

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting on 1st November 2023.

The Police report highlighted the need for home security with the darker winter nights. Crime prevention items are available to purchase at Stow Police Station.

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson advised that, in common with councils across the country, Gloucestershire County Council's finances are under pressure and some difficult decisions will be required this financial year.

District Councillor Jon Wareing also highlighted finances, with Cotswold District Council's budget being under tremendous pressure. Green bin costs are not being met by charges, so composting is being encouraged.

District Councillor Len Wilkins reported that Publica had been set up in 2017 by Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean, West Oxfordshire District Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to out-source services and reduce costs. However, CDC plan to stop using Publica, except for some services, and all other functions will revert to CDC.

Rye Crescent Play Area: The land transfer from Cotswold District Council to the Parish Council is now complete and the Working Group continues to progress plans for new play equipment on the site.

Village Green: Re-seeding and re-turfing will be carried out by our contractors to maintain the appearance of the grass and this work will be funded by the Tourist Levy.

Christmas Tree & Lights: The switching on of the Christmas lights will be held on the Village Green at 4.30pm on Friday 1st December. There will be carol singing by Bourton Primary School pupils and a visit from Father Christmas. All residents are welcome to attend. In addition, local businesses will remain open for late night shopping on that evening.

Coach Parking: The provision for coach parking at Bourton Vale Parking will cease on 31st December. The Parish Council continues to work with local businesses and stakeholders, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council to agree on a plan for future provision. Several options have been investigated to date, but none have had agreement by all parties concerned.

Committee Clerk: We would like to welcome Vanessa Oliveri as a permanent addition to our team as from 6th November. Vanessa will work 12 hours per week to support the Youth and Wellbeing, Village Environment and Highways Committees.

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents and business owners a very happy Christmas and New Year. The Parish Office will be closed from 1pm on Friday 22nd December until 10am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Next Meeting Date: 7pm on Wednesday 6th Dec 2023 in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre. Please note that the January Parish Council Meeting date has been changed to 7pm on Monday 8th January 2024. All residents are welcome to attend our meetings.

Sharon Henley, Clerk/RFO

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