

# Baldons Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Dawn McGiveron (Chair DMcG), Cllr Andy Speight (Vice Chair AS), Cllr John Clark, (JC), Cllr Sally-Anne Williams (SW), County Cllr Robin Bennett (RB), District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR), Catherine Morgan (Clerk)
<b>Members of the public</b>	There were 3 members of the public in attendance

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
096/24	<b>Introduction by the Chairman</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
097/24	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	Apologies were received from Cllr White.	
098/24	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	None	
099/24	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved as an accurate record.	
100/24	<b>Matters Arising</b>	The Chair announced that Cllr Price had resigned from the Council.	<b>Action: Clerk to publish Notice of Casual Vacancy</b>
101/24	<b>Open Forum</b>	<p>A member of the public queried the progress on benches in the Parish. It was RESOLVED to add this to the next agenda.</p> <p>Thomas James (Chair of the Governors of the School) wished to publicly thank the Queen's College for the donation of land for a new outdoor education space.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether minutes of the PC meetings could be published on the Baldons Info email. It was RESOLVED to do this.</p> <p>A member of the public queried the status of the grass cutting on the northern end of the West Side of the Green.</p>	<p><b>Action: Clerk to add to agenda</b></p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to publish minutes on Baldons Info</b></p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to confirm this is now included in the SLA</b></p>
102/24	<b>Village Matters</b>	<p><b>i) Trees maintenance</b></p> <p>The PC met with the Queen's College before Christmas to discuss this issue and the respective responsibilities for the trees were in the process of being agreed.</p>	

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		Clearance of self-seeded trees from the ponds were discussed. It was RESOLVED to seek professional advice about this.	Action: JC to seek professional advice
		<b>ii) Parking areas on the Green</b> JC & AS met with the school to discuss parking in front of the school and the potential for a walking bus. It was RESOLVED to keep a watching brief on this for the time being.	
		<b>iii) Protection of bank opposite Seven Stars</b> After consideration of different materials it was concluded that a gabion, installed by volunteers, would be the most appropriate solution in this location. It was RESOLVED to install a gabion approximately 9m long and 0.5m high, with reflectors, and an agreed budget of £2000 + VAT.  It had been identified that part of the erosion was being caused by the school bus turning in this location. It was RESOLVED to speak to the bus company to highlight this issue and explore potential solutions.	Action: AS to proceed with this.  Action: DMcG to call bus company
		<b>iv) Flooding Issues</b> The PC was due to meet with Leigh Travers (Flood Risk and Drainage Engineer at SODC) to conduct a site visit, but this had to be postponed due to the water being frozen.  RB reported that flooding had been discussed at the Nuneham Courtney PC meeting the previous week.	Action: Clerk to request further details from NC clerk
		<b>v) Installation of bollards on Tinny Lane</b> AS reported that three quotes had been received for this work, ranging from £750 to £1500. It was RESOLVED to accept the lowest quote.  It was RESOLVED to also add more material at the bottom end of Tinny Lane.	Action: Clerk to instruct contractor  Action: AS to progress this
		<b>vi) Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan Review</b> The PC expressed gratitude to the nine residents who responded to the update, in addition to a number of statutory consultees. DMcG was to meet with the SODC planning team later that week to clarify some details of this.	Action: DMcG to meet with SODC planning team
		<b>vii) Agree date for Spring Village Litter Pick</b> RESOLVED to hold this on Saturday 26th April.	Action: Clerk to order kit
103/24	Report from OCC	County Councillor Robin Bennett's report can be read in full on The Baldons website, here: <a href="http://www.baldons.org.uk">www.baldons.org.uk</a> .	
104/24	Report from SODC	District Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye's report can be read in full on The Baldons website, here: <a href="http://www.baldons.org.uk">www.baldons.org.uk</a> .	

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105/24	RFO report	<p><b>a. To receive the current status of the accounts</b></p> <p>The current status of the accounts were accepted and approved. Proposed DMcG, Seconded JC.</p> <p><b>b. To approve the invoices since September meeting</b></p> <p>Payment Schedule for 13th January 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>26/11/2024</td> <td>Grass cutting November</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>141.50</td> <td>23.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26/11/2024</td> <td>Dog bin emptying November</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>103.10</td> <td>17.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30/11/2024</td> <td>Grass Cutting Toot Baldon 2024</td> <td>Nigel Cullen</td> <td>212.51</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10/12/2024</td> <td>Clerk salary November</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>376.51</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10/12/2024</td> <td>Clerk expenses October</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>15.30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/12/2024</td> <td>Sleepers for retaining Green</td> <td>AWBS</td> <td>672.00</td> <td>112.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17/12/2024</td> <td>Grass cutting December</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>141.50</td> <td>23.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17/12/2024</td> <td>Dog bin emptying December</td> <td>Tactical Facilities Management</td> <td>128.88</td> <td>21.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06/01/2025</td> <td>Clerk salary December</td> <td>C Morgan</td> <td>360.14</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>06/01/2025</td> <td>Materials for retaining Green</td> <td>AntWorks</td> <td>36.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>06/01/2025</td> <td>Contribution of churchyard maintenance 2024</td> <td>PCC</td> <td>1272.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>3459.44</b></td> <td><b>197.82</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>c. To consider and agree budget for 2025/2026</b></p> <p>The RFO had previously circulated a draft budget. It was RESOLVED to include £3k for ditch dredging and removal of the self-seeded trees in the ponds under Special Projects, in addition to £500 for website development. Proposed SAW, Seconded JC</p> <p><b>d. To consider and agree precept for 2025/2026</b></p> <p>After lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED to increase the precept by £0.15 per week per Band D household. Therefore a precept request of £11,423 for the Parish of Marsh Baldon and £5,712 for the Parish of Toot Baldon would be submitted to SODC. Proposed SAW Seconded JC</p> <p><b>e. To appoint auditor</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to appoint Chris Hall of Auditing Solutions Ltd for this financial year 2024/2025.</p> <p><b>f. To approve CIL Report 2023/2024</b></p> <p>The CIL report, already accepted by SODC, was approved.</p>	Date	Description	Payee	Amount (incl VAT) (£)	VAT (£)	26/11/2024	Grass cutting November	Tactical Facilities Management	141.50	23.58	26/11/2024	Dog bin emptying November	Tactical Facilities Management	103.10	17.18	30/11/2024	Grass Cutting Toot Baldon 2024	Nigel Cullen	212.51		10/12/2024	Clerk salary November	C Morgan	376.51		10/12/2024	Clerk expenses October	C Morgan	15.30		16/12/2024	Sleepers for retaining Green	AWBS	672.00	112.00	17/12/2024	Grass cutting December	Tactical Facilities Management	141.50	23.58	17/12/2024	Dog bin emptying December	Tactical Facilities Management	128.88	21.48	06/01/2025	Clerk salary December	C Morgan	360.14		06/01/2025	Materials for retaining Green	AntWorks	36.00		06/01/2025	Contribution of churchyard maintenance 2024	PCC	1272.00		<b>Total</b>			<b>3459.44</b>	<b>197.82</b>	<p>Accounts approved</p> <p>Invoices approved</p> <p>Budget approved</p> <p>Action: Clerk to explore options for website</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit to SODC</p> <p>Auditor appointed</p> <p>CIL report approved</p>
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091/24	Clerk report	<p>a) <b>To discuss and adopt a Vexatious Policy</b> It was RESOLVED to adopt both the Vexatious Complaints Policy and the partner Complaints Procedure.</p> <p>b) <b>To discuss and agree whether to apply for a Community Governance Review with a view to merging the parishes and adding a council seat</b> It was RESOLVED to apply for a Community Governance Review at the next opportunity, likely to be the end of 2025.</p> <p>c) <b>To approve councillor training</b> It was RESOLVED to book Cllr Clark onto Roles and Responsibilities Training with OALC, costing £110 + VAT.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk to post on website</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit application when CGR window opens</p> <p>Action: Clerk to book</p>
092/24	Local Planning	<p><b>To consider and agree new planning applications:</b></p> <p><b>P24/S3557/FUL</b> Development of an Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated site access, landscaping, and ancillary cabling works for grid connection. <b>3rd January Land off Lower Road Garsington OX44 9BN</b> PC response already submitted and could be found on the SODC planning portal.</p> <p><b>To receive decision notices:</b></p> <p><b>P24/S3716/LB</b> Replacement of two casement dormer windows on east and west elevations on the first floor of the cottage. <b>The Queens Cottage Toot Baldon OX44 9NG</b> (Consent granted)</p> <p><b>P24/S4098/DIS</b> Discharge of conditions 13 (Cycle Parking Facilities) and 17 (Integrated Biodiversity Enhancements (prior to slab level)) on application P23/S3254/FUL (Erection of two dwellings with access and associated works). <b>Hunters Gap 52 Pebble Hill Toot Baldon OX44 9LH</b></p>	
093/24	Item for the next Agenda	Benches	
094/24	Date of Next Meeting	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.	
095/24	Future dates	14 <sup>th</sup> April - Annual Parish Meeting 12 <sup>th</sup> May - Annual Parish Council Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup> July 8 <sup>th</sup> September 10 <sup>th</sup> November	
	Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 10:00pm	

Signed as a true record:

Date:

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