

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th May 2019 @ 7.30 P.M.

In the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Present: Cllr. Elaine Drayton – Chairman
Cllr. Marie Whiteman - Clerk
Cllr. Alan Rees
Cllr. Adrian Potter
Cllr. Peter Moran
Cllr. John Milner
Cllr. Jenny Forde – District Councillor for the Churn and Chedworth Ward
Cllr. Nigel Robbins – County Councillor for the Cirencester/Beeches Ward
28 members of the public

1. Apologies – None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Cllr. Jenny Forde on being re-elected to the Chedworth and Churn Valley Ward.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr. Elaine Drayton was elected as Chairman, proposed by Cllr. Adrian Potter, seconded by Cllr. Alan Rees.

3. Election of Vice-chairman

Cllr. Alan Rees was elected as Vice-Chairman, proposed by Cllr. John Milner, seconded by Cllr. Adrian Potter

4. Responsible Finance Officer's report

The precept was increased by £500 in this year.

Maintenance costs were mainly for batteries and electrodes for the defibrillator.

The payments to the Parish Church consisted of the usual £200 plus a £500 grant towards the upkeep of the Church grounds.

We have been given exemption from an external financial review based on the main criterion that neither our income nor our expenses exceeded £25k.

The accounts have been internally audited by Peter Davies and I would like to record my thanks for his continuing help with this.

Once the accounts have been signed off by the Council, I will post notices about public access to them and provide Cllr. Moran with the necessary documentation to be posted on our website, in order to comply with the transparency guidelines.

A discussion took place about raising the precept again, in relation to the upkeep of the Church grounds, the minutes of our meeting of 13th November 2017, stated that an increase of a £1,000 would put £6.50 on the annual Council Tax for a Band D property (65p per month of payments).

Cllrs. Drayton and Milner declared an interest in this item so were excluded from voting. The other four councillors agreed unanimously to raise the precept by another £500 so the Churchyard could be maintained for the remainder of this Council. The public that were in attendance were asked if anyone had any comments or any objections. Nobody raised any objections.

5. Chairman's report

During the year, the Parish Council has had 4 ordinary meetings in this building, which is our only public space. 6 of the previous parish councillors have been elected in an uncontested election to serve the Parish, which means there is one vacancy.

We considered 11 planning applications and discussed local issues with the Ward and County Councillors, and shared information from CDC, GCC, NHW and other statutory organisations. Minutes of the meetings and the accounts can be seen on our website www.baunton.org.uk

We have continued to promote issues raised by the 2015 Parish Plan for Baunton, which prioritised areas of activity for the Parish Council. Those remaining areas are:

- reduction in noise from the A417;
- flood prevention and
- exploring the potential for developing the Church into a community meeting place, working with the Parochial Church Council.

A417

The A417/419 Noise Action Group chaired by Paul Hodgkinson, will make a concerted effort to raise the issue of the noise and resurfacing of the A417. Their latest communication was a press release in March. It is hoped that Highways England will introduce noise mitigation measure whilst they build the Missing Link road at Birdlip. Baunton is among a list of Parishes who have said they are affected by road noise. The list includes Ampney Crucis Bagendon, Cricklade, Daglingworth, Down Ampney, Driffield, Harnhill, Preston and South Cerney. Retired Cllr Peter Todd was our representative on this group and we would welcome a volunteer to replace him.

Flood prevention

The water level in the River Churn remains low. We have been assured by Thames Water that they are not extracting water illegally. Riparian owners are encouraged to maintain the river banks and keep the river clean.

Church projects

The Parochial Church Council, supported by Cllr John Milner, continues to investigate costs for improving seating, heating and an external toilet facility. More from John later. There is Free WiFi in the church sponsored by Gigaclear.

Additionally

Cllr Peter Moran has updated the Parish Community Emergency plan and it can be viewed on our website. We no longer have a nominated person for Baunton Lane, if you would like to volunteer please speak to Peter Moran. The defibrillator is ready to use but fortunately has not yet been deployed.

One of the attractions of living in Baunton is having the nearby footpaths and cycle path. Please use them responsibly by closing gates and using the dog poo bin.

Thanks

I would like to thank the various volunteers in the Parish who quietly undertake responsibilities on our behalf. Anne Milner is our Tree warden, and Charles Perkins is our Parish Warden from the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens group, Neil Carver is our Snow Warden and a special thank you to Neil's wife Paula and others for keeping the hill passable on the only day of snow we had this Winter in Neil's absence!

Our thanks go to David Bond for donating his gardener to mow the grass on the village green and to Robbie Moran for updating the village maps situated on the village green and in the phone box, which helps delivery drivers locate our properties. We are grateful to Glos Constabulary NHW team for their support and sending regular messages which are forwarded to the parish NHW database.

I would like to thank Peter Moran for maintaining our Baunton parish [website.www.baunton.org.uk](http://www.baunton.org.uk) , Adrian Potter for looking after the accounts and Marie Whitman for her work as clerk to the Council. We also thank our County Councillor Nigel Robbins and Our Ward Councillor Jenny Forde for attending meetings and giving their support.

Last year there were social events including the Summer Hog roast and the Sunday lunch at the Golf club, carol singing and game of Boules on the Village Green.

The Church has been the venue for the Macmillan coffee morning a flower demonstration and farewell party for the postman. The church festivals of Christmas and harvest and Easter and service of remembrance were well supported by residents. We made considerable donations to the Cirencester food Bank at the church.

Many different people have a hand in promoting events but thanks go to the social committee Joanna How, Keith Howse, Richard Musgrave, Annie Perkins, Sandra Rogers and David Shaw. The same people have given their time for several years and new recruits are needed to help organise Parish events. Please consider volunteering for something.

Finally, It must be said that to live in the parish is to enjoy a close community of good neighbours who watch out for each other, taking on roles and organising events for our mutual benefit. Thank you.

6. Address by Victoria Counties History Trust

John Chandler and James Hodson addressed the meeting about the work of the Gloucestershire County History Trust and its background. For the past few years they have been working on the History of Cirencester and surrounding districts which include Baunton. If you would like to support the work of their project, you donate online by visiting www.mydonate.bt.com or contact the Chairman or Clerk of Baunton Parish Council for more details.

7. Address by Sally Thomas, Acting Chair of Baunton Lane Playing Field Group

Sally Thomas updated the meeting on progress with Baunton Lane Playing field. They now have a committee of nine members. They started looking for funding in January and so far have raised £34k. £25k came from a National Grant.

Cirencester Town Council will maintain the Park and will cover the insurance.

Amongst other things the Committee has done and are planning to do are:

- Improve the open green space
- Improve the access
- Create a community hub space
- A community garden with seating
- Nature Board
- Outdoor Gym
- Table Tennis
- Information Board
- Shade is required and will be done through tree planting
- Wildlife cameras to be installed.

It is hoped Park will be enjoyed by everyone from toddlers to seniors.

8. Address by Cllr. Jenny Forde

385 votes feels much better than two! This time I was voted in with a much more comfortable majority and I'm so pleased and honoured to be re-elected to serve this Ward. The Cotswolds now has a Lib Dem controlled District Council for the very first time in its entire history and we have a fabulous diverse energetic team bursting with progressive ideas of how to move this council forward.

The P's continue to be a priority – Parking, planning, poo and potholes!

Planning: Hasn't been a great deal of volume in this Parish and nothing too controversial.

The Chesterton development was approved and talking to people on the doorstep over the past year, I am aware of all the concerns residents have over this ranging from infrastructure, roads, schools and parking to the implications for the environment, culture and character of our beloved Cirencester.

North Cerney new housing – Churn Bridge Row is progressing well. To confirm there will be 12 brand new affordable housing units just past Churnside on the left as you enter North Cerney on the Cheltenham Road.

Cirencester Housing are determined for these to go to local people who live and/or work in the area. To be put on the list to receive notifications about potentially renting or purchasing a shared ownership unit, people can email, phone or write.

Email: contact@cirencesterhousing.org.uk

Tel: 01285 658377

Litter & Dog Poo: Litter and dog poo are on-going issues but I've been impressed by what a difference the community litter picks make so keep up the good work.

Parking in Cirencester:

I remain a member of the CDC "Parking Project Board" looking for a solutions to parking across Cirencester. The good news is that the Council is still progressing with the multi storey car park on the Waterloo. An important project which attracts a lot of "comment" but I am determined along with the Chair, Cllr Mark Harris to ensure we build something that is sympathetic to enhances the character of Cirencester and is fit for the future – cycle parking, accessible toilets, electric charging points, environmentally friendly

credentials etc. it will have my name associated with it so I can assure you it's in my interests to ensure it's the best it can be.

Community Funds – I have access to funds allocated to each Councillor and I always ensure that these are used. So, a commemorative bench in North Cerney in the shape of a Poppy. Some money to Baunton Youth Football club to enable them to run their highly successful football coaching programme in the Summer. I also support applications for restoration of buildings such as village halls etc and look forward to supporting the transformation of this building (church) in whatever way I can.

I have some 8 parishes in my ward, they are all different and all have their own characteristics and personalities. There are commonalities though and one of the overriding aspects I always take away from rural living is that sense of true community spirit, a sense of really looking out for one another, wanting to ensure that your villages and hamlets are well kept, loved and respected. And it feels more acute than urban living in a way that I am always keen to support and defend.

You are very lucky to have such a proactive and hardworking Parish Council who work for you all year round, turning up in the deepest darkest winter nights in the cold, to discuss ways to ensure that your village is well cared for and preserved. And, you have an award winning Chair!

It's our first Full Council meeting tomorrow and for the rest of the year we are aiming to hold Full Council and Cabinet meetings at a time that is hopefully more accessible for more residents – for example in the evenings so that people can come and see for themselves what we are doing on their behalf. After recent years of controversy it's great to be given this opportunity to renew the democratic process and open up the council to the people it serves.

As always, I am committed to serving you and assisting and supporting to make our lives as good as they can be in the Churn Valley.

10 Date of meetings 2017/18

The dates of the meetings for 2019/20 are: Monday 12th August 2019, Monday 11th November 2019, Monday 10th February 2020 and Monday 11th May 2020.