

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Parish Council notes from the Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd of August 2023.

Parish Council

Closure of the Village Information Centre – Cllr Bob Hadley reported that CDC is withdrawing the funding from the Village Information Centre and the Directors have no alternative but to close it. The centre was due to close at the end of September, but Cotswold District Council (CDC) is using money from the Tourist Levy to provide a temporary stay of execution until the end of December. The Parish Council was not given notice of the plans for closure or consulted on the use of the Tourist Levy. The Information Centre is an important resource for the village and the Parish Council has written to the District Council expressing its concerns and are hoping to open negotiations to find a solution. A Bourton Business Network petition for CDC to keep it open can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SaveCotswoldVICs>.

Coach Parking: The Parish Council is deeply concerned by the issues raised with the loss of eight coach parking spaces in the village. It is working with other stakeholders to look at alternative options to try and find a solution. Representatives from Bourton Business Network attended the Parish Council meeting and made a [statement](#). BNB stated that Coach passengers spend more than car passengers. The impact on businesses is difficult to counteract in the cost-of-living crisis. It was felt that CDC has over costed the coach parking in Rissington Road. Bourton Business Network refuse to enter into the joint statement which says there is no solution and wanted the Parish Council to do the same. A summary of the coach park stakeholder meeting had been sent out by CDC with a draft statement. The statement implies finality despite CDC officers being asked to undertake further investigation. There was no discussion of costs or practicalities in the first stakeholder meeting and a meeting of Cllr Roberts with another body has yet to take place. The Parish Council cannot sign up to CDC's draft statement and has written a strong letter of protest to CDC and requested further meetings of the Stakeholders to resolve the issue.

“The coach parking Issue has still not been resolved and those involved are still looking at possible options. The Parish Council understands the concerns of residents & businesses by the uncertainty and inconvenience this is causing.” Parish Council August 2023

Cotswolds AONB Caring for the Cotswold Grant Funding: The terms of this new grant were considered and suitable projects for submission were suggested. Applications must fit in one or more of the four themes:

1. Conservation of habitats and species
2. Heritage and landscape
3. Improving access
4. Education

Grants start at £500 and go up to £2,500. They are looking for high quality projects in the Cotswolds that could be delivered relatively quickly if a Caring for the Cotswolds grant was offered. To apply, an application form and project budget need to be completed and submitted. Periwinkle bank and other projects were suggested. Cllrs Davis and Wragge will take this forward.

Freedom of the Parish: The Parish Council considered creating a protocol to award Honorary Freedom of the Parish to individuals in recognition that they have provided exceptional work, service, or other worthy undertakings, over a period of time, that benefit the community. The Parish Council were unanimously in favour of this.

Reports from County & District Councillors

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson reported on his meeting with the local Highways Manager – Bourton on the Water is a priority. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) can be started this year, provided he receives the information on what the Parish wants. This is the TRO including the bus spaces, motorcycle parking and other waiting restrictions which were missed last time or where the previous implementation has adversely affected residents. The implementation is planned for spring/summer next year after a consultation which could cause delays.

One complaint received of a coach dropping off in Station Road. Question on who is responsible for enforcement of coach parking – presently the Police but planned changes to legislation for Civil Enforcement. Public Service Vehicles are banned from the centre of the village.

Health Centre NHS Gloucestershire waiting times highest in England. A lot of GPs are under a lot of pressure and new GPs are not coming forward to fill the roles of those leaving.

District Councillor Len Wilkins reported that the Town and Parish Councils meetings with CDC meet on the 11th of September in Cirencester and on the 28th of September in Moreton-in-Marsh. Invitations have been circulated. Funding for community/business starting in September.

Cotswold District Council have a group scheme for residents for solar panels. CDC will guarantee the work.

To note: Gilder's EV Charging Station, planning conditions amendment - Ref:23/02305/FUL.

District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village) reported that Coach parking has been his main focus for the month. He is encouraging complainers to report issues to the police and also to contact the crime commissioner to encourage increased policing.

The Robin on demand rural service needs more publicity.

Enforcement of planning infringement on the list for CDC Scrutiny Committee.

Next Meeting Date: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6th of September in the Windrush Room at The George Moore Community Centre. All residents are cordially invited.

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