

Baldons Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Cllr Dawn McGiveron (Chair DMcG), Cllr John Clark (JC), Cllr Adam White (AW), Cllr Sally-Anne Williams (SW), County Cllr Robin Bennett (RB), Catherine Morgan (Clerk)
Members of the public	There were 3 members of the public in attendance

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
095/24	Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Speight and District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye.	
096/24	Declarations of Interests	None	
097/24	Minutes of the Previous Meetings	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th January 2025 were approved as an accurate record.	
098/24	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising.	
099/24	Open Forum	There were no comments made.	
100/24	Village Matters	i) Neighbourhood Development Plan Review update The document is currently with the PC for review. It will then be sent to SODC to conduct a second consultation.	
		ii) Tinny Lane - progress on additional material and bollard installation There were already five bags of stone left over from the gabion construction in Marsh Baldon, which will be used here. The bollards had arrived but were yet to be installed due to the concrete requiring warmer weather.	
		iii) To discuss the option to install an EV charging parking space It was RESOLVED not to pursue this due to insufficient need identified.	
		iv) Benches - new and refurbishment There was still no word on the Masonic bench. Bench located under the oak tree was awaiting refurbishment, but was solid and usable. It was RESOLVED to conduct a bench audit of the parish to confirm existing number, status and location of benches. It was RESOLVED to provide a maximum budget of £1000 for a new bench for the corner of the Green.	Action: AS to provide an update Action: DMcG to refurbish Action: SAW Action: DMcG
		v) Flooding issues A meeting had been arranged with OCC Highways for 18th March. This was specifically to look at the areas affected within their jurisdiction. Other areas had already been	

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		<p>investigated by Leigh Travers at SODC, who had deemed the gullies as functioning but at capacity.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to conduct a review of the current flooding hotspots in the Parish and to apply for the grant funding available through Oxfordshire County Council Priority Action Flood Projects 2025/6. Deadline for application was 18th April.</p>	Action: AS to lead on this
		<p>vi) Update on pond clearance It was too late in the year to remove saplings from the ponds due to the presence of great crested newts, so this will be carried out in autumn. In the meantime, it was RESOLVED to coppice some of the smaller willows and pollard some of the larger willows.</p> <p>JC had received permission to remove some of the large trees, with a trunk diameter >75mm @1.5m high, which would also have to be carried out in autumn.</p>	Action: JC to lead on this
		<p>vii) Review posts along southside of Green Since the trial removal of some of the posts, a number of cars had already driven on the Green and caused damage. However, as it was previously resolved during the November meeting (minute 073/24 iv) to review the posts in May, the review will be conducted then.</p>	Action: Clerk to add review to May agenda.
		<p>viii) Update on the ANPR project DMcG & JC attended the OCC cabinet meeting on this, where the project was approved. There was some concern regarding people with genuine reason to access the village for only a short period. RB highlighted that number plate exceptions can be implemented. The PC is awaiting more details on this before formally briefing the Parish.</p>	
		<p>ix) Digital Voice Communications There were concerns about landlines being converted to digital as in the event of a power cut these phones would no longer work. Power cuts are not unusual in The Baldons and the mobile phone coverage is poor.</p> <p>RB possibly had the contact details for a specific representative at OCC who dealt with this.</p>	<p>Action: JC to send another reminder on Baldons Info</p> <p>Action: JC to follow up</p>
		<p>x) Update on website changes JC, SAW and the Clerk met to discuss this. Changes were originally inspired by the push to switch to a .gov.uk domain name but the main focus was to streamline the website and update the design. This was ongoing.</p>	Action: JC, SAW and the Clerk to finalise plans
		<p>xi) Plan for the Annual Parishes Meeting The Annual Parishes Meeting would take place on 14th April.</p>	Action: DMcG to publish a reminder to the Parishes

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		<p>It was RESOLVED to invite the following organisations/people to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Charity • Baldons Events Committee • Marsh Baldon CofE School • Mole Inn • Seven Stars in addition to the Pub Committee • Cricket Club • Churches Warden • Village Hall Committee • Mason • District Councillor • County Councillor • A representative from the Little Baldon business committee 	Action: Clerk to send invitations																																																																																															
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103/24	RFO report	<p>a. To receive the current status of the accounts</p> <p>The current status of the accounts were accepted and approved. Proposed DMcG, Seconded.AW</p> <p>b. To approve the invoices since January meeting</p> <p>Payment Schedule for 10th March 2025</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>11/02/2025</td> <td>Grass cutting January</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>141.50</td> <td>23.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Dog bin emptying January</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>111.70</td> <td>18.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Ditch flailing and ditch waterway clearance</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>2791.20</td> <td>465.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Hedge cutting behind pavilion & flailing</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>336.00</td> <td>56.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Clerk salary January</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>532.03</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Clerk expenses January</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>15.30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Gabions opposite Seven Stars</td> <td>Gabion1</td> <td>887.60</td> <td>117.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Gabion stones & ancillary materials</td> <td>AWBS</td> <td>996.86</td> <td>166.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>2024-2025 CiLCA mentoring for clerk</td> <td>OALC</td> <td>165.00</td> <td>27.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Refreshments for gabion volunteers</td> <td>Andrew Speight</td> <td>19.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Gabion reflectors</td> <td>Amazon</td> <td>19.98</td> <td>3.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/02/2025</td> <td>Village Hall rental for meetings</td> <td>Baldons Village Hall Committee</td> <td>249.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/02/2025</td> <td>Grass seed and grinder for gabion work</td> <td>Amazon</td> <td>24.98</td> <td>1.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06/03/2025</td> <td>Clerk salary February</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>417.44</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>26/02/2025</td> <td>Grass cutting February</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>141.50</td> <td>23.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26/02/2025</td> <td>Dog bin emptying February</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>111.70</td> <td>18.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02/03/2025</td> <td>OALC Annual Membership</td> <td>OALC</td> <td>216.00</td> <td>36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>7177.29</td> <td>957.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c. To discuss and agree an alternative investment option</p> <p>The clerk had provided details of some of the alternative organisations that parish councils commonly use for investing funds. It was also suggested to consider Tide or Alica.</p> <p>After extensive discussion it was RESOLVED to compare options for investing £30k in a 30-35 day access cash account, with dual authorisation.</p>	Date	Description	Payee	Amount (incl VAT) (£)	VAT (£)	11/02/2025	Grass cutting January	Tactical Facilities Management	141.50	23.58	11/02/2025	Dog bin emptying January	Tactical Facilities Management	111.70	18.62	11/02/2025	Ditch flailing and ditch waterway clearance	Tactical Facilities Management	2791.20	465.20	11/02/2025	Hedge cutting behind pavilion & flailing	Tactical Facilities Management	336.00	56.00	11/02/2025	Clerk salary January	C Morgan	532.03		11/02/2025	Clerk expenses January	C Morgan	15.30		11/02/2025	Gabions opposite Seven Stars	Gabion1	887.60	117.22	11/02/2025	Gabion stones & ancillary materials	AWBS	996.86	166.14	11/02/2025	2024-2025 CiLCA mentoring for clerk	OALC	165.00	27.50	11/02/2025	Refreshments for gabion volunteers	Andrew Speight	19.50		11/02/2025	Gabion reflectors	Amazon	19.98	3.34	11/02/2025	Village Hall rental for meetings	Baldons Village Hall Committee	249.00		24/02/2025	Grass seed and grinder for gabion work	Amazon	24.98	1.83	06/03/2025	Clerk salary February	C Morgan	417.44		26/02/2025	Grass cutting February	Tactical Facilities Management	141.50	23.58	26/02/2025	Dog bin emptying February	Tactical Facilities Management	111.70	18.62	02/03/2025	OALC Annual Membership	OALC	216.00	36.00			Total	7177.29	957.63	<p>Accounts approved</p> <p>Invoices approved</p> <p>Action: Clerk to present preferred option at May meeting</p>
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104/24	Local Planning	<p>To consider and agree new planning applications:</p> <p>P25/S0423/HH: Demolition of garage and construction of a new oak framed garage, garden and log store with larch weatherboarding. 19th March. 11 The Green Marsh Baldon OX44 9LW.</p>																																																																																																

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		<p>The PC had no objections to this application and RESOLVED to submit support for this.</p> <p>To receive decision notices:</p> <p>P25/S0206/PDS Add new first floor storey. Cornerways Baldon Row Toot Baldon OX44 9NE</p>	Action: Clerk to submit response.
105/24	Item for the next Agenda	Investment options.	
106/24	Date of Next Meeting	Monday 14 th April - Annual Parish Meeting 7:30pm	
107/24	Future dates	12 th May - Annual Parish Council Meeting 14 th July 8 th September 10 th November	
	Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 21:30pm	

Signed as a true record:

Date: