

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 17th February 2025
In Baunton Church/Community Centre

Present:

Cllr. Peter Davies - Chairman
Cllr. Alan Rees - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. Dave Walton
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. Marie Whiteman - Clerk
Cllr. Paul Hodkinson – CDC Councillor

1. Apologies:

Cllr. John Milner

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record. Approved by Cllr. Dave Walton and seconded by Cllr. Alan Rees.

3 Matters Arising

Flooding/Riparian group – After the discussion about the continual flooding of the meadows and several gardens in Baunton, plus the issue of the sluice gates in Cirencester at the November meeting, the Chairman wrote to Cirencester Town Council requesting a meeting with them.

The CEO of the Town Council replied “We cannot legally, and do not, hold back water. In high level conditions we have to send water downstream, and cannot back up water to prevent flooding in Cirencester. The sluice gates are operated in such a way that the flow of water can be managed when levels increase, to minimise the risk of flooding

Cirencester Town Council led on the convening of a waterways symposium earlier this year and has recently published a report. One of the recommendations in the report is to establish a ‘Cirencester and Churn Waterways and Environment Partnership’.

The partnership will comprise of representatives from Cirencester Town Council, Cirencester Community Development Trust, Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Agency, Thames Water, FWAG, Cirencester Wildlife Group, Friends of Gumstool Brook, and representatives of land owners, Flood Wardens, and neighbouring parish areas and would welcome representation from Baunton Parish Council and will keep you in the loop about future meetings”.

Cirencester Town Council has informed us that they have a provisional date for the inaugural meeting of the Cirencester and Churn Waterways and Environment partnership. Unfortunately the meeting isn’t scheduled until 30th April. Two members of the Parish Council will represent Baunton at the meeting along with riparian owners who are affected and wish to attend.

4. Cllr Hodgkinson

Cllr. Hodgkinson updated the meeting on the following:

Local Government Review -

Gloucestershire County Council – were not included in the Local Government Reorganisation programme announced in January. They will be included in the second phase. However they will continue to work closely with all local councils and other key stakeholders in the district. A consultation is expected later this year on what form Gloucestershire reorganisation should take – a single Unitary Authority or two Unitary Authorities (East and West Gloucestershire). This may impact what powers are devolved to Parish Councils over local issues. County Council elections will go ahead on 1st May 2025.

Fly tipping – Please report fly tipping to the Council. Go to Cotswold District Council website where there is a map that you can pinpoint the fly tipping.

Flooding – further to the notes under Matters Arising there was an incident a couple of weeks ago when the weather was particularly bad, the sluice gates at a property in Rendcomb were opened which resulted in homes in Broadbridge, North Cerney getting flooded. The investigation is ongoing. Cllr. Walton has been checking the Sluice Gates in Cirencester and reported that they are working correctly.

Potholes: GCC received an extra £2.8m from the Government to tackle the issue of potholes in the County. Gloucestershire is a large county and unfortunately not every pothole will be repaired!

5. Cllr Joe Harris – apologies

6. Responsible Finance Officer

Baunton have now received the £753.75 from Cirencester Town Council as the compensation for the loss of our part of the Council Tax relating to the houses on the north side of Baunton Lane. This is the 2nd payment of 4 that CTC agreed to pay us.

The balance on our account now stands at £2,989.35 and at the last meeting it was agreed to pay £400 to each of Citizens Advice and Cirencester Food Bank and £200 to the Church. The transfers will be made before the end of March.

One of our residents has repeated their concern about there being only a single signatory to the BPC bank account. The Responsible Finance Officer will be contacting the bank to get this rectified. In the meantime, he will carry on as he has been, which is to only transfer funds as agreed and minuted by the Council.

7 Parish Plan update

It was agreed that the Parish Plan will be updated this year, although it may make sense to wait until we know whether local government reorganisation may have on Parish Council powers and responsibilities. A Steering Group will be formed consisting of three Parish Councillors, Cllrs. Davies, Potter and Walton plus other residents of the village.

Action: The Chairman will form the Steering Group.

8. Planning

Planning ref: 24/03453/FUL – School House, Baunton. Proposed work to repair property to pre-subsidence condition – **Awaiting decision**

Planning Ref: 24/03702 – 4 The Paddocks, Baunton, demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension - **Permitted**

Planning Ref: 24/0364/FUL - Baunton Rise, Cheltenham Rd. Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. Erection of self-build dwelling, garage and workshop – **Awaiting decision**

Planning Ref: 24/03457/AGFO – Land at E402061 N204732 Extension for agricultural machinery – **Application withdrawn**

Planning Ref: 24/03228/FUL – Sisters House, Welsh Way. Erection of two storey extension connected by the glazed link. Conversion of outbuilding to gym/office with associated works – **Application withdrawn**

9. Potential Bus Shelter

It was agreed that further research be done into erecting a bus shelter on south side of the village on the Cheltenham Road, but in the meantime we should apply for a grant (the deadline for which is the end of March). If we decided not to go forward with the proposal we would not take up the grant.

Action: The Clerk to find out cost and apply for a grant.

10. Parish Plan Action sheet

Flooding/Riparian Group

Two members of the Parish Council will attend the inaugural meeting of the Cirencester and Churn Valley Partnership and Environmental meeting. Riparian owners who are affected will also be invited.

11. Any Other Business

Quad Bikes - A member of the public raised the issue of Quad bikes riding through the Lynches, which is between Baunton and Perrotts Brook. Apparently this happens four or five times a year usually in Spring and Summer.

Post meeting note from Cllr. Moran: *This part of the route is classed as a Restricted Byway. A Restricted Byway is a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback and with non-mechanically propelled vehicles (such as pedal cycles and horse-drawn vehicles). It is illegal to ride a motorcycle on a Restricted Byway*

Preventing anti-social behaviour

If anyone has information about the use of these motorcycles using a Restricted Byway, where they're being ridden and by whom; Call the police on [101](tel:101).

If you want to provide information anonymously, contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111).

12. Date of the next meeting which will include the AGM - May 19th 2025