

Badgeworth Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. H. Jones | 07840073143 | badgeworthpc@outlook.com

MINUTES

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th September 2024 at Badgeworth Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Cottell, Marshall, Howe, Jones, McKay, Sekhar

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Borough & County Councillor Robert Vines

15-minute public comment – No residents were present.

- 1. Apologies** - apologies received from Cllr Cooper.
- 2. Declaration of Interest & dispensation requests** –Item 6(e) Cllr McKay – allotments, Cllr Cottell – Badgeworth Village Hall.
- 3. Minutes of meeting 11th July 2024** were agreed & signed with amendment to item 4.

Matters Arising –

- Cllr Cottell to check if minor tree work had been done.
 - Clerk would send round co-option notices for display on notice boards. These would also be circulated via local networks.
 - Cllr Sekhar would draft a WhatsApp community policy, in collaboration with the Clerk, for the next meeting.
- 4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, to include signing of Acceptance of Office.** Cllr Marshall resigned as Chair. Councillor Jones was elected as Chair as there were no other nominees (proposed NM, seconded RM). Cllr Marhsall was elected as Vice-Chair, there being no other nominees (proposed JJ, seconded YS). Acceptance of Office forms were signed.
 - 5. To Receive a Report from the County and Borough Councillor.**

Borough & County Councillor Vines spoke about the recent cyber-attack at Tewkesbury BC. All systems are shut down until balance can be restored which could take between 2 weeks and 3 months. The Council had also agreed to a change of name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council.

Regarding GCC, Cllr Vines has made enquiries regarding the railway bridge closure in Badgeworth Lane. Discussions are being held and plans formulated with Network rail but there are no details or timescales at present.
 - 6. Parish Council Administration & Assets**
 - a) Appointment of Clerk** – following the resignation of Ms E. Oakley on 19/7/24, it was agreed and confirmed that Mrs H Jones was appointed as Clerk effective from 22/7/24. Salary details – LC2 (24-28 @ point 28). 30 hours per calendar month. £6858p.a. (Proposed YS, seconded NC)

- b) General Power of Competence:** Discuss and agree that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility in terms of the electoral mandate (2/3 declared 'elected') and having a qualified Clerk. This was deferred until May when the declaration can be done.
- c) Policy updates:**
- **Model Standing Orders** – revised to 2022. (minor changes) – agreed. (proposed NM, seconded NC)
 - **Financial Regulations** – updated to 2024 and agreed values. 5.9 to £1500-£3000, and 9.1 (charge card) at £1000 -see item 7a). (proposed NM, seconded MH)
- d) Parish Council small works** – it was agreed to contact local larger Parish Councils to find out if it is possible to share services for occasional small works.
- e) Asset updates:**
- **Badgeworth Village Hall** – Cllr Cottell reported some changes to lettings. There would be a meeting of the Management Committee shortly. Cllr Sekhar would attend representing the PC. Some lighting/electrical works needed. Item to be included on next PC agenda. (Cllr Cottell took part in discussion, no decisions were made)
 - **Allotments at Bentham** – All rents now collected, 2 vacancies with a potential tenant of one plot. Inspection carried out – mostly fine, with genuine reasons where condition not good. High rainfall and weed growth have not been helpful. (Cllr McKay took part in discussions. No decisions were made)
 - **Other assets** – Cllr Sekhar requested that councillors be made aware which assets they need to look out for. Clerk would provide this information.
Cllr Cottell has repaired the millennium bench on Badgeworth Green and will also treat the Badgeworth oak noticeboard. Invoice to be presented to next meeting.
- f) Grass cutting contract** - After a detailed discussion it was agreed that quotes be sought for 2 specifications:
Specification 1: contract as currently. Badgeworth Green, Litte Witcombe Green, Badgeworth Lane layby x 12 cuts per year, Badgeworth Village Hall car park visibility splay x 4 cuts.
Specification 2: amended contract. Badgeworth Green, Litte Witcombe Green, x 12 cuts per year, Badgeworth Lane layby x 8 cuts per year, Badgeworth Village Hall car park visibility splay x 4 cuts. This was proposed by NC and seconded by YS. A recorded vote was taken: 5 councillors voted in favour (NC, NM, RM, YS, JJ) and 1 against (MH)
- g) Accounting packages** – it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for a Parish Council specific accounting package, along with quotes for a PC specific website using a '. gov.uk' domain. For discussion at the next meeting
- h) Training** – authorised Cllrs Cooper & Jones to attend The Power of Local Climate and Biodiversity Action. Cost £45 x 2. Cllr Howe would attend GRCC online training regarding trustees and village halls (no cost).

7. Finance & Insurance

- a) Business Charge Card** - agreed to apply for a charge card. Policy agreed that maximum monthly amount (and single amount) would be set at £1000. Clerk to consult with bank and agreement sought with Cllrs Marshall & Howe before any commitment. (proposed NC & MH)
- b) Large screen** – authorised that Clerk (in conjunction with Cllr Marshall) to purchase a 24" large screen for use with laptop up to value of £120 ex VAT. To be added to PC asset register. (Proposed RM, seconded NC)
- c) Noted previously authorised payments made since last meeting. (proposed NC, seconded RM)**

Payee	Details	Date of invoice	Amount (ex VAT) £	VAT £	TOTAL £
M. Harvey	Bus shelter cleaning A46	9/6/24	80	0	80
Greenfields	Grass cutting	29/7/24	337.30	74.60	447.60

Clerks Expenses	22-31/7/24 & August	20/8/24	63.83	4.35	68.18
Allotment tenant	Key deposit return		30	0	30

d) Authorised payments for the following: (proposed YS, seconded RM)

Payee	Details	Date of invoice	Amount (ex VAT) £	VAT £	TOTAL £
Greenfields	Grass cutting. August	29/8/24	300	60	360
Clerks Expenses	September 24	8/9/24	39.12	2.27	41.39
Clerks Expenses	October 24	8/9/24	26	0	26

e) Clerk's salary –authorised payments & BACS (including any HMRC payment) for previous Clerk until 19th July 2024, and new Clerk from 22/7/24 & August. Plus, payments due for September & October 2024. (Proposed MH, seconded YS)

8. Planning

a) Enforcement Issues – none

b) Delegated Comments to note: 24/00554/FUL. Erection of 1no. self-build dwelling with associated landscaping and parking following the demolition of existing stables and removal of caravan. **Part Parcel 5200, Dog Lane Witcombe – OBJECTION**, not sustainable, AONB & Green belt, outside a defined settlement boundary.

c) Planning Decisions (TBC)

23/00710/FUL & 23/00671/LBC Proposed change of use of barn to include alterations and extension to create a new residential unit. **Barn Behind Cyder Mill Cottage, Cold Pool Lane, Badgeworth. REFUSED**

23/01195/FUL Proposed change of use of land to a private Gypsy and Traveller site consisting of 1 pitch of 1x Mobile Home, 1x Touring Caravan, 1x dayroom, access and ancillary hardstanding. **Part Parcel 5262, Near Rudgley House, Cold Pool Lane, Badgeworth. REFUSED**

22/01276/FUL Change of use of land to residential purposes, the siting and occupation of five mobile homes, and creation of hardstanding, domestic access, and landscaping (amended description). **Brookside Stables, Cold Pool Lane, Badgeworth. REFUSED**

24/00524/FUL Domestic extension to existing dwelling. **Barn Cottage, Dryhill Farm, Crickley Hill. REFUSED.**

d) To agree Parish Council response to planning applications received

24/00651/FUL Two-storey side and rear extension, replacement of windows, cladding and new roofing to existing areas, installation of air source heat pump. **Journeys End, Crickley Hill, Witcombe. NO OBJECTION** and pleased to see the incorporation of a green roof.

9. Community & Environment

a) Noticeboard – Dog Lane. Seek quote for replacement and installation using Bentham Ward funds. Deferred to next meeting for general discussion on condition of existing boards, need for notice boards, locations and costs.

b) Badgeworth village – grit bin shovel & mixed (litter & dog) waste bin. Location agreed for mixed waste bin. Clerk to check with TBC location, then order mixed waste bin. Clerk to purchase grit shovel. Funding from Badgeworth ward allocation, not to exceed £1000.

10. Highways

a) Missing Link Scheme –update given. Grave concerns about speed limit on Crickley Hill which is still 60mph. Acknowledged all round that the road is dangerous but National Highways will not reduce the limit until February 2025 when the site is handed over to Kier.

b) Badgeworth Lane railway bridge closure – update. Highways have stated:

- We are doing all we can in supporting Network Rail to expediate the design and remediation methodology to enable these works to commence as a matter of priority.
- At present we have not received any indication that works could not commence towards the late Autumn/Winter period.
- However, until we have a detailed agreement on the design and remediation methodology, we are not able to provide a specific timeline for the works, having said this we will continue to push this project forward with Network Rail as a priority.
- We are very keen to see the bridge reopened as soon as practicable as we are very mindful the importance it provides as a vital connectivity link for the local community.

11. **Ward Reports.** Councillors to **report** upon **minor issues** which have not been included on this Agenda.

Cllr McKay had attended a meeting if the Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall

Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting of the Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee

12. **Date of the next meeting** – 14th November 2024 at 7.00pm at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall

Meeting finished at: 9.20pm

Signed..... Date.....