

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 25th May 2017 at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Chris Haines MBE (Chairman), Max Bruckshaw, Nigel Cottell, David Hitchcock, Mike Howe, Jim Hunt, Jill Jones, Doug Nelson
County & Borough Councillor Robert Vines
2 members for the public.
Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2016 to MAY 2017

- 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 the Parish Council (PC) which continues to meet monthly to cope with an increased workload.
- 2. Planning** - The PC was asked to comment on over 35 planning applications during the past year. Of special note were the following:
 - **Bentham Country Club**
The PC continued to oppose the application for 40 homes on this site. The application eventually came before Tewkesbury Planning Committee but the applicant asked for the decision to be deferred. An environmental officer's report stated that to build that close to two large poultry sheds was not sustainable.
 - **Bentham Factory site**
The application to reduce the number of affordable homes was refused so it remains at 19. The factory buildings have now been demolished and building work has commenced. Problems with large vehicles using Bentham Lane have been addressed by the developers, Lion Court Homes.
 - **Shurdington Road Sandpits**
The PC was disappointed to learn Elliot's had been granted a ten-year license to continue recycling waste on the site.
 - **Golf Course, Bentham**
The site owners had erected three fences on the site which had been cut by persons unknown. Footpaths had been cleared but remain un-walkable.
 - **Cold Pool Lane**
Planning consent for the siting of two permanent mobile homes next to Rudgeley House had been objected to by the PC and refused by Tewkesbury Planning Committee. The applicants

then went to an appeal which has been considered by the Government's Inspector in the last few weeks. We continue to strongly oppose this application and await the decision.

- **Joint Core Strategy**

The PC continues to closely follow the review of the JCS by the Government Inspector, prepared by Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Councils.

3. **Finances** - The Parish Council's finances remain healthy and it was decided not to increase the precept. However, the recent auditor's report suggested the PC should increase its reserves.
4. **Badgeworth Village Hall** - The PC commissioned work to be carried out on the mullions at the hall, which were in a very bad state of repair.
5. **Allotments** - The PC continues to work towards improving the running of the allotments and to this end the PC working party will meet again with allotment holders.
6. **Cold Pool Lane Sports Ground** - At long last a sports group had been chosen by Tewkesbury Borough Council to take over the running of the site.
7. **Website** - The PC website continues to run successfully.
8. **Highways** - The PC continues to work with the Gloucestershire Highways on various issues. The provision of a footpath from Badgeworth Lane towards Churchdown now seems unlikely.
9. **Grass Cutting** - The PC continues to be frustrated by Tewkesbury Borough Council's policy towards grass cutting on Witcombe Village Green.
10. **Assets** – a review has been carried out of Parish Council assets.
11. **Resignation** - The PC was sorry to receive the resignation of Cllr. Dr. Helen Makins and is in the process of finding a replacement. We thank her for the contribution she has made to the running of the Parish Council.
12. **Thank you** - Finally, a thank you to fellow Councillors for their support and for the considerable amount of unpaid work they have carried out over the past year. I would, also, like to thank County Councillor Robert Vines for his continued support of the PC. On behalf of the Parish Council I would particularly like to thank our clerk, Helen Jones, for the work she has done to keep our house in order.

Chris Haines MBE. Chairman

Robert Vines - Borough & County Councillor.

At Gloucestershire County Council, the state of the roads and highways issues continues to dominate. This seems a similar picture across the country. Councillor Vines was reelected to GCC in May. The Council now has a Conservative majority. He has been appointed to serve on several Committees – Appeals Board, Appeals Committee, Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee and Site visits. He is also a County representative on Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee and the Gloucestershire Local Access Forum.

At Tewkesbury Borough Council, the planning appeal regarding the Traveller site in Cold Pool Lane has been held and a decision is awaited. Cllr Vines has stood down as leader of the Council to make way for younger Councillors.

The meeting closed at 19.50pm

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