

**COATES PARISH COUNCIL (CPC)**  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024  
7.00PM COATES VILLAGE HALL

**Present:**

<b>Councillors and Officials:</b>	
Whitfield, Robbie	Chairman
Torry-Harris, Gilly (GTH)	Councillor
Harris, Stephen (SH)	Councillor
Wilson, Pyhlida (PW)	Councillor
Moorcroft, Alan	Clerk & RFO

<b>Members of the Public:</b>
Clegg, Peter (PC), Bathurst Estate
McKeown, Mike (MM) (CDC, councillor)

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

Councillors and members of the public were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

**2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 August 2023**

The minutes of the 2023 meeting had been considered by the councillors in advance of the meeting. They were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. It was proposed and seconded that they be adopted and were subsequently signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**3. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman, CPC**

RW commented that the business of CPC had progressed as usual. It has been harder to obtain input on issues from Gloucestershire County Councillor (GCC) as our councillor has been ill for some time. RW spoke for everyone when he sent his best wishes. In the meantime AWM is to explore whether some temporary GCC councillor support can be provided.

**4. Chairman's statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year to 31 March 2024**

RW introduced the statement on the Parish Council's Accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 (Appendix A). The finances of CPC remain in good standing. RW thanked AWM for his careful maintenance of the council's finances.

**5. Guest speakers**

PC updated the meeting on matters happening at the Bathurst Estate that were relevant to Coates and surrounding area. PC did not believe that there was anything controversial happening in Coates.

The main activity related to the Tunnel House renovation. This has been a tale of woe, but it is hoped that matters will improve. The pub had been loss making which lead to its closure. Since then there had been planning delays, high construction cost inflation and a general downturn in the hospitality market. It is hoped that work will start later this year. To reduce lodge construction costs a new design has been obtained for which revised planning permission will be required; as this is only an amendment it is hoped that it will not take too long. The lodges will now be constructed on site. The actual pub restoration is not seen as a major issue. A well-known publican / chef has been appointed to run the pub; Mike Robinson has a number of other well regarded pubs and the emphasis will be on good quality food. It is hoped that the venture will be open for business sometime in 2025.

The Smerrils Dairy construction is now complete. This has been of great advantage to the Estate as it has allowed the centralisation of a number of their farming operations. RW reminded PC of the need for farm vehicles to drive slowly around the lanes leading to Smerrils, including Coates and the surrounding area. There is a standing instruction to drivers to drive sensibly but PC will reinforce this message.

**COATES PARISH COUNCIL (CPC)**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024**  
**7.00PM COATES VILLAGE HALL**

The community pass scheme for entry into Cirencester Park has gone smoothly. There are no major issues to report. There will be further tree restoration work in the park in the autumn and this may be followed by a third phase at a later date. Work is ongoing to improve the signage in the park. The newly opened cafe is trading well. PC explained that any data obtained for the issue of the passes was because of government legislation and will be destroyed as soon as possible.

The Steadings development is progressing well. The first phase is open and properties have been sold. The remaining phases are some years away and while they may start in 2025 it is more likely that it will be 2026. In the meantime the initial development will be taking place. Road improvements related to the Steadings includes the fire station roundabout. Work will be starting at the end of July for 9 months with an objective of improving the flow of traffic into Love Lane. The proposed roundabouts on the Tetbury Road side of the development are some years away.

MMc has been CDC's representative for just over a year, is enjoying the role and thanked CPC for their warm welcome. MMc provided an update on a variety of issues.

MMc is aware of CPC's attempts to obtain a Speedwatch camera. Kemble council have just obtained a camera and the data is proving to be very useful. CDC have changed bin days for a number of areas resulting in a £1/2m saving, without reducing the service provided. Funds of £170K have been obtained for the provision of more EV charging points across the CDC area. MMC is chairing a Gloucestershire wide group looking at climate improvement issues. Through a non-profit organisation potential sites for solar farms are being considered. The Robin bookable bus service is being introduced into the South Cotswolds area. This has proved to be very popular in North Cotswolds and for only £2 the bus can be booked for journeys within the area.

**6. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest or concern**

None.

**7. Close**

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

**Chairman Signature:** .....

**Parish Clerk Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....

# Coates Parish Council

---

## Appendix A

### Statement on the Parish Council accounts for year ending 31 March 2024

The Coates Parish Council Bank accounts remain healthy

Treasurers' Account £55.98  
Precept Account £9,801.31

#### Main expenditure during the year has been:

1. Clerk's salary £3,873.85
2. Mowing contract £3,672.00
3. Maintenance of council assets £1,687.00\*
4. Insurance £612.93
5. Website £376.80
6. Annual audit £180.00
7. GAPTC Membership (2023/24) £126.43
8. General administration £109.84

\*Of this amount £982.00 was spent on a survey of trees for which the council is responsible and subsequent remedial work. Additionally £415.60 was spent on maintaining the playground.

#### Main income sources during the year have been:

Precept Income £10,500.00  
Bank interest £122.00

The precept request 2024/25 is £10,938.00. The increase in the precept was kept to the minimum by the councillors, and is a 5.56% increase to Band D Council Tax payers over the amount raised in 2023/24.