

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on 16TH May 2023 at Badgeworth Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Cottell (Chair), Howe, Jones, Marshall, McDonald, McKay,
Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

4 residents

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Annual Report from Chairman 2022/2023

Introduction

During the year we settled back to a normal mode of operation after the previous COVID 19 restrictions. Over that time, we found we could operate with fewer face to face meetings. As a result, we have agreed that going forward we will only meet once every 2 months. This will reduce the amount of administration and reduce our operating costs.

Planning and enforcement

We have continued to see a steady level of planning applications come through in the past year with a return to more usual levels. Of significance was a further application to develop 50 new houses in the field opposite Shurdington School, on the junction of the A46 and Badgeworth Lane. This site previously was removed from the Tewkesbury local plan and remains in the green belt site. The Parish Council strongly objected to this.

We continue to communicate proactively with Tewkesbury Borough Council on breaches of planning approval. We have continued to highlight on-going issues on one specific site on Badgeworth Lane, however despite court action by TBC this remains unresolved.

Highways

Following our work with the Highways dept in 21/22 this year we have funded new "gated entrances" into the village of Badgeworth along Badgeworth Lane. At the same time, the Highways Dept replaced and upgraded the majority of the speed restriction signs through the village along with the critical road markings.

Following representation from residents relating to the number of accidents on Bentham Lane, the Parish Council engaged with the Highways Department and a study was undertaken. Although the study concluded that there was no need to change the speed restrictions, we remain concerned about speed and volume of traffic along the stretch from the A46 to Bentham.

M5 Overbridges

The closure of the Brookfield Road bridge over the M5 in January 2022 had great impact on many residents' travel routines. The bridge closure resulted in the temporary loss of the 97/98 bus service to Cheltenham and Gloucester. We succeeded in getting a community bus service put in to take residents into Cheltenham once a week. Fortunately, the work on the bridge went well, and it was reopened in October 2022 ahead of plan and our former bus service was reinstated.

In November 2022, the Bamfurlong bridge was also closed for maintenance work. This was scheduled to take 13 months and currently is reported to be on schedule for opening at the end of 2023.

Allotments

It is pleasing to report that the Council allotments are fully let and predominantly being well maintained by tenants. The Council is continuing to invest in improving the environment by clearing rubbish and providing an additional of water trough.

Bentham Green

In October 2022, we unveiled a plaque at the entrance to Bentham Green to commemorate the site's former role in development of the first British jet aircraft, the Gloster E28/39 powered by Sir Frank Whittle's revolutionary new engine. A large number of residents and aircraft enthusiasts gathered to see the plaque unveiled by Tony Sangwine, Chairman of the Jet Age Museum.

Airport

The Council is represented at regular Consultative Committee meetings with Gloucestershire Airport. Airport operations and developments (such as the ongoing runway refurbishments and new trading estate) are discussed to help mitigate any effect on the Parish.

Asset register

The Council is responsible for managing and maintaining a number of resources across the Parish. These include the village greens, bus shelters, seats, dog bins and notice boards. The Parish Council is also the owner of Badgeworth Village Hall; however, the day-to-day management is delegated to a separate Management Committee.

The Management and maintenance of these resources is an important part of the Council's work. On both village greens we have regular inspections of the trees and where necessary take remedial actions.

Council Precept.

This is being set at £13000 which was a zero increase on last year. The budget for 23/24 is set at £16710 and so on this occasion the difference is being taken from Parish Council reserves. It is however more than likely that we will have to make an increase next year.

Vacancies

There is a vacancy for the Badgeworth ward of the Badgeworth Parish Council, and anyone interested in being co-opted should contact the Clerk.

Audit and Compliance

Over the past 4 years the Parish Council has, under the guidance of our Clerk, modified its procedures and standing orders to ensure we remain compliant with the changing external standards. Recent audits have demonstrated a high level of compliance and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Clerk for her significant effort and expertise in achieving this.

Thanks

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support, continued hard work and commitment to the various task that are conducted throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Clerk for her excellent work in running the day-to-day business of the Council.

N. Cottell – Chairman, Badgeworth Parish Council 16th May 2023

Report of Responsible financial Officer

- **End of year reserves are satisfactory:** £22376 (similar to last year)
- **Accounts:**

Income was	£27520
Expenditure was	£27752
- **Budget versus expenditure**

Budgeted expenditure	£30540
Actual expenditure	£27752