

Badgeworth Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. H. Jones | 07840073143 | clerk@badgeworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th March 2025 at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Y Sekhar (Chair), D Cooper, N Cottell, M Howe, N Marshall, J Jones, R McKay, R Norman,

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Borough & County Councilors R Vines

15-minute public comment – No residents were present.

- 1. Apologies** – none.
- 2. Declaration of Interest & dispensation requests** – Cllr McKay – any item which refers to the allotments.
Cllr Cottell – any item that refers to Badgeworth Village Hall
- 3. Minutes of meeting 14th January 2025** were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising not included as an agenda item.
- 4. Election of Chair, to include signing of Acceptance of Office**
Cllr Howe resigned as Chair. Cllr Sekhar was elected as Chair and signed the declaration of office. (proposed DC, seconded RMcK)
- 5. To Receive a Report from the County and Borough Councillor.** – Cllr Vines spoke about the budgets that had been set at GCC and TBC. Local Government devolution – Gloucestershire is not in the first tranche of authorities to be assessed so the County Council election will proceed as normal in May. There are various proposals being put forward. For the GCC elections the ward has now been changed.
- 6. Parish Council Administration & Assets**
 - a) Risk Assessment 24 & 25** –updated Risk Assessment was agreed (proposed NC, seconded NM).
 - b) Asset updates:**
 - **Badgeworth Village Hall** –
Audited accounts 23-24 were received and noted.
A list of minor works from BVHMC relating to the remaining S106 monies was presented by the Chair of the Badgeworth Village Hall Management Committee. Quotes had been requested, but not yet received, Deferred until the next meeting.
 - **Allotments at Bentham** – it was agreed that allotment rents for 2025 would remain as existing at £30 for a full plot(proposed DC, seconded RN). Cllr McKay declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision.
 - **Other assets** – nothing to report.
 - c) Asset Checks 2025** –asset checks 2025 had been completed. It was agreed that a schedule of works be prepared for the May meeting. However, of concern was a structure/shed on the allotments potentially

made of asbestos, thought to be low grade. The structure had been there for at least 20 years, and the timber supports are now rotting. It was agreed that investigations would be carried out, and potential costs brought to the next meeting. (Cllr McKay had declared an interest took no part in the decision).

Notice boards – would be an agenda item at the May meeting, for a final decision on usage/repair/replacement.

- d) **Tree survey 2025** – a quote of £455 +VAT for biannual tree inspection was agreed (proposed JJ, seconded MH)
- e) **Website and Councillor email** – Cllr Marshal & Clerk reported that the new website was now live, with a small amount of information to be added. Councillors were requested to set up their new email by March 31st, 2025. Cllr Marshall could assist with technical issues.
- f) **Defibrillators** – quotes to replace the defibrillators at Badgeworth, and Witcombe & Bentham Village Halls were received from Community Heartbeat. The existing defibrillators have reached the end of their useful life. The quotes are: £1,925.00 + £385.00 VAT (£2,310.00). The Parish Council has allocated £1200 for each defibrillator in the Ward budget. Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall have offered £800 + installation (likely to be around £200) and Badgeworth Village Hall has offered £1000). This was agreed (proposed RMcK, seconded DC) to be paid in 25/26 financial year.
Note 3 quotes had not been received. Enquiries had been made previously about a cheaper defibrillator scheme but Clerk & Councillors were not confident about the reliability, admin and guarantees, nor the necessity to place the order quickly to secure the lower price. Community Heartbeat have supplied the existing defibrillators along with annual maintenance & servicing.
- g) **Training** – authorised Cllr Norman to attend GAPTC councillor training courses £180. (proposed DC, seconded RMcK). Cllr Norman took no part in decision.
- h) **Staff salaries** – it was noted that the Employers National Insurance Contributions reduction in threshold for payment would have minor implications on Parish Council budget for salaries.

7. Finance & Insurance

a) Donation requests –

- **St Peter's Churchyard, Bentham.** Maintenance of burial ground which forms an important green space, where may local families have loved ones buried. Amount requested £150.
- **Holy Trinity Badgeworth.** Maintenance and upkeep of churchyard. Amount requested £300.
Clerk advised there was £250 remaining in the Grants/Donations budget. It was agreed to donate £125 to each of the churchyards (proposed JJ, second NM)

b) Banking services – Clerk advised that the new bank accounts were working well, and old accounts now closed.

c) Independent Internal Audit 24/25 – the report of the Independent Internal Auditor was received. There were no issues of note, and the minor issues identified had been/would be addressed. (Proposed MH, seconded NM)

d) Payments for the following were agreed: (proposed DC, seconded JJ)

Already paid (as expenditure previously authorised)

Payee	Details	Date of invoice	Amount (ex VAT) £	VAT £	TOTAL £
Allotment tenant	Return of key deposit	5/2/25	30	0	30
M Harvey	Bus shelter cleaning A46	5/2/25	80	0	80
GAPTC	Training - Climate	29/8/24	45	0	45

To be paid

Payee	Details	Date of invoice	Amount (ex VAT) £	VAT £	TOTAL £
PATA	Annual Payroll services	15/1/25	149.40	0	149.50
Greenbarnes	Aluminium AF30/DA2	20/2/25	858.87	171.77	1030.64

	Noticeboard with Posts for Little Witcombe Green				
Badgeworth Village Hall	Hall Hire 14/1/25	14/1/25	25	0	25
GAPTC	Training – New Councillor toolkit	23/2/25	45	0	45
GAPTC	Annual Subscription (to be paid April 25)	1/2/25	559.24	0	559.24
GAPTC	Training – Being a Better Councillor and Planning in Plain English	11/3/25	90	0	90
Clerks Expenses	March payroll	10/3/25	55.84	4.54	60.38
Clerks Expenses	April payroll	10/3/25	26	0	26

e) **Clerk's salary** –authorised payments & BACS (including any HMRC payment) for March and April.
(Proposed DC, seconded RN)

8. Planning

a) **Enforcement Issues** –site on Badgeworth Lane. Agreed that the Clerk would contact the new Officer at TBC dealing with enforcement issues.

b) **Delegated Comments to note:**

- **25/00008/FUL** Erection of single storey side extension. **Barn Cottage, Dryhill Farm, Crickley Hill, Witcombe** – proposal has been amended but is still considered excessive.

c) **Planning Decisions (Tewkesbury Borough Council)**

- **24/00982/FUL** Replacement of existing garage with garden room and home office. **Yew Tree Cottage, Cold Pool Lane, Badgeworth. Permit**
- **23/00404/FUL** Construction of new highway access, vehicle track and hard standing along with other associated operational development for agricultural use. **Part Parcel 8072, Badgeworth Lane, Badgeworth. Refuse**
- **23/00791/FUL** Demolition of single storey extension. Erection of two storey extension and rear open porch. Chandlers Farmhouse, Little Witcombe. **Permit**
- **24/00998/FUL Removal** of Condition 12 and Variation of Condition 13, of planning permission 23/01162/FUL, to allow for continued use of a zip wire. **Bentham Country Club, Bentham Lane Bentham. Permit**

d) **To agree Parish Council response to planning applications received**

- **25/00109/FUL** Single storey rear extension with lean-to roof to form enlarged kitchen and dining area. 12 Egdon Crescent, Badgeworth. **No objection.**

9. Community & Environment

a) **Noticeboard, Little Witcombe** – 2 quotes had been received for installation: Greenfields £483 + VAT, JPT Developments £225. It was agreed to accept the JPT quote of £225 (proposed RMcK), seconded DC)

b) **Badgeworth village** – the mixed waste bin has now been installed. Clerk authorised to put payment through when invoice received.

c) **Affordable Housing Needs survey. GRCC** – Cllr Howe reported back from meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler. Noted.

10. Highways

a) **Missing Link Scheme** –update. The speed limit through the roadworks on Crickley Hill has now been reduced to 40mph. Bridge beams are being delivered.

b) **Badgeworth Lane** – Clerk has contacted the Area Highways Manager again about the perceived danger from the steep drop. He has stated:

There are yellow backed signs in place on both sides of the bridge and there is also 'slow' carriageway lining on both sides of the bridge. This signing and lining provides drivers and cyclists with advance warning of the bridge.

If someone chooses to speed, and not drive to the road conditions thus driving in an unsafe manner, then there is little that anyone can do to prevent this type of behaviour and it is highly likely that they would have been driving in a reckless manner before they reach the railway bridge.

Should a cyclist leave the carriageway they could also injure themselves on vegetation such as tree branches and there is a case that the area where the vegetation has been removed is now far more visible to road users thus encouraging safer passage.

The majority of road users using this road following the recent works are now fully aware of the works that have taken place and there have been very few concerns raised with us.

We will of course continue to monitor the situation.

11. Ward Reports.

- **The GCC Footpath Warden** is very active in the area at the moment and various obstructions are being investigated.
- **Issue with inconsiderate drivers and horses in Bentham ward.** Cllr Jones to chat informally to local landowner.
- **Airport Consultative Committee-** the recent meeting was quite tense. There have been issues with air traffic control which have caused significant concerns.

12. Date of the next meeting May 13th, 2025, at Badgeworth Village Hall at 7.00pm

Meeting finished at: 9.02pm

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