

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 20th March 2018 at Badgeworth Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

County & Borough Councillor Robert Vines

Alison Robinson, Chief Executive, Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils

11 members for the public.

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MARCH 2018

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. Badgeworth is a large parish consisting of the wards of Badgeworth and Bentham. The Parish stretches from Staverton Airport up to Barrow Wake, Birdlip and makes up a large proportion of the Green Belt between Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Planning

- The Parish Council gave its response to about 26 planning applications in the past year plus associated enforcement notices. Of note are the following.
- The site next to Rudgeley House in Cold Pool Lane, where there has been several applications and appeals is now subject to enforcement proceedings.
- We continue to monitor the Bentham Country Club site (the Domes) where we anticipate another planning application will be made in the near future. A previous application has been held in abeyance with the site's proximity to two large chicken houses being one of the stumbling blocks.
- We also continue to monitor the activities at Shurdington Sand Pits where Elliot's can recycle building waste and store skips.
- The Bentham Green development on the old factory site is well under way and, so far, appears to be a quality development and has not produced any planning or environmental problems.
- **Joint Core Strategy** - The Parish Council has been monitoring, for many years, the JCS, the agreement between Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Councils to show where development will go until the year 2031. After being scrutinised by the Government Inspector this document has been finally been accepted and signed off.

Highways

- Of major concern is the parking of vehicles on Badgeworth Lane outside Shurdington School, which is an accident waiting to happen. Members are hoping to meet with Highways, the school and Shurdington Parish Council to try to find a solution.
- Cold Pool Lane has recently seen an increase of large vehicles using the lane as a shortcut.

- The small lanes in Bentham, particularly Dog lane and Dark Lane have seen an increase in the number of large lorries using the lanes after following their Sat Nav systems to get to the Bentham Green site. The developers, Lioncourt Homes, have done their best to avoid this situation with temporary road signs. However, the Parish Council is in discussion with Highways to ask for permanent signs to be erected to say that these lanes are unsuitable for long vehicles.
- We are also in touch with Highways about the increasing number of large stones and posts put on verges in the Parish in contravention of section 149 of the Highways Act. We are particularly concerned with the large number of cast concrete obstructions outside Orchard Farm, Bentham and are seeking to have these removed.
- We anticipate that the A46 congestion problems will increase with the planned 1,500 new houses at Brockworth plus new houses at Leckhampton and anticipate measures will have to be taken to ease the flow of traffic.
- Parish Councillors have attended several meetings and exhibitions concerning the A417 Missing Link. This has become a priority road scheme for the Government and just recently Borough Councillor, Robert Vines, was told by Transport Minister, Chris Grayling, that the money for the project has been put aside and is ready. The Parish Council opted to support Route 30, the Red Route, as the most logical solution to this major problem. It was felt the Brown Route, Route 12, with its long bends and speed restrictions had the potential for further accidents. We are aware the route 30 does cut through some very attractive countryside and did ask that consideration be given for the removal of some of the redundant stretches of the existing road.

Allotments:

- Council Members have been very much involved with the management of the allotments in Bentham over the past year, which belong to the Parish. The Clerk in particular has put in a large amount of time to fill several vacant allotments and to find ways to much improve the smooth running of the site.

106 Money

- With the occupation of the first houses at Bentham Green the 106 monies are now becoming available. The total available amounts to over £300,000. Which includes payments to Brockworth Library, Henley Bank High School, Shurdington Primary School, Leckhampton Doctors Surgery, a three-year bus service, a bus shelter, dog bins and a payment of approximately £123,000 to Witcombe and Bentham Village Hall.

Cold Pool Lane Sports Pitches

- We are pleased that Tewkesbury Borough Council has finally arranged with a Sports Club to use the sports pitches and pavilion at the end of Cold Pool Lane.

Council Tax (Precept)

- Those of you who have recently received their Council Tax bills will see that we have kept the Parish Council's contribution at last year's level.

Vacancies

- There are three vacancies on Badgeworth Parish Council. Two in the Badgeworth Ward and one in the Bentham Ward. Anyone wishing to find out more about becoming a Member of the Parish Council should contact the Clerk.

Thanks

- Finally, I would like to thank fellow Councillors for their support and the work they have done over the past. I sometimes think that people forget that we are all volunteers.
- I would also like to thank Borough Councillor Robert Vines for his support of the Parish Council.

- And of course, a big thank you to our Clerk, Helen Jones, for all the work she has done over the past year and for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM CLERK

- Un audited accounts were presented for the year April 2017 – 18
- **Income** for the year was similar to the previous year (around £12,900) when the reclamation of VAT is excluded.
- **Expenditure** for this year was similar to the previous year (around £11,820) with the exception of the emergency repairs to Badgeworth Village Hall in the previous year.
- **Budget:** Expenditure has been £2000 less than that budgeted. Tree works were less than anticipated, and luckily there was no need to use the amount set aside for contingencies.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBERT VINES

Tewkesbury Borough Council

- Tewkesbury Borough Council has for 8 years been trying to deliver a Joint Core Strategy with our partners from Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucester City Council. After years of tweaking, twisting moving locations in, leaving some areas out but always mainly based on Urban Extensions meant that major housing development was always bound to be adjacent to both Cheltenham and Gloucester. Given that the town and the city were unable to accept the number of homes due to them, Tewkesbury Borough Council area were forced as a duty to co-operate to accept the unmet need from the two authorities and therefore the number of homes in our Borough planned up until 2031 virtually doubled. After a long and tortuous examination before Elizabeth Ord all three councils were able to deliver their Joint Core Strategy just before Christmas 2017.
- It was not just about houses and homes as Employment Land locations had to be identified as potential areas for business to be created and suitably sited to benefit everyone. Following hot on the heels of the JCS we are currently working on our Borough Plan for the remaining locations for housing and employment land that were not the strategic sites identified in the JCS. Some rural pockets may be identified when we near the end of the Borough Plan task.
- TBC found themselves in the position of having to increase Council Tax once again and for the ensuing year there will be an increase on 4.79%. Although the increase will be felt by all of us we are still the fifth lowest tax authority in the country.
- For those households using the Garden Waste Bin (Brown Bin) people either taking up this service or renewing will be given an adhesive label acting as a Bin Licence to be stuck on their bin that hopefully will not be able to be removed. This will enable the collection team to only empty the bins that have been paid for.
- Looking forward to TBC elections in 2019 the Boundary Commission has accepted the proposals for ward changes across the Borough and Government is expected to make this possible before the next elections.

Gloucestershire County Council

- Often the County Council overlaps the work at Tewkesbury Borough and quite often one is often dependent on the other. The JCS work links in with the needs of the County.
- The County Council has increased Council Tax by 2.49% with an additional increase of 2% solely as the Adult Social Care Levy.

- Work on the Incinerator at Javelin Park is on-going, and it is hoped that it will not take too long for it to be up-and-running.
- The A417 Missing Link from Crickley Hill to the Cowley Roundabout has just been consulted on and I had a face-to-face meeting with Chris Grayling, the Transport Minister recently when he confirmed that the money was available for this project so once the preferred route is confirmed it could be all systems go and a start date of 2021 would be likely.
- Looking forward to the future, Vision 2050 and what the county could look like has been launched and one school of thought has suggested that a coming together of Cheltenham and Gloucester to form a Supercity could be a possibility - or not!

ALISON ROBINSON CHIEF EXECUTIVE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

- There are big changes in what Parish Councils can do, and there is a push to get 'quality' and 'professionalism' into the sector. Parish Council's are part of the public sector and are accountable to local people. Badgeworth Parish Council could consider being part of the Quality Council's scheme.
- There is an emphasis on transparency and due process and all Parish Council's now must have a website and are required to display certain information.
- District & County Councils have had budgets reduced but Parish Council's can do much more and be a more active part of the public sector. If the District or County Council's are unable to carry out the work they once did there are some opportunities for a Parish Council to step in.
- There is a need to engage with your community. Everyone has skills and has something to offer

The meeting closed at 20.30pm

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