

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday 11 January, 2021

The meeting was held online using video-conferencing

Present:	Dorothy Tonge (DT; Chairman), Stephen Dance (SD; vice-chairman), Lauren Collett (LC), Laurence Attewill (LA), Elizabeth Gillespie (EG) and John Maskell (JM) Tom James (TJ; Clerk), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SC-R; SODC), Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (LL-G; OCC)
Members of the public:	There were ten members of the public attending the online meeting

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
049/20	1. Introduction by the Chairman	The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.	
050/20	2. Apologies for absence:	All councillors were present	
051/20	3. Declaration of Interests	There were no declarations of interests	
052/20	4. Minutes from the previous meeting:	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting on 9 November 2020	Minutes approved
053/20	5. Matters arising	The Chairman reported that the Council was still waiting for the visit from Savills to assess the state of the trees on the Green. The Council was still expecting Queens College to pay for the removal of a tree damaged in a storm.	
054/20	6. Open Forum	A member of the public raised concerns about the village pond. Last summer a group of volunteers worked to restore the village pond. Further remedial work now needs to be undertaken to maintain the pond. This work includes removal of some of the reeds as well cutting back brambles and tree saplings. Disposing of the reeds will require the hire of a small skip at a cost of around £250+vat. The same volunteer group was willing to carry out the work and the Council was asked to meet the cost of the skip hire. LA and EG were keen to promote biodiversity and objected to the complete removal of the reeds. It was made clear that the volunteer group had no intention of removing all the reeds merely cutting them back to keep them under control. It was agreed that the group would seek professional advice before undertaking any work. SD reminded everyone that, under the present regulations, it was illegal for the volunteers to meet and work on the pond. The Chairman proposed that the Council holds £250 in reserve for the skip hire. A vote was taken and the proposal was agreed with 4 in favour and 2 against.	Clerk to earmark £250 to support pond clearance
055/20	7. Village matters	7.i Tree planting The Council had received a plan to plant 6 pear trees of heritage/local variety on a corner of the Green. This plan was	

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		<p>agreed, in principle, but JM said it would be helpful if a site meeting could be arranged when legally permitted. The idea of using pigs to restore the area discussed but the logistics of keeping two or three pigs safely and securely on the site but prove too challenging.</p> <p>ii. CIL payment from Durham Leys Farm development. The last CIL payment, this time from the developer, was due at the end of February. The Council hoped to use the money to restore the Green to its original boundary and to renovate the southern section of the track. When to carry out this work would obviously depend on the developer's timeline. It was agreed that SD and TJ would engage with the developer to negotiate a way forward. EG thanked LA for all his hard work with the Neighbourhood Plan as this resulted in the Council receiving 25% of the CIL money; the rest going to SODC.</p> <p>iii. Fuel Charity trustees It is still not clear if Councils will be expected to hold Annual Village Meetings under the present regulations. It was therefore, unanimously, agreed that the council would endorse the proposed staggered reappointment of the trustees. Appointed three years - Alison Porter & Bruce Don Appointed two years - Alison Barne & Alan Johns Appointed one year - David Greenaway & Chris Nichols</p> <p>iv. Solar farm planning application SD thanked everyone involved with the Council's response to SODC planning department. The draft response, circulated earlier, was approved. Proposed: SD Seconded: EG Agreed unanimously</p>	Clerk to upload village response
056/20	8. Report from Oxfordshire County Council	<p>LL-G circulated a report in advance of the meeting. OCC was working hard on the roll-out of the covid vaccination programme. A £3 million grant had been made available to improve the sewage provision in the county. Sadly, open the larger libraries remained open during this time.</p> <p>The Chairman raised the problem with flooding in Toot Baldon at the junction of the Croft with Baldon Row. This had been reported many times to 'Fix my street' without any success. LL-G asked the Clerk to send her exact details of the problem and she would raise it with the transport department.</p>	
057/20	9. Reports from the District Councillor	<p>SC-R reported that most services were slowing down due to Covid lockdown. However, communities were being urged to use their local support hubs for any help.</p> <p>A review of parking enforcement is taking place and councils should submit their views to SODC as part of the consultation. The Council was made aware of a pressure group looking to challenge the acceptance of the SODC Local Plan. It was suggested that parish councils might contribute £250 towards legal costs. It was agreed that no action would be taken until the Council had received a formal request for funding.</p>	

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058/20	10. Treasurer's report	<p>10i The Treasurer reported that the Council continued to hold the Cricket Club's reserves. This will have to continue until the present restrictions are lifted. The Council unanimously approve the latest financial accounts. Proposed: SD Seconded: DT</p> <p>10.ii The following payments were unanimously approved:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 533 1259 741"> <tr> <td>9.11.20</td> <td>Grass strimming</td> <td>N.Cullen</td> <td>277.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.11.20</td> <td>Repair pond drain</td> <td>PMS Oxford</td> <td>462.00</td> <td>77.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25.11.20</td> <td>Repairs to BCC mowers</td> <td>JE.Gregory</td> <td>682.40</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>27.11.20</td> <td>Clerk's wages</td> <td>T.James</td> <td>269.28</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.12.20</td> <td>Ditch clearance</td> <td>Ox. Garden Cont.</td> <td>1185.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.12.20</td> <td>Ditch clearance (2)</td> <td>Ox. Garden Cont.</td> <td>220.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31.12.20</td> <td>Dog bin emptying</td> <td>Scoop Dotty Dog</td> <td>45.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>10.iii Budget for 2021/2022: The detailed budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. SD questioned the cost of running the Council. The Treasurer explained that there had been considerable rise in IT provision and in the Internal Audit.</p> <p>10.iv Precept for 2021/22 In light of the budget, the Council approved a 3% rise in the Band 'D' tax for the Baldons. The Treasurer explained that the Precept for Toot Baldon only just covered their share of the council's running costs and the shared services. The Precept for Toot and Marsh Baldon was fixed at: Toot Baldon: £3259 Marsh Baldon: £6659 Proposed: DT Seconded: SD</p>	9.11.20	Grass strimming	N.Cullen	277.00		16.11.20	Repair pond drain	PMS Oxford	462.00	77.00	25.11.20	Repairs to BCC mowers	JE.Gregory	682.40		27.11.20	Clerk's wages	T.James	269.28		3.12.20	Ditch clearance	Ox. Garden Cont.	1185.00		3.12.20	Ditch clearance (2)	Ox. Garden Cont.	220.00		31.12.20	Dog bin emptying	Scoop Dotty Dog	45.00		<p>Accounts approved</p> <p>Payments approved</p> <p>Budget approved</p> <p>Precept approved</p>
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059/20	11. Planning applications	There were no pending applications, however, the Council considered an application made to SODC, but not formally registered, for a large outbuilding at 6 The Green, Marsh Baldon. The application is for the removal of two garages and the construction of one large building which will be slightly wider but considerably longer than the current footprint. The Chairman agreed to contact the homeowner to arrange a visit within the current restrictions.	
060/20	12. Items for the next agenda	Issues arising from the proposed developments at Grenoble Road and Northfields (EG) Village clear-up day (DT) Review of Risk Register	
061/20	13. Dates of the next meetings	Future dates for 2021 8 March 19 April Annual Meeting of Marsh and Toot Baldon 10 May 12 July 13 September 8 November These will take place at 7.30 pm; venue to be decided	

Signed as a true record:

Date: