

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Notes from the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th January and the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2024.

The Police will be holding a Police Point session between 10 and 11am on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson reported that GCC's budget would be set on 21st February and was likely to result in a 4.99% Council Tax rise. The Police precept would increase by 4.4%.

District Councillor Len Wilkins (Bourton Vale) reported that changes were being made to the planning process and in future there would only be a total of 28 days to put in an objection to an application.

District Councillor Jon Wareing (Bourton Village) reported that the Local Plan Consultation was running from 1st February to 24th March and was available on-line.

Thames Water presented on 'Upgrades to the Sewage Infrastructure in Bourton-on-the-Water' with opportunities for a Q&A. The presentation (available on the Parish Council's website) detailed plans for upgrades to the system to ensure better quality effluent would go into the river, reducing spills, making works more efficient and dealing with growth around the area. There would be a significant investment in the upgrade of the sewage treatment works and pumping station with the sewage treatment works from November 2023 to Spring 2025 and the pumping station from Spring 2024 until early summer 2025. The lane opposite the Rissington Road pumping station (HBW38 leading to Santhill Fishing Lakes) would be closed during works, and traffic management would be in place on Rissington Road.

2024-25 Budget and Precept: An Extraordinary Parish Council meeting was held on 29th January and the budget was approved for the year commencing 1st April 2024 at £193,274 which represents a Band D equivalent sum of £109.46 per household per annum, rising from £103.30 in 2023-24, a rise of £6.16 per household per annum or just under 12p per week. Parish Council services cost parishioners £2.10 per week for a Band D equivalent. The total percentage increase in Precept is 5.96%.

Coach Parking, pick-up and drop-off: The possibility of using the school turning circle for pick-up/drop-off had been discussed but thought to be unsuitable on the grounds of safeguarding, congestion, access to the leisure centre, increased footfall to The Avenue and health and safety. Senior directors of the old Co-Op site had been approached to determine whether there was any scope for coach pick-up/drop offs on their site during 2024. CDC had been asked several times about coach parking, pick-up and drop off at the Rissington Road car park and had advised that this was not possible. In addition, Council noted the impact of the new two-way entrance in addition to the adjacent cricket field car parking. Therefore, irrespective of the outcome of the current enquiries, Council saw no further point in attempting to change CDC's mind on the use of the Rissington Road car park for coaches.

Tourist Levy: CDC agreed that Village Green works, additional parking enforcement and the Village Warden would be funded by the Levy each year with any remaining funds going towards projects. CDC may consider increasing the levy per car in future years.

Parish Council open evening with residents to discuss traffic flow and parking – 7pm on Thursday 21st March 2024 at the Royal British Legion Hall: There will be a meeting to hear residents' view on matters outside the scope of coach parking. Following the meeting, the Parish Council will collate views and information for a Strategic Plan to be created by the Highways Committee.

Annual Parish Meeting: This will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 27th March 2024 in the Windrush Room at The George Moore Community Centre. This is not a Parish Council meeting but an opportunity for residents to hear reports from the parish council and local clubs and organisations on their activities during the year. All residents are welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served.

Brighter Bourton: This event will be held on Thursday 4th April from 6.30-8.30pm at the Royal British Legion Hall. Please see separate article for further details.

Next Meeting Date: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at in the Windrush Room at The George Moore Community Centre. All residents are welcome.

Sharon Henley, Clerk/RFO

Tel: 01451 820712; Email: clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk