

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2024.

The Police will be holding a Police Point session between 10 and 11am on Thursday 1st & 22nd February 2024.

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson reported that a proposed 5% rise in Gloucestershire County Council's part of the Council Tax was likely to be accepted.

District Councillor Len Wilkins (Bourton Vale) reported that Cotswold District Council were introducing a new Parking Strategy and had statutory responsibility for car but not coach parking. As part of the Levelling Up Act, planning fees would be increased by 25% for householder development and commercial applications by 35%, to be increased annually in line with inflation.

District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village) advised that there were over 500 comments on CDC's recent budget consultation, some being in respect of coach parking in Bourton.

Periwinkle Bank Resurfacing: The footpath between Station Road and Cemetery Lane is very well used and gets muddy during bad weather. A contractor will be surfacing this path over the next few weeks using funds from the Tourist Levy.

2024-25 Budget and Precept: This is still under review, pending discussion with Cotswold District Council on funding for additional parking enforcement. The Parish Council will meet at 7pm on Monday 29th January to agree final figures.

Coach Parking, pick-up and drop-off: This was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting on 18th December. Local businesses proposed to provide coach parking for one year on the industrial estate. It was agreed that the representatives of the Parish Council, District and County Councillors and local business owners would have further discussions with the Cotswold School to see whether there was scope for drop-off/pick-up in their coach turning circle. However, at that meeting it was concluded that this option was not viable for many reasons, including safety of pupils and passengers. It was agreed that members of the business community would approach other businesses and landowners in the village to explore pick-up and drop-off options.

The following Position Statement was published following the Parish Council meeting:

Regretfully there is now no dedicated parking for coaches in the village. The Parish Council has spent many hours in discussions with Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire Highways, the Police and local businesses without reaching a solution that balances the needs of our residents, businesses and visitors.

The Parish Council's influence over this situation is very limited in that the Rissington Road Car Park is the property of the Cotswold District Council, the Station Road Car Park is the property of Bourton Vale Car Parking, whilst Gloucestershire Highways is responsible for keeping the roads and footpaths safe to use and for administering highway legislation (this includes on-street parking, yellow lining and traffic restrictions and signage).

The Parish Council has no direct influence over these organisations other than asking them to consider or reconsider their positions in trying to find a solution. Parish Council funds are limited and if any money was spent on trying to solve or reduce the coach parking problem, it would come from residents' precept and would trigger an increase in the Council Tax paid to the Parish Council.

We are continuing to discuss possible solutions with all parties to find a solution that meets the needs and satisfaction of the community as a whole, where the health and safety of residents and visitors is paramount.

Parish Council open evening with residents to discuss traffic flow and parking – 7pm on Thursday 21st March 2024 at the Royal British Legion Hall: There will be a meeting to hear residents' view on matters outside the scope of coach parking. Following the meeting, the Parish Council will collate views and information for a Strategic Plan to be created by the Highways Committee.

Development of the old Co-Op Site: Parish Councillors met with the developers to view updated plans following the public consultation. A planning application is expected to be submitted around February.

Hedges, Shrubs and Trees: The Parish Council would like to remind householders and landowners of their responsibilities to cut back any hedges, shrubs or trees that may be overhanging the pavements or footpaths bordering their property. This is to ensure the safety of pedestrians and allow sufficient space, where possible, for the use of wheelchairs and buggies. Please ensure the full width of a pavement is kept clear, ideally with a minimum cleared width of 1.1 metres (3ft 7 inches). Head clearance should be a minimum of 2.1 metres (approx. 7 ft). Please check your hedges and shrubs prior to cutting back to ensure there are no nesting birds present.

Next Meeting Dates:

An Extraordinary Parish Council meeting at 7pm on Monday 29th January 2024 to approve the 2024-25 Budget and Precept.

Full Parish Council meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 7th February 2024.

Both meetings will be held in the Windrush Room, The George Moore Community Centre.

All residents are welcome to attend our meetings.

Sharon Henley, Clerk/RFO

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