

BAGINTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 9th January 2025 AT BAGINTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Councillor	Wallace Redford	County Councillor
Councillor	Pam Redford	District Councillor
Councillor	Walter Bush	Acting Chairman
Councillor	Robert Taylor	
Councillor	Gary Colville	
Councillor	Craig Biggerstaff	
Councillor	Andrew Parkes	
Councillor	Mike Meakin	
Clerk	Phil Clark	
Public	4 members of the public were present.	

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed those present, wishing them a Happy New Year.

2837. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, APOLOGIES & WELCOME

2837.1 Declarations of interest were sought and none were received.

2837.2 The following had apologised:

Councillor Josh Payne	District Councillor
Councillor Chris Goodwin	Chairman
Councillor Rob Newman	
Councillor Roger Horsfall	

2838. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

2838.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th December, having been circulated, were approved without amendment. Proposed by Councillor Bush & seconded by Councillor Parkes.

2839. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALLACE REDFORD

2839.1 Councillor Wallace Redford had sent various reports throughout the last month, which had been circulated to Councillors to keep them informed.

2839.2 Councillor Redford discussed the Government's Devolution White Paper, whose consultation period closes on 10th January 2025. He explained that the proposal was to abolish the two tier Local Government system, combining local Borough and District Councils with Warwickshire County Council to form a single Unitary Authority. If organised correctly, this would allow streamlining of services such as waste disposal, adult social care, roads maintenance etc., thus saving money. Currently there are around 350 County, District and Borough Councillors within Warwickshire and under the new Unitary Authority, this would reduce to about 100 Councillors. Councillor Redford explained that WCC were supporting the formation of a Unitary Authority.

2839.3 Further to the above, Councillor Redford explained that WCC were seeking to postpone the County Elections scheduled for May 2025, as they would be a waste of money in light of the larger transition to a Unitary Authority. He also explained that once formed, the Unitary

Authority would be seeking to become part of a larger Strategic Authority and that the preferred option was to join the West Midlands Combined Authority.

- 2839.4 Councillor Pam Redford, on behalf of Warwick District Council, explained that she and the majority of other Borough and District Councils within Warwickshire felt that WCC had acted too hastily, had not consulted properly with the District and Borough Councils and had not explored other options for the Unitary Authority. Of specific note, Councillor Pam Redford suggested that any Unitary Authority formed would be better demographically matched if they were to combine with other Strategic Authorities such as Worcestershire and Oxfordshire, rather than West Midlands. Consequently, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council had released a joint statement opposing the WCC plan.
- 2839.5 Councillors discussed the practicalities and implications this would have for the Parish Council and our residents. It wasn't clear if the changes would increase or decrease the powers, responsibility and involvement of Parish Councils. Councillor Wallace Redford explained that some Parish Councils had expressed concerns that devolution of power would overwhelm Parish Councils with extra work, whilst others were concerned that existing powers would be eroded and the Parish Council would effectively become redundant. Councillor Pam Redford suggested that ideally, the two systems would run in parallel for at least 12 months while powers and responsibilities were separated between the Unitary Authority and Parish Councils.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Redford for his reports.

2840. REPORTS FROM WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 2840.1 Councillor Pam Redford had sent various reports throughout the last month, which had been circulated to Councillors to keep them informed.
- 2840.2 Councillor Redford highlighted that the Parish Council objection to planning application DOV/24/0001 (Land at Rosswood Farm) did not highlight any specific NPPF or Local Plan Policy breaches and so if referred to the WDC Planning Committee, our objection would be rejected. Councillors debated whether we should continue to object and force the matter forward onto the WDC Planning Committee then send representation to the planning meeting, or whether we should change our response to neutral with strong wording about our disappointment that by stealth the application has been changed significantly beyond the outline planning that was originally granted by WDC. Councillors were divided, but eventually a resolution was passed to enter a neutral response with a strongly worded letter, especially relating to the lack of a surface water drainage strategy for the site. **Clerk to action.**
- 2840.3 Councillor Redford handed the Clerk an information sheet relating to CIL qualifying criteria. **Clerk to circulate.**
- 2840.4 Councillor Josh Payne had apologised before the meeting, but had sent a report which the Clerk read and which is summarised below;
- WDC has provided extra funds for Citizens Advice and the Parish Council could request an outreach surgery to attend the Village Hall. **Clerk to enquire.**
 - Councillor Payne highlighted that some of the projects on the Village 'Wish List' could be eligible for funding via a Local Growth Initiative through the West Midlands Investment Zone and he is investigating this further.
 - It was highlighted that the new WDC Local Plan consultation was under way and runs until 7th March

- In relation to 2840.2 above, Councillor Payne confirmed that the variation of the S106 agreement would not increase the number of properties built on the site.
- Councillor Payne asked for the Parish Council views on the feasibility of starting a not-for-profit community run shop with pop-up Post Office in Baginton. **Clerk to chase.**
- Councillor Payne stated he is continuing to keep residents informed of vehicle ASB, tree management and improvements in the provision of bus services to Baginton.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Redford and Payne for their reports.

2841. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD.

2841.1 No matters were raised by the public prior to the meeting and none were raised by the public at the meeting.

2842. SOUTH OF COVENTRY (SoC) DEVELOPMENTS

2842.1 The meeting with Segro on 11th December was poorly attended and nothing of significance was reported from the meeting. It was noted that Colin Lawrence Waterhouse had spoken to DHL about HGVs passing through Baginton and the Bubbenhall Road rather than using the designated routes. It was noted that the registration of HGVs passing through the village should be noted with date and time then reported to Segro.

2842.2 There were no further South of Coventry matters to report.

2843. POLICE MATTERS.

2843.1 It was noted that following a joint Parish letter to the Warwickshire Chief of Police, our request for further Police cover in Baginton and surrounding Villages has been declined.

2843.2 Discussions were held regarding the Police Precept Consultation. Whilst Councillors were free to complete the survey as individuals, it was decided that the Parish Council should respond as a separate entity. It was resolved to object against the Police proposal as funds were being increasingly diverted from rural areas to Towns such as Leamington. Councillors believe it is not acceptable for rural villages to fund increases in Police precepts when we are seeing cuts in our Police support. **Clerk to report.**

2844. BAGINTON EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

2844.1 There was no Film Night in December.

2844.2 The next Film Night on 31st January will be 'The Keeper', an inspirational true story.

2845. AIRPORT MATTERS

2845.1 A report had been circulated earlier in the month highlighting that the gigafactory site on Coventry Airport were seeking to vary the existing planning permission. The variation was to have a larger number of smaller units redistributed across the site, rather than the fewer extra-large structures that had originally been approved. Councillors noted that the site still had no firm buyer / developer and suggested that the change was a stalling process to keep the application live because the current outline planning expires in March 2025.

2845.2 Councillor Bush highlighted a huge new Industrial & Commercial plus Housing development at the Brinklow-Ansty site. This town-sized development with excellent road, infrastructure and connectivity amenities could easily rival the Coventry airport site in terms of attracting a gigafactory. The application was currently with Rugby Borough Council and it was noted that Coventry City Council had objected to the application.

2846. PLANNING

- a. Planning decisions received since the last meeting**
- i. W/24/1247 – Relocation of Battery Energy Storage System at UKBIC, Rowley Road. **SUPPORT** response issued 4th October. **GRANTED** 16th December.
- b. To note applications awaiting WDC decision.**
- i. 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 2024.
 - ii. DOC/24/0010 – Discharge of condition 23 (the need for a construction traffic management plan) - Gateway South development on Bubbenhall Road. **NEUTRAL** response issued 30th April 2024.
- c. New planning applications or matters received since the last meeting**
- i. DOV/24/0001 – To change Section 106 relating to W/22/1038 making all 66 houses affordable, rather than a mix of affordable and standard market homes, so that grants could be used to build the properties. Land at Rosswood Farm. **OBJECTION** issued 20th December 2024.

2847 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

NOTE: Any reported matters are detailed against the appropriate Road below;

- Andrews Close
- Bosworth Close
- Bubbenhall Road (excluding area at stables & Oakey Hill)
- Bubbenhall Road at Stables
- Church Road
- Coventry Road
- Frances Road
- Friends Close
- Firefly Road
- Kimberley Road
- Hall Drive
- Holly Walk
- Mill Hill
- Mylgrove
- Oak Close
- Silver Eagle Way
- Roman Way
- Rowley Road
- Stoneleigh Road
- Underhill Close

- 2847.1 Discussions were held regarding the drainage on Church Road outside the new housing estate. Councillor Bush noted that he had again cleared the drainage pipe from the road to the ditch, finding sand, silt and stone that appeared to have been washed into the pipe from the adjacent building site. Councillor Bush also noted a constriction that he was struggling to move, which wasn't there when the pipe was last cleared in December and which he suspected may be set concrete from the building site. He asked if WCC Highways would consider placing a camera down the pipe to confirm the nature of the constriction. Councillor Wallace Redford suggested writing to Ryan Machin at WCC Highways to make a request and also suggested a site visit with Ryan and Parish Councillors might clarify what can be offered by WCC. **Clerk to action.**
- 2847.2 Councillor Colville asked about the relocation of the 30mph speed sign and the Baginton Village sign which are both currently outside Roswood Farm Bungalow. Councillor Wallace Redford explained that current WCC Highways rules require houses to exist on both sides of a road in order for it to be recognised as an integral part of the village. The proposed site for relocating the signs has open fields on one side, so does not meet the required criteria. However, Councillor Redford continued to explain that numerous exceptions exist in Warwickshire and that both he and the portfolio holder agreed that this should be an exception. Councillor Redford had also offered to fund from the relocation of signage from his personal allowance. The portfolio holder had agreed to take the matter to WCC Cabinet for consideration. Councillor Redford suggested writing to Steve Smith (Highways Director) to add weight to our request. **Clerk to action.**
- 2847.3 Councillor Meakin noted that heavy rain recently had washed sand and silt from the building materials on the driveway of No.16 Mill Hill, leaving the road slippery. Councillor Wallace Redford suggested that if the problem persisted, a letter should be written to WCC Highways explaining the issue and he asked to be copied into any correspondence. **Clerk to monitor.**

2848 OPEN SPACE.

- 2848.1 Extensive discussions were held on the requirement for Lovell's to provide safe access from the new housing developments to public transport (bus stop on Coventry Road opposite The Row). Councillors were adamant that we should resist the use of Parish Council land for a footpath connecting the new development to the existing bus stop. Councillors suggested that the existing bus stop is moved 100m further along Coventry Road, such that it is immediately outside the new development and reduces the amount of new pavements that need to be installed. The existing chicane is scheduled to be removed as part of the development, facilitating the relocation of the bus stop. Councillor Wallace Redford suggested that moving the bus stop would require agreement with the service provider, WCC Highways and would need to demonstrate support from residents. Councillor Pam Redford suggested checking with WDC Planning to ensure the suggestion meets the Condition set by WDC Planning. The proposal should be put to WCC following their request for the Parish Council to consider options. **Clerk to action.**
- 2848.2 Councillor Taylor highlighted that a volunteer had made and fitted a new wooden seat to the train on the Lucy Price Playground, with thanks from Councillors. It was noted that the first meeting of the Open Spaces Group was scheduled from 7:00pm on 21st January at the Village Hall. Councillor Taylor also asked if the specification for the current open-space mowing contract was available prior to the meeting. **Clerk to arrange.**

2849 GRANTS MATTERS TO NOTE

2849.1 None

2850 GENERAL MATTERS TO NOTE

2850.1 None

2851 FINANCIAL MATTERS TO NOTE.**a. Currently Earmarked Funds**

Charity Donated Monies Held by Council	£1330.29
Earmarked Funds (Lucy Price Playground)	£6678.68
Earmarked Funds (Election Expenses)	£5950.00
Earmarked Funds (Badge of Office)	£118.45
Earmarked Funds (Bus Shelters & Notice Boards)	£1000.00
Earmarked Defibrillator Consumables & Service	£322.61
Earmarked Smithy Maintenance & Repair	£6000.00
Total Earmarked Reserves	£21400.03

b. To advise Bank balances as of 01/01/2025

HSBC treasurers (community) account: -	£4505.37
HSBC savings (BMM) account: -	£36200.30
Total in Bank	£40705.67

c. Reserves (Bank less earmark & committed) £19305.64**d. Bank Charges per month £8.00**

e. It was resolved to pay the items below by electronic transfer, proposed by Councillor Bush and seconded by Councillor Parkes.

	Value	Pay Number
Clerk Salary & Back Pay (40.1 hrs @ SCP Level 7 £531.73)	£587.01	Pay 197
Clerk's Income Tax & NI (Includes PAYE Adjustment)	£146.80	Pay 198
Village Hall Invoice BVH-24-236	£10.00	Pay 199
TOTAL	£743.81	

- i. The Smithy rent for £390.50 was requested 5th January.
- ii. The annual Finance Committee meeting with the Clerk is now due. **Clerk to organise.**

2852 CONSULTATIONS TO NOTE.

2852.1 The South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Preferred Options consultation starts on 10th January and runs until 7th March.

2852.2 The Police Budget Consultation was circulated on 2nd January and was discussed in 2843.2 above.

2853 BROCHURES AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PERUSAL.

None

2854 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- 2854.1 Councillor Meakin supplied the Clerk with details of A46 road closures associated with HS2 works. **Clerk to advertise.**
- 2854.2 Councillor Wallace Redford asked about extending the Rowley Road pavement and Councillor Colville confirmed works had started.
- 2854.3 Councillor Bush asked about timescales for works on The Smithy and the Clerk confirmed the revised start date was early February.
- 2854.3 Councillor Wallace Redford asked for a summary of any highways issued from 2024 that were still outstanding. **Clerk to action.**
- 2854.4 Councillor Pam Redford asked if the Clerk could send her any minutes generated at the West Midlands Investment Zone meeting scheduled for 21st January from 2:00pm at Baginton Village Hall. **Clerk to action.**
- 2854.5 The Clerk highlighted that a new 'Upcoming Meetings' section would be introduced to the Agenda in order to help Councillors track the numerous invitations currently arriving for the Parish Council. **Clerk to action.**

2855 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- 2855.1 The next Ordinary meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 6th February 2025.**

2856 CLOSE

The meeting closed at 9:12pm.