

BODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM 5 MAY 2021

MEETING 7PM HELD REMOTELY

Chair: Cllr M Harrison

Clerk: Mrs M Hinde

Tel: 07810642792 E-mail: boddingtonpc@gmail.com

Present: Cllr. M. Harrison (Chairman), Cllrs. R. Hewlett, D. Lang, J Metcalfe and G. Robins.
Attendees: Clerk/RFO, M. Hinde

Minute Ref. Details

05.01.21.1p **Chairmans Welcome**

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

05.01.21.2p **Apologies**

None

05.01.21.3p **Chairmans Report**

The chairman provided a report as per appendix 1

05.01.21.4p **Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th March 2020**
COUNCIL APPROVED minutes from the meeting held 18th March 2020

05.01.21.5p **Questions from Parishioners and Visitors**

None received

Meeting Closed: 19:02

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Appendix 1

BODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – May 2021

Councillor Gill Coveney regrettably had to resign during this year due to other commitments and plans to move from the area in the near future. We are very sorry to have lost the benefit of her enthusiasm and thank her for all the work done during her time on the Council.

We have been very fortunate to be able to co-opt James Metcalfe as a 'new' Councillor. James has shown great willingness to be an active member of the Council and has experience and skills which will be invaluable to the Council.

Clerk Vacancy – Following her resignation, Councillors thanked Pauline Clarke for her service over the previous 7 years.

The Council has been delighted to welcome Shelley Hinde as our new Clerk and there has been a smooth transition of responsibilities from Pauline to Shelley during the Winter months. I am pleased to confirm that this appointment was made as a result of the Parish Council Forum – within which we work closely with our adjacent Parishes.

It was proposed and agreed in January that the number of Parish Council meetings be reduced from 6 to 4 annually. This is the minimum legal requirement. Dates for the meetings have been changed to the first Wednesday in February, May, August and November – 7.00pm at the Community Fire Station, Tewkesbury Road, Uckington, Cheltenham. This ensures we do not clash with other local Parish meetings.

The Council continues to work closely with our Borough and County Councillors and is grateful for the fact that both regularly attend our Council meetings.

The Council Budget for the next year has been agreed and, as result, there has again been no increase in the Parish precept.

We have made progress both separately and working with other bodies in several areas:

Gloucestershire CC Highways:

- The latest update on the possibility of electronic signage to further emphasise the 30mph speed limit on Boddington Lane continues to disappoint. Last year, we were advised by Gloucestershire Highways that there are very specific criteria which must be met to allow the licence for the signage to be granted. The Council has continued its dialogue with Highways as to whether or not the Parish will achieve the necessary criteria for the licence and also the Community Match Funding we are wanting to secure. We have not yet given up

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hope but, to date, Highways have not been as enthusiastic about this matter as has the Council.

- My attempt to create a more informal communication line with Highways via Whatsapp has been unsuccessful – Highways having an insistence on the more formal communication line of email – with problem reporting having to be done via their website.
- Councillor Hewlett has worked diligently liaising with suppliers to obtain quotes for the installation of village ‘gates’ on both approaches on Boddington Lane – and we do now have official Highways approval to install the ‘gates’ in both of our desired locations.
- Boddington Lane has, in the main, taken a real ‘hammering’ since July 2020. The closure of the bridge over the M5 at Staverton resulted in a hugely disproportionate increase in diverted traffic along the Lane. Regrettably, this has included vehicles of all sizes – despite weight limit signs being clearly displayed at both ends of the Lane. The overall increase in traffic coupled with larger vehicles ignoring the weight limit signs and local heavy, large farm vehicles legitimately going about their daily business has led to a severe deterioration in the road surface of the Lane. Also, more importantly, the road edges have collapsed in many places with the subsequent creation of large potholes. These have proved to be a real inconvenience and, in many cases, have caused punctures to car tyres. In conjunction with Staverton PC and by encouraging Parishioners to log a complaint on the Highways website, the Council has continued its dialogue with Highways regarding the fixing of these potholes. In truth, a small number of potholes have been filled in – but, in our opinion, not nearly enough. A refurbishment of the Lane has been ‘promised’ by Highways once the bridge in Staverton has been reopened in August 2021. Time will tell if that ‘promise’ is kept – but the Council will be pressing for the much needed upgrade to the Lane’s condition.
- Boddington Lane drainage problem - it is hoped that the drainage in Boddington Lane will be improved during the overall refurbishment of the Lane’s road surface. Hopefully, this will take place prior to the next Annual Report....
- Barrow Hill Farm Lane – was levelled and resurfaced in June 2020. A small success for the Council but, nonetheless, a very welcome one and the new road surface has been greatly appreciated by the residents.
- Barrow – a mixed litter and dog waste bin has been installed in the ‘centre’ of Barrow (at the village end of Barrow Farm Lane). Another small success for the Parish. Relevant signage is to be displayed around the village and it is hoped that all dog walkers now ‘scoop their dog’s poop’ and use this facility.

Joint Core Strategy (JCS):

- The JCS involving Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury was approved in 2018 and continues to make gradual progress through the stages of its development.
- Each Borough has completed their own Plan to provide a second tier response, addressing any policy gaps, and providing a more local level of detail as necessary and appropriate.
- Using the Parish Council Forum set up in 2017, Boddington PC has access to the Tewkesbury Borough Plan – any details affecting our Parish will be displayed on our web site

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- Although curtailed by one meeting this past year, the Forum usually meets twice a year and comments made have been acknowledged by Tewkesbury BC.

M5 Junction 10 – the decision has been made to make this a 4-way junction. A public consultation exercise was undertaken at the back end of 2020 and the suggestions made are being incorporated into the Plans by the Agents. As part of this scheme the A4019 will be improved and upgraded from Coombe Hill to the Kingsditch /Gallagher area of Cheltenham. This ‘new’ 4-way Junction 10 is scheduled to be open in 2024.

West Cheltenham development – still not much progress to report here. The latest update confirms the proposal to build a new Link road from the Cyber park to the A4019 and on to Junction 10 of the M5. There are a number of differing opinions on the suitability/path of this Link road.

It is intended to build up to 500 houses within our Parish at Hayden along with up to 600 houses within Cheltenham Borough – the areas being adjacent to each other. This entire development will undoubtedly have a major impact on our Parish – in terms of both new houses and infrastructure.

Litter pick – a litter pick was organised by Councillor Robins in January which proved to be very successful and has been continued by individual Councillors on an ad hoc basis since then. The litter around the Parish has been greatly reduced as a result – which has been despite the efforts of less public spirited individuals who continue to throw litter from cars/trucks/bikes. Whilst all Councillors have been involved, a special mention here for the efforts of Councillor Robins and his wife Jennie who have done a sterling job of litter picking along the length of Boddington Lane – with 20 large bags of litter collected in 2 x collection sessions.

Fly tipping – continues to be a major irritation with ‘popular’ locations being regularly used by fly tippers. The offences are always reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council by individual Councillors and, generally, the collection by TBC’s contractors (Ubico) has been very good.

Parish Council website and email addresses – The Parish website is updated regularly with current news and the newly created Parish Council email addresses for all Councillors are being used exclusively for Parish business.

Parish footpaths – last year, Councillor Lang took over the survey of the footpaths within the Parish and he has done an excellent job of liaising with GCC and local land owners to ensure the Parish footpaths are well signposted, accessible and in good repair.

Planning applications – all applications within the Parish have been carefully considered and there have been no objections by the Council. Whenever asked, the Council has also offered its additional support to Parishioners who were encountering difficulties in the Planning process with ‘officialdom’.

St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Boddington – in November, the Council made a donation of £500 to be used specifically towards the repair of the church.

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MOD, Boddington – during Spring 2020, the Council was approached by, and discussed with, the MOD their plans for their site in Barrow. The 2 derelict buildings near the front of the site were to be demolished and the area landscaped. In addition, the rear buildings were to be externally repaired/repainted and refurbished internally. The site is to become a 24/7 operation with more staff based there. The Council recommended that all traffic movements to and from the site were from the northern end (the road into Barrow from near to the church) – ie avoiding driving through the village itself

Hedge cutting and drainage ditch clearance – the Council would once again like to place on record our thanks to Boddington Estates and Sharon Thomas for their efforts on both these works.

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