

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on 14TH March 2023 at WITCOMBE & BENTHAM Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Cottell (Chair), Cooper, Haines, Howe, Jones, Marshall, McKay,

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Borough & County Councillor Vines and 12 residents

Annual Report from Chairman 2023/2024

Introduction

For 2023/2024 we introduced a schedule of reduced meetings across the year with meetings only taking place once every 2 months. This reduced the amount of administration along with our operation costs but placed more dependence on email communication.

Planning and enforcement

We have continued to see a steady level of planning applications come through in the past year. The majority of applications have been for extensions and modifications. Of note has been the approval by the Local Authority to build seven new houses behind existing properties in Badgeworth Lane close to Shurdington School. There has also been an application to further modify the plans for the Climbing Centre on Bentham Lane. Following a lengthy planning and appeals process a temporary Gypsy and Traveller Site was approved by the Planning Inspector for 5 years on Cold Pool Lane, subject to a set on conditions. 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

Following our work with the Highways dept in 22/23, this year we have funded a new "gated entrance" into the village of Badgeworth on Cold Pool Lane. As part of the current Cheltenham Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan we have taken the opportunity to remind planners of the concerns residents have about ongoing traffic issues on Badgeworth Lane

A significant National Highways project impacting our Parish has finally got underway. The A417 "Missing link" project has been in the design / consultation phase for over 5 years and significant engineering has now started to construct the additional carriageways on Crickley Hill. The Parish Council has been a consultee on this project throughout its many phases. The Parish Council remain concerned about speed and volume of traffic along Bentham Lane and particularly the stretch from the A46 to Bentham. As the Climbing Centre continues to develop, we will monitor the impact of traffic on Bentham Lane. In November 2022 the Bamfurlong bridge was closed for maintenance work. This was scheduled to take 13 months and re-opened at the end of 2023.

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 provided an additional of water trough during last 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.

Council Precept.

This is being set at £14670 following a zero-increase last year. The budget for 24/25 is set at £17030 and so on this occasion the difference is being taken from Parish Council reserves.

Vacancies

At the time of writing there is one vacancy 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.

New Clerk.

Our present Clerk, Helen Jones has decided to retire after 8.5 years' service to the Parish Council. Helen has overseen a substantial overhaul of our practices and procedures and helped to substantially improve the efficiency of the Parish Council. We wish Helen a very happy retirement!

We are delighted to announce that Elizabeth Oakley has accepted the position of Clerk to Badgeworth Parish Council and wish her every success in her new role.

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.

Report of Responsible Financial Officer 23 -24

- **End of year reserves are satisfactory:** £19574 (estimate) *Prev yr. £22376*

- **Accounts:**

Income was	£14924
Expenditure was	£17926

- **Budget versus expenditure**

Budgeted expenditure	£17210
Actual expenditure	£17926

Note

- Crossover of Clerk in month of March therefore expenditure more or less as budgeted.
- End of year reserves have reduced because of the budget being set higher than the precept and reserves used to cover the balance.