

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 23rd February 2026
In Baunton Church/Community Centre

Present:

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

1. Apologies:

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

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Monday 24th November 2026

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record apart from two errors:

- a) Remove Annual from the title of the meeting
- b) Item 6 – Town and Parish Council Forum, bullet point 4 should read:
The target set by the government is 18,650 new homes by 2043.
Proposed by Cllr. Dave Walton and seconded by Cllr. Peter Moran.

3 Matters Arising

Telephone Box/Defibrillator - We are having difficulty finding someone locally to paint the Telephone Box. The Clerk has contacted Check traders to see if we can find a painter through them.

4 Cllr Hodgkinson and Cllr Mark Harris – both sent their apologies as CDC were having their budget meeting the same evening. Their update is below.

Local Government Re-organisation

The government consultation has begun and lasts for 7 weeks. It asks for your opinion on 3 options – a Gloucestershire wide council, 2 councils in the county (East and West Gloucestershire or a Gloucester council and a council covering everything else in the county).

Please do say what you think. The link to do so is
at: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/gloucestershire/>

We still anticipate a ministerial decision on the government's preferred option by the beginning of July.

Budget

On 18 February the County Council agreed its 2026/27 budget, listing all the services it will provide in the next year. The Council tax rise was 4.99%.

We faced a significant challenge in producing a budget that honoured commitments, protected and improved essential services as well as absorbing the impact of reduced funding from the Government's 'fair funding review' which has actually meant less cash for Gloucestershire.

However, we have still been able to agree the highest ever investment into Highways, £6.35 million towards the cost of three new adult care homes and a £42m investment in Youth Hubs. Plus an extra £2 million into lowering speed limits where communities want that to happen. See more below.

At the time of writing, CDC had not yet agreed its budget because that's what we'll be debating tomorrow night but a rise of £5 a year is expected for a band D property for CDC's share of your council tax bill.

Local Plan

As mentioned before, the Government has told CDC that it requires it to build 18,500 new homes in the district in the next 20 years. An incredibly challenging figure!

The Leader of the Council has written twice to the Government listing the real problems we face locally given that 80% of the district is in the Cotswold National Landscape which is protected.

The recent consultation on the forthcoming Local Plan (which has been brought forward to deal with the Govt's requirements) included many representations from residents challenging the Govt's demands. All this has been fed back to the Minister.

Note from the Chairman, Cllr. Peter Davies who was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to work:

Peter asked us to discuss whether we wanted to respond as a parish council to the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire which is now open and closes on 26th March. We decided we did and a discussion took place. The outcome was, although not unanimous, that we preferred Option 1. A Unitary Authority for Gloucestershire. Reasons being:

More savings

A two authorities split, would probably mean the two main towns, Gloucester and Cheltenham would get more funding than the smaller towns.

The third option which is an enlarged Gloucester City and the rest of the County was not considered.

5. Responsible Finance Officer report.

The only transactions this quarter were three lots of bank charges of £4.25 each. It was agreed that Cllr. Potter would open an easy access savings account.

Donations to charities were discussed at this meeting and it was agreed they would be as follows:

Cirencester Citizens Advice	£400
Cirencester Foodbank	£400
Parish Church	£200

Our current balance is £2,223.26

The balance sheet will be published on our Website along with the minutes of this meeting at www.Baunton.org

6. GAPTC

Baunton Parish Council will become members of GAPTC from April. The fee will be approximately £100. It is calculated on the number of electorates. We will also be affiliated to NALC via our GAPTC membership.

Action: The Clerk to obtain a copy of NALC's Standing Orders.

7. Planning

No. 25/02566/Ful – Baunton Mill House - New
Gates with name plaques and lights plus the removal of swimming pool - Awaiting decision

No. 26/00166/FUL – 1 Priors Court, Manor Farm. Erection of a single-storey side extension - Awaiting Decision

No. 00016/FULL – 5 Downs Way, Baunton.
Erection of a part single storey and part 1.5 storey detached self-build dwelling with attached car port - Awaiting decision

No. 26/00291/FUL – Woodland Barn Farm, The Whiteway, Cirencester, GL7 7BA – Removal of 2 existing caravans and erection of self-build rural worker's dwelling with associated works. – To be discussed
A short discussion took place about this application and it was decided to hold a separate meeting and invite the applicant.

8. Any other Business

Tree on the Village Green

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that the tree on the village green needs pruning. **ACTION: Cllr. Milner will get a quote.**

Updated digital requirements for Councils

It was agreed that we would comply with the recommendations, though not mandatory, and change our domain name from Baunton.org to Baunton.gov.uk.
A working party consisting of Cllrs. Moran, Walton and Milner will look at the details.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th May. Time to be announced.