

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Dawn McGiveron (Chairman; DMcG), Andy Speight (Vice-Chairman; AS), Phil Price (PP), Lauren Collett (LC), Sally-Anne Williams (S-AW), Tom James (TJ, Clerk), Catherine Morgan, Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC)
Members of the public	There were ten members of the public in attendance

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
092/23	Introduction by the Chairman	The Chairman welcomed and thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting	
093/23	Apologies for absence:	Apologies were accepted from Cllr. White and Robin Bennett (OCC)	
094/23	Declarations of Interests	There were no new declarations of interest made.	
095/23	Minutes of the Previous Meetings	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023 were approved as an accurate record Proposed: DMcG Seconded: S-AW	Approved
096/23	Matters Arising	Cllr Price suggested that, in future, the council should organise shredding of village Christmas trees. This would help recycle the trees and provide useful mulching for gardens.	
097/23	Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns with the poor road drainage in Toot Baldon were raised. The Council was already in communication with Highways about the problem. There was also the problem that the gully designed to prevent water running down Toot Baldon Hill was above the level of the road and therefore not collecting any water. • Possible sewage run-off was reported from houses in Toot Baldon. It is hoped that the proposed Thames Water pumping station will alleviate these problems. • Concerns were expressed that the proposed development on the west side of the Green will result in flooding problems for neighbouring houses. The Council agreed to scrutinize the drainage scheme once it had been published. • A letter was presented to the Council requesting an increase in financial support for cutting the grass in the village churchyards. The Council agreed to consider the request and report back at the next meeting. • It was confirmed that the planning proposal for Highfield Farm was for one new house. There will be no changes to the current footpaths. 	
098/23	Village Matters	(i) The Annual Villages meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 22 nd April 2024	

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		<p>(ii) The Annual village clear-up will take place at 10.00am on Saturday 13th April 2024.</p> <p>(iii) There is a working party looking at those areas of the Neighbourhood Plan that need major revision. In particular, possible development sites will be reviewed and the design statements, etc restated. Work has begun on extending the conservation area in Toot Baldon. Hopefully, the amendments will go to consultation in late February.</p> <p>(iv) The bench, donated by the Masonic Lodge, is ready for installation on the west side of the Green. LC will liaise with the Cricket Club over a suitable date.</p> <p>(v) A member of the village has offered to have a bench made of oak to replace the current bench which sits beneath a tree planted by a member of their family, some 70 years ago. The Council unanimously approved of the project.</p>																															
099/23	Report from OCC	The monthly report from OCC focused on the problems associated with the recent floods.																															
100/23	Report from SODC	<p>The monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. SC-R highlighted a number of points:</p> <p>a. Consultations over the preferred options for the Joint Local Plan will begin soon.</p> <p>b. The Climate Committee has been focussing on reducing energy losses from leisure centres and other large buildings.</p> <p>c. A new website has been launched which is a major improvement on the previous version.</p> <p>d. The Council heard about the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray project by BBONT.</p> <p>The council enquired about RAC in public buildings, such as leisure centres. SC-R agreed to investigate.</p>																															
101/23	Treasurer's report	<p>(i) The reconciled accounts for November and December were approved. Proposed: PP Seconded: LC</p> <p>(ii) The invoices, since the November meeting, were approved.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount (incl VAT) (£)</th> <th>VAT (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7.11.23</td> <td>Google Cloud</td> <td>Google</td> <td>32.20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>30.11.23</td> <td>Dog bin emptying</td> <td>Tactical Facilities</td> <td>128.88</td> <td style="color: red;">21.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30.11.23</td> <td>Strimming the Wilmots</td> <td>Nigel Cullen</td> <td>231.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.12.23</td> <td>Replacing oak posts by MB school</td> <td>Martin Drew</td> <td>180.00</td> <td style="color: red;">30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.12.23</td> <td>Google Cloud</td> <td>Google</td> <td>32.20</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed: PP Seconded: LC</p> <p>(iii) The final budget for 2024-2025 was approved. It was agreed that £5000 should be set aside for the maintenance of drainage ditches in the villages. Major improvements to Tinny Lane and other footpaths/bridleway could be funded with CIL. Proposed: S-AW Seconded: DMcG</p> <p>(iv) The increase in Precept was discussed at length. The Council was keen to balance the increased cost of living pressures with the need to maintain services in the villages. It was unanimously agreed that</p>	Date	Description	Payee	Amount (incl VAT) (£)	VAT (£)	7.11.23	Google Cloud	Google	32.20		30.11.23	Dog bin emptying	Tactical Facilities	128.88	21.88	30.11.23	Strimming the Wilmots	Nigel Cullen	231.00		4.12.23	Replacing oak posts by MB school	Martin Drew	180.00	30.00	7.12.23	Google Cloud	Google	32.20		<p>Accounts approved</p> <p>Invoices approved</p> <p>Budget approved</p> <p>Precept approved</p>
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		<p>the Council tax for a Band D house should rise by 6% giving a Precept of £15180 (£10120 for Marsh Baldon and £5060 for Toot Baldon).</p> <p>Proposed: DMcG Seconded: AS</p> <p>(v) It was agreed to continue with the current Internal Auditor from Auditing Solutions.</p>	Internal auditor appointed
102/23	Local Planning	<p>P23/S4261/CM – new pumping station. Concerns were raised over the extent of the road closures associated with this project. This will be raised at the consultation.</p> <p>P23/S3947/O – development work at Hillfield Farm. The Council felt that this application met the requirements for a suitable infilling project and would approve the application on the understanding that only one new house was proposed.</p>	
103/23	Planning decisions	Permission has been granted for Court Leys House, TB, Dovers, MB, Little Baldon Farm and Land on the west of the Green, MB.	
104/23	Item for the next Agenda	<p>Grass cutting at churchyards</p> <p>Report on play area project</p>	
105/23	Date of Next Meeting	11 March 2024 at 7.30pm	
106/23	Future dates	<p>22 April 2024 – Annual Villages Meeting</p> <p>13 May 2024 – BPC AGM</p> <p>8 July 2024</p> <p>9 September 2024</p> <p>11 November 2024</p> <p>13 January 2025</p> <p>10 March 2025</p>	

Signed as a true record:

Date: