

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 24th November 2025
In Baunton Church/Community Centre

Present:

Cllr. Peter Davies - Chairman
Cllr. Alan Rees - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. Dave Walton
Cllr. John Milner
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. Marie Whiteman - Clerk
Cllr. Mark Harris - GCC

1. Apologies:

Cllr. Paul Hodgkinson CDC

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Monday 18th August 2025

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Dave Walton and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Potter.

3 Matters Arising

Bus shelter – The erection of a new bus shelter is on hold for the moment. The parish council do not have sufficient funds available. The Clerk will investigate to see if there are any grants available.

Telephone Box/Defibrillator - there were no offers from residents to smarten up the Phone Box where the Defibrillator is housed. The clerk has contacted professional painters for quotes.

4 & 5 Cllr Hodgkinson and Cllr Mark Harris - In Cllr. Hodgkinson's absence Cllr. Harris updated the meeting on GCC and CDC.

GCC - Highways are still a priority, additional funding has been obtained for maintenance and potholes.

Pressure Services: Adult Care and Children's Services.

Environmental issues remain high: Climate Change and flooding.

Consultation on the Local Transport Plan

Grants are now available from GCC Grass Roots Community Fund.

Post meeting note: Local Government Re-organisation – Gloucestershire councils made a joint submission to the Government on 28th November on the future of local government in the county.

The decision of each council is as follows:

Gloucestershire County Council	One Unitary
Cheltenham Borough Council	Two Unitary East/West
Gloucester City Council	Two Unitary – Greater Gloucester/ Gloucestershire Unitary
Cotswold District Council	One Unitary
Stroud District Council	One unitary
Tewksbury Borough Council	One Unitary
Forest of Dean District Council	None – not supportive of LGR

CDC – Local Plan Review - The Local Plan review is underway. Changes in the Government housing targets mean around 18,650 new homes are now needed in the Cotswold District by 2043. Consultation opened on 14th November, you can take part by going to the Website your.cotswold.gov.uk An exhibition for Cirencester residents is taking place at Corinium Museum on Thursday 18th December between 2p.m. and 7p.m.

Cllr. Harris is looking at setting up Dementia Friendly Communities in the district. Planning is in the early stages at the moment.

6. Town and Parish Council Forum

Cllrs. John Milner and Adrian Potter attended the above forum on Monday, 10th November.

Here are bullet points until we receive the slides from CDC.

1. The planning update related to the new government targets for new homes in our area.
2. The vast majority of this is protected land in one way or another (AONB etc.).
3. Any new builds will have to be in and around existing 'settlements', i.e. Cirencester, Tewkesbury etc.
4. The target set by the government is 18,650 new homes in the next 5 years.
5. CDC currently have c6,950 planned.
6. They approached all landowners in the region to see what sites could be available.
7. They outlined 7 scenarios for new builds, only one of which exceeded the new target, but would have involved creating new settlements and greatly extending existing ones.
8. They opted for scenario 5 which would produce 14,660 houses, still short of the government target.

Following the presentation, there was a Q&A session, which was not particularly enlightening as most speakers were concerned about their own area and weren't looking at the larger picture.

The planners explained that there was much due diligence to be carried out on each site to ensure that it was viable and sustainable.

7. Responsible Finance Officer report

Since 30th June we have had the following transactions:

Income:

VAT refund in relation to the purchase of the defibrillator - £169.

2nd tranche of the precept - £450.

Expenditure:

AGM expenses - £36.40.

Bank charges - £12.75.

BPCC grant re upkeep of the Churchyard - £1,000.

The balance at the end of September was £2,236.01.

Cllr. John Milner on behalf of Baunton Parochial Church Council thanked the Parish Council and the residents of Baunton for their continual support of the upkeep of the Churchyard.

A discussion on raising the precept took place. The grant from Cirencester Town Council will end next year. It was agreed the Precept would be raised to £2000, an increase of £200.

8. Cirencester and Churn Waterways and Environmental Partnership meeting

Cllr. Dave Walton attended the first official meeting of the Partnership. Jo Burgon was elected as Chairman along with 6 other people to form the Management Group.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.

Dr Mike Jones, a local expert on hydrogeology, gave an interesting overview of the rainfall, groundwater levels and Churn flow rates in recent years. He prefers to consider the 'water year' as starting on 1 October which helps give a clearer understanding of the underlying pattern. In that model, 2024-25 had only the 35th most rainfall of the last 44 years (for which he had the full data), while 2023-24 had the highest amount of rainfall. However, there were no floods in 2023-24 in Cirencester, underlining the complexity of the situation. He is of the opinion that natural water storage in the Churn catchment is low, resulting in rapid response to wet and dry weather.

The meeting was asked to prioritise various options for future action using an online polling system. There was a wide spread of responses, but the most popular choices were getting started on some minor nature-based water retention projects in the upper Churn catchment, and developing an overall nature-based solutions plan. There was virtually no support for any development of the Gloucester Road flood gates.

9. Cotswold Police Councillors Advocacy meeting

Cllr. John Milner attended the Cotswold Police Councillors Advocacy meeting online. There was nothing of substance discussed.

The theft of Agricultural machinery is still a problem; unfortunately the Police have limited resources so response is limited.

10. Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils - membership

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that Baunton Parish Council should become a member of the GAPTC.

11. Planning

No 25/02878/TCONR – The Grain House. T1 Robinia – fell and poison stump
Jaquemonti Birch T5mT6 and T7 - Copice - Approved

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

No 2502415/LBC – 1 Priors Court, Manor Farm. Erection of a single-storey side extension - Application refused

11. Any Other Business

Public conveniences in Cirencester

Cllrs asked Cllr Mark Harris when the toilets in the Abbey Grounds and Brewery Car Park were going to be reopened and why there wasn't cameras installed on the ones in the Abbey Grounds as they keep getting vandalised. There are no plans to reopen the Brewery Car Park toilets; Cllr Harris is going to check on progress with the Abbey Grounds toilets.

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd February 2026.