

# BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday 11 July, 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

<b>Present:</b>	Dorothy Tonge (DT; Chair), Lauren Collett (LC) John Maskell (JM), Laurence Attewill (LA), Elizabeth Gillespie (EG), Tom James (TJ; Clerk) Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SC-R; SODC), Robin Bennet (RB; SODC)
<b>Members of the public</b>	There were six members of the public in attendance

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
035/22	<b>Introduction by the Chairman</b>	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the public were informed that they would be given the opportunity to speak about a topic on the agenda before it was discussed by the Council. However, they would not be permitted to interject with comments once the Council had begun their discussions.	
036/22	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Dance	
037/22	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	There were no new declarations of interest made.	
038/22	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2022 were approved as an accurate record	<b>Minutes approved</b>
039/22	<b>Matters arising</b>	There were no matters arising from the minutes	
040/22	<b>Open Forum</b>	There were no extra items raised by the public.	
041/22	<b>Village Matters</b> (i) Renovation of the Southern Track.	The Clerk informed the Council that 80% of homeowners along the track had subscribed to the three-year annual maintenance fund, managed by the Council. With a maintenance plan in place, the Council could go ahead and place an order for the renovation of the southern track. The Clerk explained, again, what would be involved and it was agreed that the work should be closely monitored to ensure the correct camber was installed.	<b>Approved</b>
042/22	(ii) Parking outside the Seven Stars	With the work on the track planned from September, it was agreed that the plans for the parking outside the pub needed to be planned carefully.  The creation of a peninsular at the entrance to the track was agreed at the previous meeting. The Clerk reported that the track from opposite the pub was going to be reduced to 7 or 8 metres to the first wooden post and then 5 metres from the post to Durham Leys farm. The contractor will back fill the track with topsoil which will then be seeded. The Clerk explained that during this time there will be temporary	

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		<p>fencing along the green and cars will not be able to park on the green.</p> <p>Reducing the height of the pound was discussed. The Council heard that the grass will not be removed but soil will be removed from below the turf and used for the peninsular. The turf will then be replaced.</p> <p>Concerns that the pound was being turned into another car park were raised, however, it was agreed that this was already happening.</p> <p>There was a vote on the proposal to reduce the height of the pound:</p> <p>Proposal passed by 3 votes to 1.</p>	
043/22	(iii) St Lawrence church and parking	<p>The Council heard that a small number of complaints had been received about the number of cars parking by the church. These cars were preventing families from maintaining graves.</p> <p>The Council felt that there was little evidence of over-parking and it felt it was important to enable people to make full use of the walks from the church. The church would like to erect a sign at the start of the lane, informing visitors that only homeowners and church-goers should drive down the drive.</p> <p>The Council advised that the Parochial Council should consult with Queens who own the lane. The council will also write to the land agents</p>	
044/22	(iv) Bridleway in Marsh Baldon	<p>The Council was informed that while the drainage along the path had been improved there was concern that the verge was damaged during the work. A request was made to restore the bridleway to 3 metres by restoring the verges.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the Council had sought advice from the Countryside Department of OCC, who felt this was not a matter for the Council. The advice also acknowledged that verges were routinely damaged by agricultural vehicles using the path for legitimate reasons.</p> <p>The Chairman felt that, on the basis of the advice from the Countryside , the Council had no responsibility on this concern.</p>	
045/22	(v) Noticeboards	<p>The Clerk distributed two options for the replacement noticeboards. Given the cost of maintenance, there was a proposal that ‘man-made timber’ noticeboards should be installed in Marsh and Toot Baldon.</p> <p>The vote was split 2:2 and the Chairman voted for the maintenance-free noticeboards.</p>	<b>Clerk to order noticeboards</b>
046/22	(vi) Jubilee Trees	<p>Following an email from Marsh Baldon School it was agreed that the school should be invited to help plant a Jubilee tree on the green (replacement for the tree blown down in the wind). It was also proposed that a second tree be planted in the churchyard at St Lawrence, once JM confirmed the location.</p>	<b>Clerk to contact the school</b>
047/22	(vii) Hedgerows	<p>The Council had received an email with a proposal to renovate some of the hedgerows in the villages. LA felt that the Council needed more information and quotes. Once the</p>	<b>LA to liaise with those</b>

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		size of the project was known then the Council would need to consult Queens College.	<b>supporting the project.</b>																																								
<b>048/22</b>	<b>Report from OCC</b>	RB highlighted the following points from his monthly report: 1. OCC has created a Cost of living website to enable residents to apply for financial help 2. Initiative to increase bus use. Councillors were quick to highlight the number of complaints concerning the change in bus routes. 3. Road plans for traffic travelling from Didcot to Golden Balls roundabout. Council raised concerns about increased traffic through Nuneham Courtenay. 4. Adoption of Vision zero designed to reduce cycle deaths to zero.																																									
<b>049/22</b>	<b>Report from SODC</b>	SC-R alerted the Council to a Household support fund available to local residents. Applicants for the annual Councillor grants should be made soon. A hearing -loop in the hall would qualify for such a grant.																																									
<b>050/22</b>	<b>Treasurer's report</b>	<p>(i) The Council adopted the Internal Audit report, noting that there were no recommendations. The Treasurer informed the Council that there would be change in practice with reference to the Clerk's salary and Chairman's expenses.</p> <p>(ii) The Treasurer explained that the Chairman's expenses would now be calculated as a percentage of the annual costs, such as telephone, IT services etc. The Council approved a sum 2% of running costs to a sum not exceeding £200.</p> <p>(iii) The following invoices were approved:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount (incl VAT) (£)</th> <th>VAT (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>29.5.22</td> <td>Clearing saplings</td> <td>M Drew</td> <td>240.00</td> <td>40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30.5.22</td> <td>Dog waste bin emptying</td> <td>Tactical Facilities</td> <td>96.66</td> <td>16.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31.5.22</td> <td>Mowing the Green</td> <td>Ady.Podbery</td> <td>180.00</td> <td>30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.6.22</td> <td>Insurance</td> <td>BHIB insurance</td> <td>318.28</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.6.22</td> <td>Internal audit</td> <td>Auditing Solutions</td> <td>210.00</td> <td>35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.6.22</td> <td>Dog waste bin emptying</td> <td>Tactical Facilities</td> <td>77.33</td> <td>12.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.7.22</td> <td>Clerk's salary claim</td> <td>TJames</td> <td>720.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The accounts, checked by Cllr Maskell, were approved</p>	Date	Description	Payee	Amount (incl VAT) (£)	VAT (£)	29.5.22	Clearing saplings	M Drew	240.00	40.00	30.5.22	Dog waste bin emptying	Tactical Facilities	96.66	16.11	31.5.22	Mowing the Green	Ady.Podbery	180.00	30.00	1.6.22	Insurance	BHIB insurance	318.28		1.6.22	Internal audit	Auditing Solutions	210.00	35.00	4.6.22	Dog waste bin emptying	Tactical Facilities	77.33	12.89	4.7.22	Clerk's salary claim	TJames	720.00		<p><b>Internal Audit adopted</b></p> <p><b>Chairman's expenses fixed</b></p> <p><b>Invoices approved</b></p> <p><b>Monthly accounts approved</b></p>
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<b>051/22</b>	<b>Local Planning</b>	There were no new planning applications. The Clerk informed the Council that there was a proposal to build 6 houses on land overlooking the west side of the green. The Council will meet with the planner, online, in late August.																																									

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<b>052/22</b>	<b>Item for the next Agenda</b>	Plans for 6 houses on land on the west side of the green Revised Code of Conduct	
<b>053/22</b>	<b>Dates of the next meetings</b>	<b>12 September</b> <b>14 November</b> <b>9 January</b> <b>13 March</b> <b>At 7.30 pm at the Village Hall</b>	

Signed as a true record: .....

Date: .....