

ANNUAL ROUNDUP

Bodicote Parish Council moves into a new year with a successful 2023 behind us. We achieved several 'wins' throughout the year, as well as overseeing the regular scheduled work.

Once again, the grass cutting and trimming of hedges, shrubs and trees ensured the village remained well kept.

Our big win was the instalment of two new defibrillators to join the original one at the Village Hall. One is sited at The Church House and another at the Post Office. This brings our tally of this life saving equipment to three. They are checked weekly by members of the Parish Council to ensure they are in working order. Happily, nobody has needed to use them yet!

Bodicote community has grown considerably over the last few years and with that growth has come more litter and more dog walkers to the point where our existing bins could no longer cope. Several bins have been replaced with larger ones and a couple of larger dog bins were added. In 2024, we will continue with this initiative as necessary.

We lobbied for new covered bus stops with seats and now there are two along the Oxford Road and we will be placing litter bins alongside them in the coming year. The unsightly brick bus shelters in Weeping Cross were no longer used and had become a site for antisocial behaviour so they were demolished, and the appearance of the verge is much improved.

continued overleaf



Parish Chair Joyce Washburn, Councillor David Hingley and artist Paul Tomlinson at the site of the Bodicote Circular Walk map

During 2023 we commissioned artist Paul Tomlinson to create some beautiful artwork to illustrate the history of the Weeping Cross and to provide a map of the Bodicote Circular Walk which is sited at the start of the Salt Way. They were both erected this year and are a colourful and informative addition to the village! Bodicote Parish Council has also assumed stewardship of the circular walk and added new way-markers to aid navigation.

In October, we sought approval for the display of large lamppost poppies to mark Remembrance Day. This took some time but at the last minute we were granted permission and we placed them along White Post Road and High Street. Several people thanked us and remarked how lovely they looked. We will be covering a larger area this year in plenty of time!



Last year also saw the launch of our new website: www.bodicoteparishcouncil.gov.uk All official information is posted on the site, including meetings, agendas, and minutes. Details of councillors and contacts are all there along with news and events. We will be adding a gallery in the coming weeks showcasing images of the village past and present.

The only downside to the year was the boundary change that was passed despite strong opposition from both Parish Councillors and the community, meaning that sadly we have now lost our ancient Salt Way which will be absorbed into Banbury. We will continue to monitor further proposed developments and strive to maintain our rural landscape and parish status for future generations.



A picture from our archives of a snowy Salt Way



We are looking forward to 2024 and have several projects planned. Our job is to maintain and enhance our village and if you have any suggestions for projects or improvements please contact Christine our clerk or, better still, come along to a meeting! Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month and all details may be found on the website.

All contact details are on the back page of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

BODICOTE HOUSE – DEVELOPING NEWS

Bodicote Parish Council are monitoring the development plans for Bodicote House – the Grade 11 listed house and stables which have been home to Cherwell District Council since 1974. The older buildings including the lodge are likely to be converted into flats and the newer building will probably be demolished to make way for new housing.

We will be attending regular meetings to ensure that the interests of our community are taken into consideration and that the development will be a positive addition which enhances and benefits our village.



Volunteers wanted!

Can you help keep countryside paths open for all?

Oxfordshire Area Ramblers are recruiting volunteers to become Parish Path Wardens working in partnership with the Countryside Access Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Can you...

- Walk the paths in a parish area twice or more per year?
- Carry out small vegetation trimming works?
- Help keep way marks and finger posts clearly seen?
- Report any issues found to the Countryside Access Team via the online website?
- Help the Countryside Access Team keep a good picture of the quality of paths locally?

You will get full support and training from the Countryside Access Team and Ramblers. Volunteers are a vital part of helping keep paths open for people to use and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

John Gregory
Email: jgregorybno@gmail.com



COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Feel free to contact us by email or go to the website for all contact numbers and enquiries:
www.bodicoteparishcouncil.gov.uk

For general enquiries contact

Christine Coles, Clerk to the Council

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Parish Council contacts

Chair of the Council Joyce Washburn

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You can find agendas and minutes of meetings and other information, news and events on the Bodicote Parish Council website:
bodicoteparishcouncil.gov.uk