

Bayton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Bayton Parish Council held in Bayton church at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 14 January 2025

Present: Cllr Burns, Cllr George, Cllr Adams.

In attendance – Clerk , District Councillor Godwin, 1 Parishioner

1. **Apologies** - County Councillor D Chambers
2. **Co-option of a Cllr** – no Applications have been received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. Register of Interests – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers updated if changes occur.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none declared
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests – none declared
 - d. Cllrs own Computers/Tablets/Phones – Cllrs confirmed own devices are password protected, have antivirus software installed and automatic updates set for their systems as per agreed policies. - All Agreed
4. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the localism Act 2011)
 - a. Dispensations requested – none

Meeting adjourned for

Public Question Time

notes at end of minutes for information

Meeting resumed

5. **County Councillor Report** – received report at end of the minutes
- District Councillor Report** – verbal report given at meeting
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 12 November 2024, agreed by all and signed by the Chair
7. **Finances:**
 - a. **Bank Mandate** – check with bank
 - b. **Grants for consideration** – Clows top Village Hall - £550, considered and agreed by all
 - b. **Payments**
 - i. **Regular payments – confirmation of payments made** – Agreed by all
 - ii. **To consider payments to be made as on list presented at meeting** Agreed by all and for Payments to be made by Bank Transfer

Regular Payments made since last meeting and agreed payments

FPO	30/11/2024	Clerks Salary November plus back pay 1.4.24	373.62	12/11/2024
FPO	30/11/2024	HMRC	93.40	12/11/2024
FPO	06/12/2024	LM September timesheet	131.25	Reg.Payment
FPO	04/12/2024	Defib Supplies Wel Medical Reimburse Clerk	143.88	12/11/2024
FPO	31/12/2024	Clerks Salary December	276.51	Reg.Payment
FPO	31/12/2024	HMRC	69.20	Reg.Payment

TOTAL of payments

£1,087.86

	Payments falling	Due		
FPO	31/01/2025	Clerks Salary	276.51	Reg.Payment
FPO	31/01/2025	HMRC	69.20	Reg.Payment
FPO	14/01/2025	LM Oct ,	105.00	Reg.Payment
DD	23/01/2025	ICO Data Protection Fee	35.00	Reg.Payment
FPO	14/01/2025	In 2 Out	206.25	
FPO	14/01/2025	WCC Grit Bin Salt	158.12	
			£ 850.08	
FPO	14/01/2025	Grant	550.00	

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Total Payments

£2,487.94

- c. **Receipts** – No receipts since last meeting
 - d. **Bank Reconciliation** – Current Account as at 31 December 2024 reconciled Balance £ 24465.15
 - e. **Budget Review and Report** – as at the 31 December 2024, reviewed and agreed.
 - f. **Budget Setting for Precept** - FY 2025 – 2026, revised budget reviewed and Precept of £10,455 was Agreed by All. Clerk to make request to MHDC
8. **Urgent Decisions since last meeting reported by the Clerk** – payments as reported above and defib replenishment supplies
9. **Planning**
- a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** - none
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – M/24/01342/LB – Plowstall House - approved
 - c. **Plans for Consideration** – M/24/01624/FUL - Woodside Farm Change of use of agricultural land to camping and log cabin site to include 1 log cabin and 4 bell tents. Installation of tent bases, access, car parking, building for toilet and shower facilities. – Considered and Agreed by All to support.
 - d. **Enforcements** – none
10. **Road Report**
- a. **Lengthsman** – All as expected at the moment
 - b. **Any Problems to report** - Road cone on Bridge boundary of Bayton & Mamble
11. **Progress Reports**
- a. **Milestone** – This has been placed upright.
 - b. **Church Lane Drain** – reported via WCC website
12. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerks/ Councillors** - none
13. **Correspondence for information as circulated** – CALC newsletter, WCC, RSN weekly and monthly bulletin; TAP; MHDC; WCC Highways.
14. **Correspondence for discussion**
- a. **WMP Contract renewal** - points 1. Speeding A456 Clows Top; 2. Speeding B4202
15. **Councillors' reports and items for next agenda** – Drains and Mowing
16. **Date of next meeting** – 11 March 2025 at 7.30pm
17. **Meeting closed** at 8:50pm

Signed

Date:

Chair

County Councillor's Report: Jan 2025

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and wish you all a very happy New Year.

1. I will continue to urge the construction of a replacement wall/permanent defence wall in Market Street, Tenbury, following the collapse of the original wall last year. WCC are obliged to liaise with the EA regarding its replacement. I am concerned that the EA has not been entirely honest with us regarding progress of the Tenbury Flood Defence Scheme. I am working closely with the Cabinet Member for the Environment at WCC, who I hope will be able to give me a more detailed assessment of the actual situation, following a meeting due to take place this month. I will update

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you in next month's report, of any information I receive.

There appears to be a number of anomalies in terms of what we have been led to believe is the current situation and quite frankly, enough is enough. It is time we had the facts, good or bad.

2. Prior to Christmas the government announced major changes to how local government will operate in the years to come, following the publication of its White Paper. Nothing has been decided but the government's intent seems to be clear, and I would suggest these changes will happen.

I will try to outline the proposed changes and how these changes are likely to affect Worcestershire.

- a. The government wants to abolish District Councils and County Councils and replace them with one Unitary Council. This would mean that the six District Councils and the County Council in Worcestershire would all disappear to be replaced with one Unitary Council. Town Councils and Parish Councils will not be affected.
- b. The timeline for this is very short. The government want "letters of interest" by interested parties by 10th January 2025. It is my understanding that the government will make its decision early in March as to which counties will proceed in "the first tranche". If Worcestershire was in "the first tranche", it is likely that elections in May 2025 to the County Council will be cancelled and elections to the new Unitary Council may be held in May 2026.
- c. The above is further complicated because this is the first phase of the government's proposed changes. Once the counties have become Unitary Councils, the government then wishes to create Strategic Authorities. It is proposed that each Unitary Council will represent approximately 500,000 people; Worcestershire has 600,000. Strategic Authorities will be made up of a number of Unitary Councils (2 or 3), headed by an elected Mayor.

It is clear that there will be mixed views as to whether this is a positive change or a negative change. The government are not seeking any consultation period, at this stage, they are simply asking for "letters of interest" by 10th January. I cannot tell you what the views of the six District Council are or those of other Parties, but I am happy to share with you, the view of the Conservative Members of the County Council.

- a. The Cabinet met to discuss the government's proposals and we decided it was clear that these were not really proposals, they were changes which the government intends to implement. With the "majority" which the government has, then of course, any legislation would pass through Parliament with ease.
- b. We decided that if Worcestershire was to have any say in shaping its future, it is imperative that Worcestershire is in "the first tranche".
- c. The Conservatives then held a Group meeting immediately prior to the Christmas break where the Group agreed with the views of the Cabinet.
- d. As a consequence, (I am writing this on 6th January), "a letter of interest" will be submitted to the government by the Conservative Group on or before 10th January.
- e. I am not aware if any other Groups within the County Council will do the same.

I hope you find the above helpful because I am conscious that any changes will affect us all.

The information above is impartial and as I understand the facts to be. My own personal view however, regarding Unitary Councils is a positive one. I have advocated for a number of years that Worcestershire would be better served by its excellent Town and Parish Councils at a local level, and by one Unitary Council (rather than 7 councils), at a more strategic level.

David Chambers, County Councillor for the Tenbury Division

District Councillor's Report: Jan 2025

On the White Paper for the proposed change of Worcestershire to a Unitary Council

National Insurance impact on businesses.

Fewer planning applications