

BAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Bayton Parish Council held in Bayton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th January 2016

Present: Cllr Blount (Chairman), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Miles, Cllr Rochelle

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr, County Cllr and two Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Salisbury, Carver and Taylor all sent apologies which were accepted by Cllrs.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – No changes declared.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None.
3. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
 - **Dispensations** – none requested.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
5. **Minutes** of Monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2015 were agreed and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – Report given, summary at end of minutes.
County Cllrs report – Report given, summary at end of minutes.
7. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Community Shop Steering Group** – It is now confirmed the old shop has not been sold but has been leased out. The shop re-opened in December and the tenants have applied to the PO. Grant funding held by PC for the Community Shop to be discussed at future meetings.
8. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors:**

Bayton Village Hall Meeting 6th January – Clerk attended and enquired regarding use of track during STW road closure in February. Chairman of PC had spoken to Hall Chairman twice on this matter in November. At Hall meeting Chairman requested letter from PC explaining what was being asked. This has been done and a reply received, see item 11c. Hall Committee wish to apply for grant from PC to help with Recreation Ground costs. Clerk to forward grant details.

Clerk attended - CALC AGM 25th November, CALC Area Meeting 1st December – details circulated.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – Hollands Coaches (minibus 13 weeks) = £180.00, Information Commissioner (Data Protection) = £35.00.
 - b. **To report receipts since last meeting** – None.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation November/December 2015** – Signed by Cllr, balance agreed as £17653.14.
 - d. **Budget** (circulated) – Budget to 31st December 2015 and draft budget 2016-17. After much discussion it was agreed by all to adjust grant funding in budget to £400.00 and to request a Precept of £7600.00 for 2016-17.
 - e. **Change of Bank Account** – Mandate sent to Lloyds Bank before Christmas. Clerk awaiting reply.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 17.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –

APPEAL - 14/00666/FUL – Fortunes Green, Clows Top DY14 9NJ – Proposed extension and conversion of outbuilding to living accommodation. Outcome of Appeal lodged May 2015.

This appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.
 - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** – None.
11. **Road report**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – Drains/grips cleared, some drains to be jetted.
 - b. **Any problems to report** – Church Lane potholes.

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- c. **Road Closure Bayton January 2016 (STW)** – Bayton Village Hall Committee response stated the majority of the Hall Committee did not want the track opened for this period. Clerk to draft response to this letter as some of the issues raised were incorrect. STW Contractors are holding open meeting in Hall on Wednesday 13th January to advise residents of road closure details. Clerk/Chairman to attend.
12. **Maypole** – Chairman felt a Maypole should be re-introduced to Bayton Village. All Cllrs felt this was a good idea, to be discussed at next meeting.
13. **Footpath from Bayton Church to School** – Cllr had received complaint regarding fallen leaves creating slip hazard on this path. Clerk arranged for the path to be cleared, Bayton Hall Committee were informed the land being their responsibility. Chairman suggested tree branches on School land could be cut back to help. Clerk to contact School.
14. **Clerk's hours** – At last meeting Cllrs agreed to pay Clerk for one extra hour of work per week. Clerk advised she will continue to do 6 hours paid work per week, any extra hours will be her volunteer contribution to the local Community.
15. **External Audit from April 2017** – It was agreed not to opt out of the External Audit arrangements that are being put in place from 2017 by National Association of Local Councils and other bodies.
16. **Correspondence for information** –
Items available at the meeting – list in folder.
R&B Travel - response to PC complaint made in November 2015 regarding irregular service – R&B apologised for the service but stated roadworks were causing a lot of issues for them. Clerk to inform them of future road closures that may affect buses.
WCC Conference – 24th February – 6.30pm – Clerk to attend.
MHDC Neighbourhood Planning presentations 25th January 2-4pm or 28th January 6-8pm – Clerk to attend on 28th January.
'Clean for the Queen' January to March 2016 – National idea to encourage litter picking in run up to Queens's birthday. Residents to be encouraged to clean up roads when weather improves.
Queens 90th Birthday 12th June 2016 – Clerk to obtain further details for next meeting.
17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** –
Planning matters – December 2015
15/01607/LBC – Stone Cottage, Bayton DY14 9LW – Replace 2 upper floor rear casement windows. Remove existing UPVC windows and fit soft wood as previous design.
15/-1629/FUL – 1 Fallow Cottage, The Yard, Bayton DY14 9LH – Extension to rear of the property to form farm office and additional kitchen/dining accommodation.
Details of both these applications were emailed out to Cllrs, it was agreed by majority to support both applications.
18. **Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Community Shop Grants held, Queens 90th Birthday, Maypole, Internal Auditor, Lengthsman Scheme 2016-17.
19. **Date of next meeting: TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30pm**
20. **Meeting Closed 8.44pm.**

Signed----- Date 9th February 2016
Chairman

Residents' queries –

New Notice Board, Bayton – Concerns were raised by resident regarding position of board, how it had been put up, old board had not been taken down. Resident stated person who made board was upset and other residents had concerns and had made comments to her. Cllr who put up board responded to say he was the only volunteer to offer to put the board up. It could not go anywhere else as the posts would not go into the ground. The old board will be taken down at some point. Clerk advised if Coronation Corner Wall is extended the board could go on top. Clerk to contact person who made board.

Dist Cllr Report – Government funding to MHDC is being reduced more than predicted between now and 2020 so it is likely Council Tax will rise. New grants are coming through but not a large amount. **Cllr has some funding left for good causes and encourages groups to apply.**

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. Happy New Year - I would like to wish all parish councillors, and your hardworking clerk, a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We can look forward to 2016 with a degree of optimism with the economy in reasonable shape, unemployment steadily declining and there being the possibility of some improvement in our relationship with the EU. Sadly, you will also have heard of the resignation of the council leader, Adrian Hardman, after he failed a breath test just before Christmas. He accepts, as we would all agree, that this was a serious error of judgment, and he will be in court on the 18th. I would also like to pay tribute to Adrian for his exemplary leadership over the last five years, and in particular his careful management of the County Council's finances, a job for which he was responsible before the additional burden of the leadership. The Conservative Group met Friday 8th, and elected Simon Geraghty, the former deputy as the new leader and Anthony Blagg, the Cabinet Member responsible for the Environment was elected as Deputy Leader. There will be other adjustments to the Cabinet following this change and these will become apparent in due course.

2. Review of the WCC budget - The local government financial settlement came in late in December and has been factored in to the Council Tax assessment for 2016/17. You will know that the Chancellor has given Counties the responsibility for increasing the budget for Adult Social Care by allowing a 2% increase in addition to any other tax increase the County might be contemplating. This allows for local fund raising to reflect local need, rather than a blanket demand from all areas. In our case, the full 2% will be raised, given the increasing percentage of our population over the age of 75, coupled with a 3.7% drop in the percentage in the under 25 age group. This will be added to the 1.94% increase in Council Tax, to cover all the other needs of the budget, in particular increasing numbers of children being taken into care and the commitment to maintain and improve the condition of our roads. Despite this increase, Worcestershire will remain in the bottom quartile of counties, in terms of its council tax. You will also remember that the County is third in the country in terms of productivity growth behind Oxford and London. We aim to see that this situation is maintained or improved by the economic policies adopted by the County and the LEP.

3. Flooding - In the recent period of heavy rain, we have been fortunate not to have suffered any serious flooding. You may have been aware of two places locally where flooding of roads extended over at least half the carriageway, on the A443 in Eardiston and between Little and Great Witley. The former was caused by a blocked gully, while the latter is familiar to us locals. It seems to have been caused by a gully being tarmacked over and successive searches have not found it. I have requested a serious search and the instatement of a gully, should the old one remain lost! You will also have noted that the extra drain and gully in the dip just to the west of the turn to Structon's Heath has resulted in no serious flooding there. Should any of you know of such repeated flooding events, please report them on the WCC website and, if you can, let me know as well, so I can add a second line of pressure to seek resolution. Some of you may be persuaded by certain sections of the media to believe the current weather extremes are related to concern about climate change. The Met Office are guilty of playing along with the current belief that matters are getting worse. They are fond of quoting UK records that only go back to 1910, while they also have records for England and Wales that go back to 1766 and they show the wettest December was 1876. That could not be reasonably attributed to recent industrialisation and the use of fossil fuels, whatever the COP21 meeting in Paris has concluded.* You may be interested in taking part in the consultation currently in progress on the latest Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2015 - 2021. This is undertaken by the County Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority. That means the County has a responsibility to see that adequate precautions are taken across the County. The strategy can be read on the WCC website.

The consultation period ends on the 29th February and I would urge those who have a particular interest of concern about flooding to read and comment on the plans.

4. Potholes - One of the regrettable results of the recent excessive rainfall is the proliferation of potholes. I would request all councillors and others to report them as soon as practicable. The WCC online reporting system is now pretty easy to use, and will result in the most rapid response. Having said that, I am very happy to hear of any such problems and will do my best to see that action is taken quickly and effectively.

5. Road conditions - I have confirmed today that repairing the Leasowes footway is the top priority in my Division, although this means it will not happen as early as I had anticipated. As a result in part of lobbying by your clerk and councillors, the Severn Trent work in the centre of Bayton has been rescheduled, as indicated on your agenda, and I trust this will prove less disruptive.

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I note also a comment on slippery leaves on the footpath to the school. This is a seasonal hazard and we should all be aware of the dangers. While conditions can be ameliorated by clearing, it would be unrealistic to imagine all risks can be removed.

6. Malvern Hills District Council by-election - By now you will know that Teme Valley has elected a new Conservative Councillor, Caroline Palethorpe. She has been a very active citizen in Tenbury Wells for years and has greatly assisted Tenbury Primary School, where she was chair of governors, and Tenbury High School with their extension programme and now with mentoring. I am sure she will make a very positive contribution to the ward and to the whole District Council.

7. Divisional Funds – Cllr stated he has funding left if any good causes wish to apply.

Cllr Ken Pollock

Martley,

Worcester

WR6 6QA

*: For those interested in reading more on this, I can recommend the blog written by Paul Homewood under the title “Not a Lot of People Know That”. He publicises Met Office records that otherwise seem beyond the reach of journalists and the Met Office itself!