

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th April 2022 at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Cottell (Chair), Marshall (vice Chair), Haines MBE. Hitchcock,
Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Borough & County Councillor Robert Vines
2 residents

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Nigel Cottell: Annual Report 2021/2022**

Introduction

During this past year the Parish Council has continued to operate under various levels of lockdown as a result of the COVID 19 restrictions. In the early part of the year all Parish Council meetings were conducted remotely “online” but, as restrictions were lifted, we reverted to face-to-face meetings with various measures to limit the transmission of COVID. This has involved all Councillors and our Clerk having to be flexible on how we meet to conduct our business. We are aware that restrictions have potentially limited the opportunities for members of the public to join our meetings and look forward to a return to a more normal situation in the next year.

Tewkesbury Local Plan

During the past year the Tewkesbury Local Plan went through its final review by the Government Inspector. The Inspector made the unexpected decision to withdraw from the plan, the plot of land (SHU1) at the junction of Badgeworth Lane and the A46 (opposite Shurdington CE Primary School). This site was originally scheduled to provide circa 50 houses to contribute to the growth of Shurdington as a Service Village.

In addition to the above change, the Inspector also recommended that the traveller site known as Brookside stables on Cold Pool Lane be assigned permanent status following an extended period of temporary status. This has now been approved through the planning process

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 following the surge during the previous year. Of significance was a further application following the withdrawal of the plot mentioned above from the Tewkesbury Local Plan. The application sought to justify a similar development in the Green Belt. 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

During the past year the Parish Council has continued to express its concerns at the volume and speed of traffic using Badgeworth Lane. Following the high-level strategic communications with the Chief Executives during last year, we approached the Highways Department with proposals to introduce “gated entrances” to the Village of

Badgeworth along with improvements in signs and lines. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the “gates” and is awaiting final confirmation from the Highways Department on proposals for improving signs and lines in the next financial year.

Following representation from residents relating to the number of accidents on Bentham Lane, the Parish Council has expressed concern over the speed limits and its unacceptable use to beat the commuter queues on the A46. The Highways Department is supporting with a site visit in March.

Badgeworth Bus Service

Following announcement that the Brookfield Road bridge over the M5 was to be closed in January 2022 it became apparent that this was not only going to lead to enormous inconvenience for local drivers but was going to lead to the loss of the bus service into Badgeworth throughout 2022. (Note the 97 and 98 service normally runs to Badgeworth every 20 mins during the week). Representations have been made to GCC to fully reinstate the service or at a minimum offer a limited service to support those without cars. This is ongoing.

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.

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. We are awaiting remedial work on Witcombe Green following its use by a utilities contractor

Council Precept.

This is being set at £12960

Vacancies

There are still 2 vacancies on 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 tasks 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**

End of Year accounts are currently being prepared and indications are that the Parish Council received around £14500 in income and spent around £14500.

The budget for the year (excluding Badgeworth Village Hall) was £16400, but expenditure was £2000 less. There was less spent on grass cutting than expected, and the funding for a project in the Badgeworth Ward was not spent – this will be rolled forward to 22/23. The expenditure on insurance, allotments and the website was a little more than anticipated, but this was covered easily by the contingency budget heading. Reserves at the bank are adequate and are allocated for specific purposes.