

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting
held in Binton Village Hall
Tuesday the 16th of May 2023 commencing at 7.10 pm

Present: Mike Flaxman (in the Chair)
Councillors Richard Cox, Alex Finch, Tom Lloyd, Hazel Martin and Colin Taylor
SDC Cllr Manuela Perteghella

Clerk: Karen Parnell

Two members of the public were present

All councillors to accept office and return the financial interests form within the prescribed time to the Monitoring Officer at Stratford District Council. Also election expenses to go to the Returning Officer at SDC.

Apologies: WCC Cllr Piers Daniell

1. To Elect a Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year
Cllr Mike Flaxman was elected as Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.
Proposed: Cllr Lloyd Seconded: Cllr Cox

2. To Elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.
Cllr Alex Finch was elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.
Proposed: Cllr Flaxman Seconded: Cllr Lloyd

Co-option of a councillor to Binton Parish Council
Alex Finch was co-opted back on to Binton Parish Council. SDC will be notified of the appointment.

3. Disclosure of Interests. Councillors are asked to declare personal interests in any items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that the Code of Conduct that takes effect from May 2021 provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion they should withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision about the matter.

Cllr Flaxman - Application(s) reference: 23/00555/LDE

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in March 2023 were agreed by the Council to be an accurate record of the meetings, and were duly signed off by the Chairman as such.

5. Matters arising therefrom and new matters:
Covered within this agenda

6. Finance:
The internal audit was completed on the 13th of April 2023 with no highlighted issues.

To complete the Annual Financial Return for the year ending 31st March, 2023:-

a) Councillors to complete the Statement of Assurance
This was done and the Chairman signed and RFO countersigned.

b) Chairman to sign The Statement of Accounts;
This was unanimously agreed by the Council and signed.

c) Chairman to sign the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March, 2023
This was done by both the Chairman and RFO with the consent of the Council.

To agree that as this parish council has not exceeded either income or expenditure totaling over £ 25,000 and has met the qualifying criteria they wish to certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review – Unanimously agreed by the PC

7. Planning:

All planning applications have been advised to the PC for comment prior to this meeting.

Application(s) reference: 23/00303/FUL

Proposed : Wooden garden shed/garden room to replace existing structure. Ground screw base, fully insulated, plastered, laminate flooring, electric light/sockets & electric heater (Storage for bicycles & garden furniture)

At : Buckwell , Main Road, Binton, Warwickshire CV37 9TN

For : Mr Neil Baskerville

Application(s) reference: 23/00775/TREE

Proposed : T1 - willow, to be pollarded to 2 m high.

T2 - Hawthorn to be cut to 2 m high.

T3 - same as T2.

At : School House, Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TN

For : Mr Peter Kerby

Application(s) reference: 23/00555/LDE

Proposed : Use of land as residential curtilage

At : Wood View , 177 Evesham Road, Lower Binton, Warwickshire CV37 9TF

For : Mr & Mrs Fisher – This application was discussed at length by the PC and will be monitored. Whilst the chairman declared an interest regarding this application no PC comments will be submitted as the date for statutory consultation responses has passed. The Chair reminded Cllrs that they are able to submit a personal comment if they wish.

Application(s) reference: 23/01009/TREE

Proposed : T1 - cypress - fell

At : Stone Croft, 173 Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TN

For : Clare Martin-Williamson

Application(s) reference: 23/01030/AGNOT

Proposed : Steel framed portal grain storage building

At : Binton Hill Farm, Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TW

For : Mr Stephen Baylis P E and R Baylis and Son

Application(s) reference: 23/00860/FUL

Proposed : Proposed garage extension

At : Sunnyside, Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TN

For : Mr Eddie Gelibrand

8. Accounts for payment.

Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 435.00

WALC £ 136.00

Kenneth Dunn (Audit) £ 50.00

Bank Charges £ 18.00

Ionos Internet DD £ 25.20

T Lloyd (Plants) £ 114.94
BHIB Insurance £ 580.79
T Lloyd (Tree) £ 80.00

Receipts: SDC 50% Precept £ 3375.00

9. District Councillors report:

Report District councillor Cllr Manuela Perteghella

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Binton Parish Council May 2023

Elections

I'm very proud and humbled to have been elected as the district councillor for Binton at the local elections on the 4th May. I thank residents for the trust they have put in me. I will do all I can for my residents over the next four years, and I will continue to work hard for you. The turnout for our ward was 49.32%, the highest turn out in the district.

The Welford on Avon ward includes the parishes of Binton, Dorsington, Luddington East and West, Welford on Avon and Weston on Avon.

Stratford on Avon District Council also changed on the 4th May. The current political standings of the Council's 41 seats are:

- Conservatives - 12 seats
- Liberal Democrats - 25 seats
- Independent - 1 seat
- Green - 3 seat

The actual number of wards is 39, of which 2 have 2 District Councillors because of their size. Turnout for the elections across the Wards varied with the highest being Welford 49.3% and the lowest Southam South 28.8%. Average turnout for the District as a whole was 39.29%

Full results can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/137970>

Concerns had been expressed about new Voter ID requirements. SDC reported that just 12 people were turned away and did not vote as a result of failure to provide necessary ID (0.03%). It is not possible to determine how many people were deterred from voting as a result of the new legislation.

New Council

The Annual Meeting of the District Council is on 24th May which will be attended by all Councillors. At this meeting the Councillors who will take up the 7 Portfolio Holders positions will be agreed. These are:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Law and Governance
- Environmental and Neighbourhood Services
- Housing and Customer Services
- Development (including Planning and Enforcement)
- Finance

In addition, the Chairs of the 6 Council Committees will also be confirmed. These are:

- Planning
- Employment

- Audit and Standards
- Regulatory
- Licensing Panel
- Overview & Scrutiny

There are also a number of outside bodies, to which representatives of the Council need to be appointed.

In keeping with the Liberal Democrat commitment to a transparent, open, fair and accountable Council, the important **Committee of Overview and Scrutiny** will be chaired by a District Councillor of an opposition party. Overview and Scrutiny is the committee that holds the Cabinet to account. In previous years this was chaired by the same party controlling the Cabinet.

An important priority of the new Council is to listen to our communities. This includes liaising with, and highlighting the important role parish councils play in our rural district. I want to thank the volunteer Parish Council champions in representing local residents and for the efforts they make to improve day to day living for our local communities.

UK Shared prosperity Fund Round 2

The UKSPF Round 2 will be announced in May. There will be two briefing sessions on the application process and fund criteria, and I have been reassured there will be a much wider window to apply for the fund. Parish Councils receive a call to apply via WALC. I've asked that ward members should be told when the call is open, so we can report back to community groups and parish councils with projects they want to progress.

Rural England Prosperity fund

This fund specifically supports businesses and creates jobs in rural areas.

- Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.
- Capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
- Capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects.

Residents' concerns

Speeding traffic and other county highway issues, including dangerous junctions, remain residents' main concerns. The refurbishment of Church Bank was also raised and a timescale for these works will be sought from the County Councillor, as at the moment we can't locate these in the County's programme of road works.

Other issues were also raised, and I will be following these up individually.

Concerns were expressed to Cllr Perteghella regarding the booking system for the Burton Farm tip. Healthcare representation at the SWUFT Council of Governors by SDC will be confirmed after their 24th May meeting.

10. County Councillors report:

Cllr Daniell provides weekly updates.

Necessary repairs to Church Bank still need implementation. Cllrs suggested that reconstruction rather than repair is required

11. To discuss the 2023/24 budget

Report on projects budget

The Speedwatch Group and Parish Council Chair

The Speedwatch group has obtained quotations for the conversion of our two speed warning signs to Solar Panel operation by the manufacturer. To fully implement this time and labour-saving proposal Solar Panels would need to be mounted on all three posts as the movement of the panels at the same time as the movement of the signs would be quite difficult and may upset the geographic siting of the panels. The cost of each panel is £399 plus recoverable VAT.

At the same time the two signs need to be converted to accept the Solar Panel power input at a cost of £100 per sign for the conversion kit plus recoverable VAT. The cost for conversion of the signs and installation of the panels is £200 for the engineer's site visit.

The southern post may have problems with adequate solar exposure but that can be advised by the engineer who attends to convert the signs and fix the panels.

In summary the total cost to the parish council is £1,597. The parish council has a project budget of £2,000 and I have saved £344 on the parish council insurance so it would be possible to fund this from parish resources.

ANESCO (our local Solar farm operator provide charitable funds for schemes associated with Solar power and have been approached for a grant for this project. We will know before the parish council meeting if our proposal has been successful. In addition, or alternately, Piers Daniell may be able to help form his WCC councillor highways fund.

My proposal is that we go ahead with the full scheme for Solar Panels (subject to assessing the southern post) at a cost of £1,597 and anticipate the possibility of alternative funding sources being successful. Alternative quotations are not possible as the panels and conversion kits are proprietary, designed for this installation and the conversion cannot be done by an alternative supplier.

Cllr Mike Flaxman

An application for funding for the above project has also been submitted to Cllr Daniell for the County Councillors Fund. An outcome is awaiting. The PC unanimously agreed to progress these works.

12. Questions from the public: Bin collections on bank holidays are appreciated.

Meeting closed: 8.15 pm