

BAGINTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024 AT BAGINTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Councillor	Wallace Redford	County Councillor
Councillor	Pam Redford	District Councillor
Councillor	Josh Payne	District Councillor
Councillor	Chris Goodwin	Chairman
Councillor	Walter Bush	Vice Chairman
Councillor	Gary Colville	
Councillor	Mike Meakin	
Councillor	Robert Taylor	
Councillor	Roger Horsfall	
Councillor	Craig Biggerstaff	
Councillor	Rob Newman	

Clerk Phil Clark

Public 4 members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed those present.

2643. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, APOLOGIES & WELCOME

2643.1 Declarations of interest were sought and none were received.

2643.2 The following had apologised: Councillor Andrew Parkes

2644. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

2644.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1st February, having been circulated, were approved without amendment. Proposed by Councillor Meakin & seconded by Councillor Colville.

2645. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALLACE REDFORD

2645.1 Councillor Wallace Redford had sent various reports during the last month, which had been circulated to Councillors to keep them informed.

2645.2 Councillor Redford noted that a consultation on WCC Parks planned charges for parking had been circulated earlier that day and asked Councillors to look at the proposal on behalf of residents.

2645.3 Councillor Redford brought attention to the West Midlands Investment Zone Cabinet Paper. Councillor Redford explained that the agreement brings investment to improve infrastructure around the airport in order to promote the site as a battery gigafactory and bring in associated works such as automotive technology and advanced manufacturing. Up to 30,000 jobs are promised over the next 10 years. Currently £24 million is committed and a further £40 million is becoming available. There will be no consultation held as this has been deemed as completed when planning permission was secured for the site, but further phases of the work may require specific planning approval. Councillor Redford confirmed there was no clear end-user for the gigafactory, but the infrastructure development is to overcome what are seen as significant constraints in order to promote the site. As these proposed works have a significant impact on Baginton, he urged Councillors to familiarise themselves with the report. **Clerk to circulate.**

2645.4 The Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service Consultation was discussed. Councillors agreed to support the main proposal to align the periods of greatest demand to the highest availability of fire crews, but to object to any loss / reduction of community outreach programmes such as visiting schools and open-day safety checks for items such as children's car seats and electric blankets.

Clerk to action.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Redford for his reports.

2646. REPORTS FROM WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 2646.1 Councillor Pam Redford had sent various reports to the Clerk during the previous month, which had been circulated to Councillors.
- 2646.2 Of particular note, Councillor Redford highlighted that support for paying utility bills was still available from WDC for households claiming benefits, school meals etc.
- 2646.3 With respect to the Investment Zone discussed in 2645.3 above, Councillor Redford noted that it had not yet been agreed by WDC, but feels it will be approved. Councillor Redford will oppose the speculative spending of millions of pounds on infrastructure to try and attract a buyer / operator, suggesting that the promise of infrastructure investment should be sufficient to attract interest and it could be implemented at a later date, rather than speculative investment right now.
- 2646.4 Councillor Josh Payne indicated that he was due to attend a Party meeting on 4th March to discuss the Investment Zone in 2645.3 above, but it was cancelled unexpectedly. He is still awaiting a new date.
- 2646.5 Councillor Payne indicated that while he had made contact with JLR and had managed to get the graffiti on Rowley Road hoardings covered, he had still not received permission to pass the contact details to the Parish Council. However, he is happy to continue to act as an intermediary if the Parish Council wishes to raise issues with JLR.
- 2646.6 With regards to fly tipping, Councillor Payne noted that he had organised the removal of a number of incidents in Baginton Parish. He also noted that if WDC decide that a reported incident is on private land and do not remove the items, a policy should operate whereby WDC report that back to those who identified the incident. He also noted that whilst WDC operatives remove the bulky bags and items, they do not then clear 'loose litter'. He is working with the appropriate WDC departments to address these two matters.
- 2646.7 Councillor Payne reiterated that he is current working with Bus Operators to ensure a good service for all villages in his Ward. He is happy to receive any comments on bus services from residents or the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Redford and Payne for their reports.

2647. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD.

- 2647.1 Members of the public had complained about a humming noise from the UKBIC site and several residents attended the meeting with sound recordings of the issue. It was noted that the matter had been referred to UKBIC and escalated to WDC for investigation. Some Councillors reported hearing the noise, while others had not, suggesting that certain parts of the village were more prone to disturbance than others. It was also noted that some residents had only recently started to hear the noise and suggestions of a faulty bearing on equipment was put forward. Councillor Pam Redford reiterated that WDC were looking into it and suggested that a map of houses in Baginton reporting the noise may help identify the source.

- 2647.2 A resident had queried the legality of the solid 2m wooden fence erected around the New Build on the corner of Hall Drive and Bosworth Close. The matter had been referred to WDC Planning Enforcement for investigation.
- 2647.3 A resident spoke about litter around the JLR site and the Segro track to their attenuation pond on Rowley Road. Councillor Payne will liaise with JLR about the matter and Councillor Bush offered to discuss this with Segro at their next meeting.

2648. SOUTH OF COVENTRY (SoC) DEVELOPMENTS

- 2648.1 It was confirmed that the next Segro meeting is scheduled for 13th March.
- 2648.2 Councillor Bush had been in communication with Segro about a number of matters. He confirmed that the Segro management suite would have their own defibrillator and that their mobile security van would also carry a defibrillator. With regards to Parish Council volunteers locking the car park on Rowley Road overnight to deter antisocial behaviour, Segro were now having second thoughts after consulting with their legal department. It was confirmed that some replanting of dead trees had started on the bund behind Oak Close, but had not been seen continuing elsewhere. It was also noted that the anti-dazzle fence between Stoneleigh & Bubbenhall Road had not yet been replaced, despite a prior agreement with Segro. Councillor Bush will bring these matters to the next Segro meeting.

2649. POLICE MATTERS.

- 2649.1 Police were made aware of a 'gang' of youths on push bikes causing general disruption in Baginton on the afternoon of 4th February.
- 2649.2 The next Police Liaison meeting is on 11th March from 7:00pm at Leek Wootton Police Headquarters. Councillors Bush and Parkes will attend.
- 2649.3 Offenders attempted to break into a property on Roman Way, damaging a rear door lock on the night of 23rd February.
- 2649.4 Following the fatal accident in January, Rowley and Firefly Road 'racing meets' had started again, with residents reporting extended on-hold times when trying to report incidents. Councillor Colville suggested that car 'meets' moved around a series of venues and were typically monthly in Baginton. Councillor Colville also informed Councillors that he had helped bring attention to the problem via an on-line petition and by directly contacting West Midlands Police, Warwickshire Police, MPs, Mayors, Police Commissioners and other appropriate people. It had become clear that one main restriction to resolving this matter is that the 'race course' staggers both Warwickshire and West Midlands jurisdictions and that cross-border communication & cooperation between the two areas are very poor at both the Police and the Governing levels. The road layout was criticised as being an ideal race track with wide sweeping bends and long straights, reinforcing that redesign actions by WCC and CCC Highways would be beneficial. The overall aim is to implement a Public Space Order to make race meets illegal and give Police powers to arrest.
- The Parish Council fully supported the ongoing works to resolve the issue, reminding Councillors that the Parish Clerk should be informed / involved at all stages.
- Councillor Wallace Redford suggested that in addition to keeping Police Commissioners involved, it would be worth checking that the Chief Constable in engaged so that practical Police measures can be approved. Councillor Redford also suggested writing to the WCC Director of Highways (Scott Tompkins) regarding the possibility of speed cameras. **Clerk to action.**

2650. BAGINTON EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

2650.1 The film night on 23rd February was the crime/drama/horror 'A Haunting in Venice'.

2650.2 The next film night on 22nd March will be the sports comedy drama 'Dream Horse'.

2650.3 Party in the Park is scheduled for 13th July 2024. Tickets are on sale.

2650.4 The Events Committee AGM will be held on 11th March.

2650.5 It was confirmed that no plans had been made to light a beacon to mark the D-Day anniversary.

2651. AIRPORT MATTERS

2651.1 Next Airport meeting is May 2024.

2652. PLANNING

a. Planning decisions received since the last meeting

i. None

b. To note applications awaiting WDC decision.

- i. W/23/1725 Demolition of existing buildings and rebuild on new buildings and site layout at Unipart Logistics on Middlemarch Business Park. Circulated to Councillors on 12th December with **NEUTRAL** response issued 6th January.
- ii. DOC/23/0018 – Discharge of Conditions 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 relating to W/20/0808 (Building of 56 affordable houses off Church Road on land north of Rosswood Farm). Special notes on Condition 8 (Surface water drainage). **OBJECTION** response issued 18th January.
- iii. W/24/0059 – Roof Installation of solar panel at Canute Haulage, Siskin Parkway East. **SUPPORT** response issued 26th February.
- iv. W/24/0006 – Two storey rear extension, loft conversion and relocation of existing porch at No.3 Kimberley Road. **NEUTRAL** response reported 27th February with a note on lack of parking for the enlarged property. **WITHDRAWN** 29th February.

c. New planning applications or matters received since the last meeting

- i. W/24/0134 – Replacement of chain-link fence with a three-spike galvanised steel security fence at Walkers Snack Foods, Siskin Drive, Middlemarch. Circulated to Councillors 17th February with response required by 8th March. A resolution was passed to support the application. **Clerk to action.**
- ii. DOC/24/0010 – Discharge of condition 23 (the need for a construction traffic management plan) - Gateway South development on Bubbenhall Road. Circulated to Councillors 23rd February with response required by 7th March. **QUERY** placed with WDC 28th February.
- iii. W/24/0192 - Replacement of windows to meet fire regulations. No.2 The Row, circulated to Councillors 23rd February with response required by 15th March. A resolution was passed to support the application. **Clerk to action.**

2653 HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Summary of known Highways issues, by area.

Major Matters reported previously and awaiting action - None

1. Minor Matters reported previously and awaiting action from 20 Parish Roads

- Andrews Close
- Bosworth Close
- Bubbenhall Road (excluding area at stables & Oakey Hill)
- Bubbenhall Road at Stables

- Church Road – Standing Water
- Coventry Road
- Frances Road
- Friends Close
- Firefly Road
- Kimberley Road
- Hall Drive
- Holly Walk
- Mill Hill – Standing Water
- Mylgrove
- Oak Close
- Silver Eagle Way
- Roman Way
- Rowley Road
- Stoneleigh Road
- Underhill Close

- 2653.1 The speed humps and road repairs scheduled for 9th February went ahead as planned. Councillors praised the work done noting that the profiles of the humps are more effective at reducing car speed. The drain blocked with tarmac outside the Lunt Fort has been reported.
- 2653.2 Pavement hedges at The Old Mill were cut back 1st March.
- 2653.3 Councillor Meakin noted that a combination of a silted grip and blocked gully-pot on Coventry Road next to the Lunt car park entrance had resulted in standing water across the whole carriageway. The Clerk noted that the matter had been reported.

2654 OPEN SPACE.

- 2654.1 The possibility of the Parish Council adopting and running the Peace Garden on Church Road was discussed. The Clerk confirmed that there were no issues or costs implications raised by WALC or the Parish Council insurers. The Clerk also confirmed that he was in contact with the Executors about what was legally being offered, what requirements or restrictions would be applied to the Parish Council as owners and who would cover legal costs and transfer fees if the adoption went ahead.
- Most Councillors were not aware of the Peace Garden and had not visited it. It was noted that many adjacent residents opposed the creation of the Peace Garden and were still opposed to it being adopted. Councillors agreed to defer any decision until a clear proposal is received for consideration. **Clerk to action.**
- 2654.2 Councillor Taylor put forward a proposal of around £18000 for new fencing at the Lucy Price Playground border with Coventry Road, citing a need because of the danger with gaps that could allow children out directly onto the main road and the unsightly 'patchwork' of assorted 'fixes' to block existing gaps. Questions were asked about funds and Councillor Taylor had already started seeking support from Grants and Business Sponsorship. The idea of a new fence placed inside the existing hedgerow gained favour as it would not require removal of the hedgerow, thus reducing costs, supporting wildlife and providing continued road noise dampening for residents in the area. Councillors approved of the idea and gave Councillor Taylor their full support to explore the matter further. A member of the public recommended Hawkesbridge Fencing as offering excellent service and value.

- 2654.3 Councillors agreed that the repairs to the Smithy had addressed any safety concerns and it was resolved to allow the tenant back into full operation and to charge rent from the start of the new financial year. Councillor Bush asked if there was a practical reason why the steel plates had been screwed into the wooden beam rather than being bolted through with compression applied. **Clerk to action.**
- 2654.4 The proposed redevelopment of the pond was discussed in light of the information from Platform Housing that they would not be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and performance of the pond as part of their surface water management plan because they would need to pass those costs onto their customers. Councillors similarly felt it was not appropriate for the cost of maintaining Platform Housing's surface water scheme to be paid for by increasing residents' precepts. Councillors believe that Platform Housing should be responsible for the surface water drainage functionality of their plan (dredging, water quality, erosion repair, inlets / outlets / overflow etc. as needed). The Parish Council should maintain aesthetics (grass cutting, planting, path & seat maintenance, tree work etc.). If an appropriate compromise can't be reached, the Parish Council will withdraw the offer of using their land for surface water drainage from the planned housing. **Clerk to action.**
- 2654.5 Discussions were held regarding pollarding of the Oak tree next to the proposed footpath between Church Road and the bus stop on Coventry Road. The Clerk confirmed that the developer had meant 'crown lifting' for pedestrian access rather than 'pollarding'. Councillors decided they needed a more detailed report of the planned works on the tree before they were prepared to give any permission. **Clerk to action.**
- 2654.6 Questions were asked about the fence between the pond and the proposed housing development. The Clerk confirmed a post and rail fence would be erected and maintained by the developers. Councillor Bush asked if a more substantial chain-link fence should be installed to prevent people accessing the pond area, but Councillors questioned if that were necessary when the pond area was an open public amenity.
- 2654.7 Councillor Horsfall suggested that the Oak Glade where the proposed path would go (2654.5 above) was in need of a general arboriculture review. The Clerk noted the last review was 2020, so the next review is probably 2025.

2655 GRANTS MATTERS TO NOTE - None

2656 GENERAL MATTERS TO NOTE - None

2657 FINANCIAL MATTERS TO NOTE.

a.	<u>Currently Earmarked Funds</u>	
	Charity Donated Monies Held by Council	£1330.29
	Earmarked Funds (Lucy Price Playground)	£9574.00
	Earmarked Funds (Election Expenses)	£5700.00
	Earmarked Funds (Badge of Office)	£118.45
	Earmarked Funds (Bus Shelters & Notice Boards)	£860.00
	Earmarked Defibrillator Consumables & Service	£172.61
	Earmarked Smithy Maintenance & Repair	£0.00
	Total Earmarked Reserves	£17755.35

- b. To advise Bank balances as of 25/02/2024
- | | |
|--|------------------|
| HSBC treasurers (community) account: - | £ 2238.16 |
| HSBC savings (BMM) account: - | £ 31298.55 |
| Total in Bank | £33536.71 |
- c. **Reserves (Bank less earmark & committed)** **£15781.36**
- d. Bank Charges per month **£8.00**

e. It was resolved to approve payment of the new items below by electronic transfer. Proposed Councillor Goodwin, seconded by Councillor Meakin & passed by show of hands.

	Value	Pay Number
Clerk's monthly salary (40.1 hours @ SCP Level 7 £506.26)	£503.66	Pay 117
Clerk's Income Tax & NI	£2.60	Pay 118
Office Costs & Overheads	£250.00	Pay 119
Litter Picking Honorarium	£140.00	Pay 120
Website Honorarium	£62.50	Pay 121
Village Hall Invoice 2024-28	£8.00	Pay 122
Village Hall Invoice 2024-38	£8.00	Pay 123
Cash needed in Current Account	£974.76	

- i. The Finance Committee meeting with the Clerk took place on 11th February and everything was found to be in order.

2658 CONSULTATIONS TO NOTE.

2658.1 The Warwickshire Fire and Rescue consultation was circulated to Councillors on 2nd January with response required by 10th March. (see 2645.4 above).

2659 BROCHURES AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PERUSAL.

2659.1 Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2024.

2660 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

2660.1 The draft Metal Detecting Policy was approved.

2660.2 Councillors again considered placement of the spare defibrillator. Councillor Colville suggested that Smith's Nurseries may become a possibility if electrical work went ahead. Councillors suggested the Smithy on Church Road was a more appropriate location. **Clerk to investigate.**

2660.3 Councillor Goodwin asked about planting a tree on Parish Council land with a plaque in memory of Gayle Goodwin. Councillors agreed as it fits with our policy of allowing memorials on our land if the person honoured had contributed and supported Baginton life.

2660.4 Councillor Payne raised the importance of escalating matters to District and County level, rather than struggling to resolve issues at Parish Council level.

2661 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

2661.1 Next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled: **4th April 2024** from 7:30pm at Baginton Village Hall.

2661.2 The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on **11th April 2024** from 7:30pm in Baginton Village Hall main room.

2662 CLOSE - The meeting closed at 9:17pm.