officer Report

The meeting agreed the donations for the coming year. They are as follows:

£200 to Citizens Advice
£200 to Cirencester Food Bank
£100 to the Baunton Parochial Church Council
£1000 for the upkeep of the Church yard.
The accounts will be published on the Parish website at www.baunton.org

The Parish Council have raised the precept by £400 for the coming year. The reason for this is the Parish Council will have to pay for any Parish contested elections from May 2023. In the past the cost was met by Cotswold District Council. The Chairman wrote to Cllr Harris strongly objecting to the new arrangements.

Below is a copy of an email to all Town and Parish Councils received from Cllr. Joe Harris, Leader of Cotswold District Council.

I would like to update you on recharging town and parish councils for the cost of elections.

As you know, a report was initially tabled for the December meeting of Cabinet. We were considering charging town and parish councils for their elections for two reasons: (i) the overall financial position of the Council means we need to look to make savings and increase revenue and (ii) elections are of direct benefit to the relevant parishes and towns and can be argued should be paid for by their councils rather than the District Council.

Following your feedback we agreed to defer the item until the Cabinet meeting on 10 January 2022 and in the intervening period we ran two engagement sessions to work with you on the proposal and make sure your views were heard.

Thank you to everyone who attended the sessions, they were very useful and we had some really good quality constructive debate. It was clear that there was strong feeling from those who attended that there should have been more proactive communication about the proposals which we have taken on-board for future decisions. It was also apparent that attendees felt more time to allow town and parish councils to prepare and plan for meeting any costs associated with elections would be welcome, ideally as part of a phased financial approach and over a longer time period than originally proposed (May 2023).

Following these meetings, we have worked to include your feedback and so we amended the approach to extend the period for which you can amend your precept and phase in the costs over the next 4 year term as follows:

- for contested 4-yearly elections at a rate of 50% in 2023 and 100% in 2027;
- for contested by-elections at the following rates from 1 April each year:
 - 2024 = 50%
 - 2025 = 75%
 - 2026 = 100%

We agreed this recommendation at Cabinet on Monday 10 January and you can access the final report [here](#). If you want you can also watch the discussion at the meeting [here](#).

To help you budget for this change, an estimate will be sent out in October this year for the May 2023 elections. At that time, an up-to-date estimate for conducting a by-election in your area will also be provided. The figures previously supplied for each council are contained within the Cabinet report linked above. They are the charges town and parish councils would be asked to pay at 100%.

Should you need any figures or information, please do contact Sarah Dalby our Electoral Services Manager who will be happy to answer any questions.

Kind regards,

Cllr Joe Harris
Leader of Cotswold District Council

5. Update on Parish Plan

It was agreed to put on hold consideration of the updating of the parish plan until the boundary changes have been agreed.

6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Street Party

The Chairman and Clerk updated the other councillors on their meeting with the Social committee to discuss a street party in the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council has applied for a grant from GCC's Build Back Better Fund which Cllr. Harris has given his support to. We are waiting to hear if we have been successful. We also discussed things like road closure, temporary events licence etc.

A discussion took place on the purchase of a sound system for village events. A decision was put on hold until more information is available.

The Street party will be held on Friday 3rd June, details will follow in due course. The Social Committee are holding a silent auction to raise funds for the street party. The finale of the auction will take place at the village lunch on 13th March at the Golf Club.

7. Proposed Boundary Change

Cirencester Town Council has once again come forward with a proposal to change the boundary between Baunton and Cirencester on Baunton Lane.

The proposal is to bring the properties currently in Baunton into the Cirencester Town Council area.

The proposal will be included in the report to CDC Council in February.

This will start a consultation period for parish councils and residents to feedback their thoughts before any decisions are made. CDC will send us full details on this process after the Council meeting on 16th February. The report will be on CDC website after the meeting on Wednesday.

All residents affected will be written to by Cotswold District Council. The Parish Council will consider the options when we've heard from CDC and the residents of Baunton Lane.

8. Planning

21/04417/FUL: erection of a detached Greenhouse with in the grounds of Downs Farm Barn, Baunton. Permitted

21/02219/FUL: erection of single detached four bedroom dwelling with a new vehicular access within the grounds of Peartrees, Baunton Lane. Additional document on access, electric charging point and cycle cover from Highways added. Awaiting decision

9. Parish Action Plan

Church meeting place – update as follows from Cllr. John Milner

The situation on re-ordering is as follows:

“The loo building has been delivered and plans are in progress to get the loo installed over the next few weeks.

The detailed design of the kitchenette has been agreed with Parlour Farm, who are kindly providing it at cost, and they have now put it into their busy production schedule and it will be delivered in early April and a working party will then install it. At that point the work will be complete at long last.

The PCC is now seeking to liaise with the social committee with a view to agreeing the systems to manage the diary and facilities for community use alongside limited religious services, which presently take place only on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.”

Flooding/Riparian Group -

John Whittaker provided an update on the river levels for the meeting.

“The River remains very low for the time of year and the fields are pretty dry. The Environment Agency are recording low soil moisture levels but say the ground water reserves are good and not currently of concern.

The rain on Sunday raised the River by about an inch and I anticipate the run off and forecast rain for today and tomorrow to raise it another inch and a half but that should soon drop back.”

10. Correspondence

Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review – an opportunity to stop ‘off-roading’ in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)

The Parish Council agreed to support the above. Charlie Perkins who is the Cotswold Voluntary Warden/Parish Warden will respond on behalf of the Council.

Doo Poo bin

A request was made for another dog poo bin in the village as some people are bagging up the poo but not putting it in a bin or taking it home. At the moment CDC are not supplying anymore bins as a review of dog poo bins and litter bins is taking place.

In the meantime can we please ask all dog walkers to bag their dogs poo and if not close to the bin on the gated road **PLEASE TAKE IT HOME AND PUT IT IN YOUR GREY BIN.**

11. Date of next meeting - The next meeting will take place on Monday 16TH May 2022 @ 7.00p.m.

The meeting on 16th May will be the AGM. Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.