

Baldons Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting held Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm Minutes

Councillors Present: Andy Speight (AS), Adam White (AW), Anne Viscintin (AV), Sally-Anne Williams (SW), John Clarke (JC)

In Attendance: Jo Garvey (Clerk), Robin Jones (OCC) (RJ), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC) (SCR), 1 member of the Public

- 1. Receive apologies for absence:** Dawn McGiveron (DM)
- 2. Receive Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts, hospitality:** None
- 3. Approve Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting:** Proposed SW, 2nd JC, Signed
- 4. Consider Matters Arising:** None
- 5. Receive Questions and Contributions from Members of the Public:** None
- 6. Receive a report from Oxfordshire County Council:** AS reported to RJ on road closures for drain clearance and inspections. Also, collapsed drain may be looked at in February. Council noted that fly-tipping is likely to increase given new Recycling rules/system. RJ noted that his grant was available.
- 7. Receive a report from South Oxfordshire District Council:** Written report received.
- 8. Review Planning Applications received:**

P25/S3614/FUL - Land between Burcot Farm, Burcot, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3GW and Cowley Substation Blackberry Lane Oxford OX44 9BE - Installation of an underground high voltage cable to support permitted solar development (Local Planning Authority Ref: P23/S4132/FUL): Information provided to Council.

P25/S3493/FUL - Hillfield Farm Road Running Through Toot Baldon Toot Baldon OX44 9NH - Erection of new detached two storey self-build dwelling - Council comment has been submitted: Council has objected due to height of the building, and foul drainage issues.

- 9. Consider and agree action regarding the Village gates renovation:** AS reported that a resident has maintained the Baldon gate till now, another resident has offered to maintain it. £200 required for wood and paint. Parsonage Farm requires replacement, likely cost £1000. AS proposed that Baldon CIL funds be used, 2nd SW, agreed.
- 10. Village ponds: to discuss timing and associated project spend needs, for TOE grant application:** JC reported that ponds required renovation with weed clearance and tree removal. South Pond is $\frac{2}{3}$ complete at no cost (Council wishes to thank residents involved). School pond report is required before work can commence.
- 11. Consider and agree action regarding Flooding:** AS reported that whilst a previous grant request to OCC was refused, they have been in touch, AS has obtained a quote and sent to OCC, awaiting response.
- 12. Allotments: to receive and vote on proposal:** JC proposed that the offer of managing the allotments not be accepted (due to cost with lack of benefit to Parish), 2nd SW, agreed.

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- 13. Take an update on digital switch over and mobile coverage:** JC reported that it is going ahead, with concerns for vulnerable residents with health needs. Baldons has a very poor mobile signal, and frequent power cuts. Help may be possible, this is being pursued.

SCR arrived at this stage and it was decided to return to item 7. whereupon SCR talked through her report to Council. Particular note is the new Reservoir consultation, SODC monitoring of Capita collection of Council Tax, her disappointment at SODC decision to purchase a fossil fuel fleet of refuse vehicles, the joint local plan is moving forward since Ministers have stated that some issues raised by the inspectors are not to be considered, and laptops have been donated to charity.. AW noted to SCR that SODC/Biffa waste service is very good.

- 14. Take an update on website development:** JC reported that the village website is down, it is believed that the hosting company has gone out of business. 3 quotes have been received, plus an offer from a local resident. Council agenda and minutes will be publicised through local newsletter subscriber list. Add to next agenda for decision.

- 15. Drainage project: take an update on grant application and quotes for survey work:** Covered under item 11.

- 16. Take an update on meeting held with design agents for the Grenoble Road Science village development:** AS reported that the proposal will include 3000 houses which will come close to Toot Baldon, it is at an early stage. SCR interjected that housing should be more dense (with infill to meet need), rather than allocating more land.

- 17. Take an update on a Grants Policy, discuss and agree action:** JC proposed the policy be adopted, 2nd AS, the policy was adopted.

- 18. Approve Schedule of Payments:** Approved

Date	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
03/12/2025	Grounds Maintenance	Tactical Facilities Management	£182.92	£36.58	£219.50
03/12/2025	Dog Waste Bins	Tactical Facilities Management	£93.08	£18.62	£111.70
05/12/2025	Google Cloud	Google	£49.00		£49.00
10/12/2025	Clerk RFO Income Tax	HMRC	£58.80		£58.80
10/12/2025	Clerk RFO Salary	Jo Garvey	£235.86	£235.86	£235.86
29/12/2025	Dog Waste Bins	Tactical Facilities Management	£93.08	£18.62	£111.70
29/12/2025	Grounds Maintenance	Tactical Facilities Management	£182.92	£36.58	£219.50
05/01/2026	Scribe Accounting	Starboard Systems	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20
08/01/2026	Google Cloud	Google	£49.00		£49.00
08/01/2026	Willmots Turn Mowing/Strimming	Nigel Cullen	£136.00		£136.00

- 19. Accept and sign Bank Reconciliation:** Signed

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20. Agree the 26/27 Budget and Precept:

Budget:

Item	Budget
Clerk & RFO	£5,000.00
Clerk Expenses	£111.42
Councillor Expenses	£250.00
IT Services	£550.00
OALC/SLCC Membership	£270.44
OALC/SLCC Training	£400.00
Insurance	£480.00
Audit Fees	£270.00
Stationary, Printing, etc.	£200.00
Village Hall Hire	£300.00
Parish Online Mapping	£40.00
ICO	£50.00
Website Upgrades	£850.00
Dog Waste Bins	£1,393.00
Cutting Church Grass	£1,336.00
Newsletter Contribution	£250.00
Strimming Grass MB TB	£320.00
Mowing the Green	£2,700.00
Maintaining Trees on Green	£900.00
Maintaining the Green	£500.00
Scribe	£444.00

Precept to increase by 4%:

Toot Baldon: £5941

Marsh Baldon: £11880

Proposed SW, 2nd JC, agreed. Clerk to submit Precept request form.

21. Note dates of future Meetings: Noted

9th March 2026, 11th May 2026, 13th July 2026, 14th September 2026, 9th November 2026

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.