

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 26th May 2016 at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall at 9.15pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Chris Haines MBE (Chairman), Max Bruckshaw, Nigel Cottell, David Hitchcock, Mike Howe, Jill Jones,

County & Borough Councillor Robert Vines

2 members for the public.

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2015 to MAY 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

The annual report relates to the work of Badgeworth Parish Council over the past year and describes the principal activities undertaken over that period.

It has been another busy year for Badgeworth Parish Council (PC) with an increase in workload and the number of meetings.

2. PLANNING

The PC was required to pass it's comments on 33 planning applications over the past year. Of special note were the following:

- **Bentham Country Club** - The PC strongly opposed this application for 40 residential homes and employed the services of a planning consultant to assist with its objection. A decision on this development is still to be made.
- **Fortitude, Birdlip Hill** - Two separate applications were made for this site. One for 4 dwellings and one for 3 dwellings. The PC objected to both applications.
- **The Willows, Bamfurlong** - An application to provide a travellers' caravan facility on this site caused much public concern and the PC objected to the application. Following refusal by Tewkesbury BC Planning Committee a second application was made to build two bungalows on site with facilities for 16 static caravans. This application has now been withdrawn.
- **Cold Pool Lane** - Application for two permanent traveller caravans on a site next to Rudgeley House, Cold Pool Lane was opposed by the PC.
- **Little Shurdington Court Farm** - The PC objected to an application for a very large indoor riding school. This application has now gone to appeal.
- **Shurdington Sand Pits** - An application was made for the site to be permanently used for the recycling of building materials. The PC objected but the application has been deferred.

- **Bentham Factory Site** - Following the granting of permission for 49 houses on this site an application has been made to reduce the number of Social Houses from 20 to 5. The PC supported this reduction.

JOINT CORE STRATEGY

The PC has closely followed the review, by the Government's Inspector, of the Joint Core Strategy, the document produced by Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils to show areas for building development until the year 2031.

GOLF COURSE

The owner of the "Golf Course" in Bentham is to clear the footpaths on the site and encourage walkers to stay on the footpaths and not wander everywhere. Areas to the north and south will be fenced off to encourage wildlife and conservation.

3. FINANCES

The Parish Council's finances remain healthy and we do not see a need to increase the precept. In the past year donations were given to Witcombe and Bentham Village News £200, Badgeworth Church Lawn Mower £100, Witcombe Churchyard grass cutting £100, Witcombe and Bentham Village Hall £200.

Problems with bank mandates have, at long last, been resolved.

4. ALLOTMENTS

The PC is to set up a working party to review the administration of the allotments.

5. COLD POOL LANE SPORTS GROUND

At long last the developers, Bloor Homes, have finished the agreed work on this site and it has been signed over to Tewkesbury Borough Council. The Borough Council is now in the process of reviewing tenders from various sports clubs to run the Ground, but it is disappointing to report that Officers at TBC do not think it will be available for use this summer.

6. WEBSITE

In line with the Government's Transparency Code the PC has set up a new Website. A Transparency Fund Grant provided the necessary finance. The website will make it easier for the public at large to monitor PC activities, view minutes, agendas and financial documents.

7. CLERK

Following the PC meeting in October 2015 the Clerk, Roy Balgobin, tendered his resignation. At the December meeting Mrs. Helen Jones was appointed as the new Clerk.

8. HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council continues to work with Gloucester Highway Department over various issues. Of particular concern is the need for a footpath from Badgeworth Lane towards Churchdown. Some funding has been acquired for this but more is needed.

9. THANK YOU

Finally, I would like to thank all fellow Councillors for their support and for the considerable amount of work they have carried out for the Council over the past year. I would also wish to thank Borough and County Councillor, Robert Vines, for his continued interest in Parish affairs.

On behalf of the Council I would particularly like to thank our new Clerk, Helen Jones, for the mountain of work she has done over the last five months to put our house in order.

Chris Haines MBE, Chairman, Badgeworth Parish Council

26th
Borough Councillors report, May 26th 2016

After freezing Council Tax for five years there was a need to increase Council Tax this year by £5 for a Band D tax payer, which equates to a rise of 5.03%

Work to both the JCS and the Tewkesbury Borough Plan (TBP) is continuing. The JCS is now at examination stage and progress is largely determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

Over 200 affordable homes have been delivered this year, the largest number since 2007/2008.

The new leisure centre project has been a significant project, replacing our ageing facility Cascades and opens this month.

Following the 2014 floods we secured grant funding on the Flood Support Grant Scheme and Repair and Renewal Grant Scheme to support flood-affected businesses and domestic premises. Overall, more than £975,000 of grants were awarded.

Our online self-service portal for our garden waste scheme now has more than 6,800 customers renewing their subscriptions. This is an increase of 40% from last year. There are now nearly 15,000 customers subscribed to the scheme.

While we have seen an impact on our recycling rate as a result of needle contamination, it remains healthy at an estimated 52%

The Public Services Centre has seen a further three partners (Severn Vale Housing, Bromford Housing and Fire and Rescue Services) joining the building.

As well as the council, the PSC is also home to:

- Tewkesbury Borough Police Station
- Job Centre Plus (Department of Work and Pensions)
- Gloucestershire County Council's Children's Services
- Gloucestershire Care Services incorporating Adult Social Services and Health services
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

A new online system called 'Achieve' has been created, with self service activities such as garden waste renewals, reporting missed bins, and making payments. New systems have been developed, such as the reporting and monitoring for Freedom of Information requests, review of complaints framework, and tree and playground inspections.

A Digital Strategy has been introduced, which includes a review of our website to ensure it is customer-focused.

Our newly appointed community funding officer has engaged with over 90 community groups to help signpost them to external funding.

We agreed ongoing support of £53,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau. It has provided advice and assistance to over 1,000 residents this year.

Our Disabled Facility Grant Scheme has delivered over 82 grants in the excess of £394,850.

Work has been carried out to increase homeless prevention options with 120 homelessness preventions cases carried out.

The next four years are set to be both exciting and challenging and we have introduced a new Council Plan which sets our priorities for 2016 to 2020.

Robert Vines

^{26^r}
County Councillors Report, May 24th 2016

Reflecting on the previous 12 months it now appears that the proposed Incinerator at Javelin Park has overcome all its challenges and hopefully is on track to start construction in the near future.

To continue throwing our waste into land-fill was just unsustainable.

Council Tax payers will know that this year Council Tax has increased by 3.99%, this includes a two per cent National Adult Social Levy. This levy is ring-fenced and will raise £4.7million to spend on adult social care services, things like residential or domiciliary care, carers support or support to keep people living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

A budget around £420million for this year is in place, and apart from the specific budgets for different service areas I thought it might be of interest to see how some smaller allocations are resolved

- £2.075million extra would be spent on roads, including increasing Highways Local to £30k per member
- £7,500 per member for additional road maintenance in their area
- £150k to invest in new cycling schemes from the Barriers to Cycling report
- £100k investment to pay for a designated Traffic Regulation Order officer to speed up the processes
- £50k to be match-funded with the district councils to look into air quality and pollution
- £50k to continue the free visits for all five year olds at Skillzone
- £25k investment into mental health support for children and young people
- £20k into support to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- £5k to provide free residents parking for all Band A electric vehicles for the first permit only
- £2million to recruit new social workers, investments into better broadband and continued focus on healthy and active communities.

The budget provides £4.7m extra for vulnerable older people, and over £150,000 extra for children and families

I know that the highways and byways are not perfectly surfaced at the current time, some of our persistent pot-holes are still there, but driving around the country we do seem to be luckier than some other areas.

Looking slightly ahead, the Cotswold/West Oxfordshire Unitary question is now no longer a consideration and Cotswold District Council is fully committed to working with all the other authorities in Gloucestershire to push ahead with a Devolution bid to Government.

Finally can I thank the chairman and clerk for the efficient way in which they conduct the running of this parish.

Robert Vines

The meeting closed at 21.40pm

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