

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th APRIL 2021 held virtually via Zoom at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Nigel Cottell (Chairman), Chris Haines MBE, Dave Hitchcock, Mike Howe, Jill Jones, Neil Marshall

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

County & Borough Councillor Robert Vines

20/21 Report from Chairman of the Parish Council, Nigel Cottell

Introduction

During this past year the Parish Council has been operating under various levels of lockdown as a result of the COVID 19 restrictions. As a direct consequence, all Parish Council meetings have been conducted remotely “on line”. This has involved all Councillors and our Clerk having to adapt and learn new ways of interacting, both as a Council and, with members of the public. This has predominantly been successful but has no doubt put off some members of the public from joining our meetings.

Planning and enforcement

The past 12 months has seen an increase in the number of planning applications being submitted to the Council for consideration. Over the previous 3 years the average number of applications was 27 per year. This increase by 30% to 36 applications for the past year. This has increased the workload both for our clerk and for Councillors across the Parish. The Covid restrictions have also impacted our ability to consult face to face with residents on planning issues and at times we have had to resort to emailing or writing to those potentially impacted by a specific planning application.

We continue to communicate proactively with Tewkesbury Borough Council on breeches 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.

Tewkesbury Local Plan

Following the recent approval and issue of the Joint Core Strategy, the Tewkesbury Local Plan has also been going through its final stages of review by a Government Inspector. Councillors have been following the on-line questions relating to aspects of the Plan that may impact Badgeworth Parish. Of particular interest has been the proposed release of land for housing development in and around Shurdington and the provision of gypsy and traveller sites.

Highways

During that past year the Parish Council became increasingly concerned at the volume and speed of traffic using Badgeworth Lane. The Council has written to the Chief Executives of the Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City and Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils asking for consideration to be given to the need for traffic management improvement. We have highlighted that Badgeworth Lane has become a principal link for vehicles travelling along the A46 who wish to cut across to the west of Cheltenham feeding into the Arle Court Roundabout/Golden Valley/M5 junctions. We also have expressed concern that with planned residential and employment developments at either end of the Lane the situation can only be expected to get worse.

Recently, concerns over traffic issues on the A46 have been the subject of discussions between a number of the Parish Councils responsible for the communities that live along this busy road.

Cold Pool Lane Sports Pitches.

Lakeside FC signed up to run this facility 2 years ago and the Parish Council has maintained contact with their management team. During this past year the Parish Council supported an application to install a high “ball stop” fence around the south western boundary and added its weight to ensure that Section 106 funding was made available to fund the project.

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

During the past year the Parish Council has undertaken a project to ensure the role of the former Gloster Aircraft factory at Bentham in the development of the Frank Whittles first Jet aircraft is permanently marked. Following liaison with the Jet Age Museum and the Royal Aeronautical Society the wording of a plaque to be located at Bentham Green has been agreed with the expectation of the plaque being installed in the next year.

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. This year Council has dealt with issues of damage to Badgeworth Green and with the letting of land on Witcombe green to permit works to upgrade the local main gas supply. On both Greens we have regular inspections of the trees and where necessary take remedial actions.

Council Precept.

This remains at last year’s level.

Vacancies

There are still 3 vacancies on Badgeworth Parish Council, and anyone interested in being co-opted should contact the Clerk

Audit and Compliance

Over the past 3 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 and particularly acknowledge the additional challenges presented by the Covid lockdown throughout this past year.

Financial Report – Clerk to the Parish Council. Provisional accounts were presented:

ACCOUNTS YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2020			
	2018 -19	2019-20	2020-21
INCOME	£	£	£
PRECEPT	12000	12380	12580
DONATIONS	100	0	0
ALLOTMENT RENTS & SUNDRIES	408	506	468
SUNDRY	60	1	0
S.106 REFUNDS BADGEWORTH VH FROM TBC	5435	516	500
HMRC PAYE REFUND	N/A	113	0
VAT REFUND	791	0	1011
LLOYDS BANK COMPENSATION	N/A	250	N/A
WALES & WEST (COMPOUND LITTLE WITCOMBE)	N/A	N/A	1400
INTEREST RECEIVED	2	3	1
TOTAL INCOME	18796	13769	15961
EXPENDITURE			
SALARIES	5622	5912	5971
GENERAL ADMIN	548	556	662
GRASS CUTTING	2000	2300	1375
ROOM HIRE	165	185	200
SUBSCRIPTIONS	549	519	539
INSURANCE/LEGAL/ACCOUNTS	936	958	1160
DONATIONS	200	200	50
MAINTENANCE/TREES/CONTINGENCY	857	1255	450
REPAYMENT TO TBC OF OVERPAID 106 MONIES	N/A	468	N/A
TRAINING	273	20	0
VILLAGE HALL EXPENDITURE	2015	0	0
ALLOTMENTS	303	47	285
S.106 BADGEWORTH VILLAGE HALL	2340	516	500
BADGEWORTH WARD PROJECT	N/A	466	195
BENTHAM WARD PROJECT	N/A	0	0
WEB SITE/TRANSPARENCY	261	165	225
ALLOTMENT REFUND	0	0	62
VAT RECOVERABLE	1119	660	424
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17187	14226	12098

Bank reconciliations were presented. The end of year totals at the bank were: £22,569.03

The meeting closed at 19.15

Signed..... Dated.....