

BAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 @ 6.30 P.M.

Virtual via Zoom

Present:

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

Cllr. Jenny Forde – Ward Councillor  
Cllr. Nigel Robbins – County Councillor

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of the Parish meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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

3. **Matters Arising** - None

4. **Address by Cllr. Nigel Robbins**

Cllr. Robbins told the meeting that elections for Gloucestershire County Council will be taking place in May this year. Under the present regulations canvassing or leaflet dropping is not allowed. Cllr. Robbins will not be standing this time; he is going to concentrate on Cirencester Town Council, he is also taking up a role as a Church Warden with Cirencester Parish Church.

Cllr. Robbins spoke about the recent flooding and said the Cotswold District Council had few powers except to lobby the other agencies which are the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Gloucestershire County Council.

The Liberal Democratic party on Gloucestershire County Council are proposing an amendment to the County's budget to establish 20 mph zones in the district, especially in the towns.

5. **Update from Cllr. Jenny Forde – CDC Ward Councillor**

Cllr. Forde updated the meeting on the following:-

**Covid 19 Second lockdown** – CDC have contacted four thousand residents in the Cotswolds who are shielding or have special needs. Everyone they contacted was very pleased with the way their communities have supported them.

**Vaccination rollout:** The vaccination programme in the Cotswolds and across Gloucestershire has gone very well with all those who were called in from the top four groups attending.

**Flooding:** The Flooding Forum held by Cotswold District Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February was very well attended, this has been the third wettest winter on record and several houses were flooded in Cirencester, South Cerney and other local villages. Representative from all the agencies were present at the Forum along with many members of the public. No homes were flooded in Baunton.

**Crowd Funding Cotswold:** Cotswold District Council is launching its new online crowd funding platform on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to give residents the opportunity to improve local places. The aim of Crowd Funding Cotswolds is to fund and deliver on ideas to improve the District put forward by the local community for the local community. Cllr. Milner will liaise with Charles Perkins to see if the reordering of the Church could benefit from the initiative.

**Business Financial Support** - The Council has distributed business grant across the district totalling £9.3m.

## **6. Responsible Finance Officer's report**

Cllr. Potter presented the accounts for the period 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Council currently has a balance of £1113.95. This is the time of year when the Parish Council looks at donations to worthy causes. This year it was agreed that £200 would be donated to Citizens Advice, £300 to Cirencester Foodbank and £1000 to the Church for the upkeep of the graveyard which has already been paid. The first tranche of the precept will be paid in April.

A copy of the accounts is available to view on the Baunton Website [www.baunton.org](http://www.baunton.org)

## **7. Planning**

Ref: 20/02848/FUL - Conversion and extension of Stone stables land north east of 2 Mill View – Permit

Ref: 20/03925/TCONR – Maintenance on four trees at 1 Priors Court – Permit

Ref: 20/03617/TCONR – Reduce height and spread of four Ash trees at Baunton Mill due to Ash dieback – Permit

Ref: Conversion of former shelter sheds to one dwelling at Dillies Farm – Awaiting decision

## **8. Adoption of the Village Green**

The Parish Council agreed that we would go ahead with the adoption of the Village Green. Cllr Peter Davies will take on this project with the assistance of Chris Alexander.

## **9. Parish Action Plan**

**Church meeting place project – update from Cllr. Milner**

**Heating**

Cllr. Milner confirmed that the heating has now been installed and is working. It can be controlled by a remote app which Councillor Milner has on his phone.

### **Replacing Pews**

All the pews have been disposed of and chairs are in place, socially distanced at present.

### **Kitchenette and Toilet**

Ground works to bring in a water supply and provide soak away drainage will hopefully start in May. It is hoped the kitchen and toilet will be installed in the Autumn. The plan is everything should be ready for the Carol Service in December.

Between £4k - £5k is still needed to complete the project.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Milner will write a piece to go in the Stratton and Baunton Newsletter.

### **Flooding/Riparian group**

Despite the continued rain since Boxing Day no properties in the village were flooded. The river overflowed into the flood meadows and for a short time came across the road out of the village but the road remained passable. The Council discussed whether it should store sandbags for any future flooding, it was agreed that we wouldn't do this as we have no public buildings and sandbags do not store well.

There are places where the side of the road close to the bridge and also along Westlake Hill have been washed away by water; the clerk will contact Highways to ask if they can repair this as in places it is exposing Gigaclear optic cable. There are also several pot holes in the village that need filling in.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to contact Highways. Cllr Robbins also offered to speak to the Highways Manager for this area.

### **A417/419 Action Group**

Nothing to report.

## **10. Correspondence**

### **Speed limit**

A letter has been received from Dr. Morrish of Shipton Oliffe asking if Baunton would like to join forces with three other Parish Councils to get the 30mph speed limit reduced to 20 mph as the present Government has no plans to do this. The cost of this would be approximately £2500 to each parish. After a discussion it was agreed that Baunton Parish Council would not be taking part in this project.

### **Scottish and Southern Electricity Network**

Correspondence was also received from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks about Winter Awareness 2021. They are keen to promote that our most vulnerable residents are covered by their Priority Services Register. Members of the Parish Councils will be delivering leaflets with all the information in the next couple of weeks.

## **Digibus Gloucestershire**

The Parish Council was informed of a new project in Gloucestershire where a Digibus will visit towns and parishes offering personalised sessions and workshops at no charge. They need somewhere to park their bus where there is access to a toilet and unfortunately Baunton doesn't have that facility. It is hoped that when the Church has been reordered arrangements can be made to hold classes there.

**11. Date of next meeting - The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th May 2021.**