

ERMIN WARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

JANUARY 2022



I also post items on the @ErminWard Facebook page @ErminWard
Please could you mention this in your Parish News and Village Website.

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Happy New Year! I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break and I wish everyone a peaceful and healthy 2022.

COUNCIL MEETING - 15 December

Link to Webcast and Documents [here](#)

Angela Claridge was voted in as the CDC full time Monitoring Officer.

I'm delighted that my Motion to add an e-Petition link to the CDC Website front page was approved unanimously at Council. This will make it easy for residents to raise issues which are the responsibility of the Council, and gather support from the wider community, in an open and transparent forum.

[VIDEO](#) Watch from 1:46:40

There was an interesting debate about exploring National Park status for the Cotswolds. To watch the whole debate see the recording on the CDC webcast (link [here](#)) for the 15 December Council meeting and start at 2:23:00
My views can be seen at 2:47:00

CABINET - 6 DECEMBER

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1136&MId=1788>

Parish Election Charges

Webcast for this item [here](#)

Town & Parish Councils received an email from the leader informing them that a report to be considered by Cabinet on Monday 6 December 2021, recommending that the cost of Parish and Town Council elections be charged to the local councils rather than being met by the District Council. The item has been postponed until the January 2022 Cabinet meeting to give time for consultation. However many Parish Councils don't meet in January and most have already set their precepts for the coming year.

I was excluded from the correspondence, leaving me in the dark when some of you contacted me about this. The CEO has since been in touch to apologise for the omission.

Parish Councillors have voiced concerns to me that this might affect the fairness of the Democratic process and that people will be dissuaded from standing for Parish Council positions owing to the cost to the Parish. This was the reason why CDC adopted election charges in 1996.

The Chief Executive Officer of GAPTC (The Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, an independent support, training and advisory body for councillors) has emailed Parish Councillors advising: "You need to be raising any concerns with CDC about the lack of pre-consultation and not giving parish and town councils the opportunity to discuss this within their councils; nor has any representation been sought to contribute to the Cabinet paper. Any responses should include your district councillor."

Another missive and apology was sent to Parish Councils admitting errors with the figures in the report but insisting the Council intend to proceed with the proposal. Here are the corrected figures.

Parishes will be greatly influenced by the decision of the Cabinet on 10 January regarding election charges, as it will affect how they set the precept for financial year 2022-23. One Ermin Ward village estimates this would require an increase in the precept of around 300%.

Virtual meetings for town and parish councillors were quickly scheduled for 16 and 22 December for Parish clerks and others. This was rushed and very inconvenient being so close to Christmas. You can download the Cabinet paper [here](#).

Indicative costs for Town and Parish Council elections

Parish	Total cost of single-seat by-election	Total cost to T&P council for combined election
Brimpsfield Parish Council, Brimpsfield Ward	1,900	1,000
Brimpsfield Parish Council, Caudle Green Ward	1,700	900
Coberley	2,000	1,100
Cowley	2,100	1,100
Daglingworth	1,900	1,000
Duntisbourne Abbots	1,900	1,000
Duntisbourne Rouse Parish Council	1,700	900
Elkstone	1,800	1,000
Sapperton Parish Council	2,100	1,100
Winstone	1,900	1,000

These figures were superseded by this chart which (unhelpfully) does not break down costs to be incurred by Parishes:

Area	Electors	Postal Ballot Papers	Ordinary Ballot Papers	Polling stations	Poll clerks	Postal	Proxy	Postal Proxy	poll card printing (per card)	poll card postage (per card)	postal vote packs (per pack)	postal vote postage (outward & return)	ballot papers (per paper)	presiding officers	poll clerks	polling station inspector	equipment and stationery (per polling station)	polling station hire (average cost)	delivery costs (average costs)	Returning Officer and Deputy	Returning Officer costs (nomination checking, supervision of postal vote issue/opening and count)	postal vote, count and admin staff	Total cost of single-seat by-election	Total cost to T&P council for combined election	
1	188	100	200	1	1	35	0	0	7.52	67.68	10.50	56.00	93.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	maximum	maximum	204.00	361.18	1,900.00	1,000.00
2	289	100	300	1	1	68	0	0	11.56	104.04	20.40	108.80	124.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	428.96	2,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
3	379	100	400	1	1	53	0	0	15.16	136.44	15.90	84.80	155.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	412.88	2,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
4	487	200	500	1	1	94	0	2	19.48	175.32	28.80	153.60	217.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	492.70	2,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
5	595	200	600	1	1	101	0	0	23.80	214.20	30.30	161.60	248.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	500.73	2,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	
6	617	200	600	1	1	122	0	3	24.68	222.12	37.50	200.00	248.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	557.66	2,500.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	
7	891	200	900	1	1	123	0	1	35.64	320.76	37.20	198.40	341.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	586.45	2,800.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	
8	970	200	1,000	1	1	141	0	1	38.80	349.20	42.60	227.20	372.00	226.00	169.00	226.00	11.70	250.00	120.00	204.00	610.15	2,900.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	
9	1973	500	1,800	2	4	321	0	1	78.92	710.28	96.60	515.20	713.00	452.00	676.00	226.00	23.40	250.00	120.00	204.00	977.09	5,100.00	2,900.00	2,900.00	
10	2546	700	2,000	2	4	503	3	2	101.84	916.56	151.50	808.00	837.00	452.00	676.00	226.00	23.40	250.00	120.00	204.00	1287.66	6,100.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
11	3846	800	3,400	2	4	625	0	1	153.84	1384.56	187.80	1001.60	1302.00	452.00	676.00	226.00	23.40	250.00	120.00	204.00	1641.49	7,700.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
12	5002	1,300	4,000	3	6	1,013	1	5	200.08	1800.72	305.40	1628.80	1643.00	678.00	1014.00	226.00	35.10	250.00	120.00	204.00	2293.95	10,400.00	6,100.00	6,100.00	

If enacted, the proposals will come into effect on 1 April 2023 meaning the first charge for contested town and parish council elections would be for the four-yearly full council elections in May 2023.

GCC consultation on Bus Service Improvement Plan - open for responses until 30th January

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/bus-service-improvement-plan-survey>

Important public transport consultation - it represents change in the way bus services are planned and delivered, responding to the *Bus Back Better* government strategy.

The new model of delivery will be through an “Enhanced Partnership” – a collaborative approach between the County Council’s Integrated Transport Unit, public transport operators and communities.

The information collected through this consultation will be used to establish this new model of delivery from April 2022, so it is important to ensure that the Cotswolds’ needs and aspirations are well represented.

MAJOR ROAD CLOSURE

COWCOMBE HILL to CIRENCESTER

A419 Road Closure - Monday 10th to Friday 21st January 2022 (excluding weekends), from 09:30 to 15:30 - for essential Ash Dieback tree work.

Contact GCC Highways on 08000 514514 or AshDieback@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

CANNABIS FARM FLY TIP

On 20 December I met Kev Lea, the Environment Officer responsible for fly tipping, at Bullbanks where the remains of a spent cannabis farm had been tipped. This was the second cannabis farm fly-tip in Ermin Ward, the other was larger, about 50 bags near Frampton Mansell, which was cleared within 14 hours of being reported. Did anyone spot the vehicle? If you see a van loaded up with rubbish, ask yourself 'could this be a fly tipper?'. Your vigilance could help catch these criminals.

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

I'm straying from my brief here but I thought you would be interested to see that the GCC Cabinet introduced the 2022-23 budget for Gloucestershire. The budget includes £100 million for roads, funding for 26-miles of cycle track from Stroud to Bishops Cleeve, £150 million for schools, investment in market towns and support and protection for the most vulnerable. Find out more [👉 https://orlo.uk/V60t6](https://orlo.uk/V60t6)

Forthcoming Meetings

10 January	Cabinet
12 January	Planning & Licencing
19 January	Full Council
27 January	Audit
1 February	Overview & Scrutiny