

Badgeworth Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2016 at Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Chris Haines MBE (Chairman), Nigel, Cottell, David Hitchcock, Mike Howe, Jim Hunt, Dr. Helen Makins

Borough & County Councillor Robert Vines

1 local resident

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Parishioners Questions

A local resident raised various issues regarding grass cutting, unkempt verges, rubbish around the estate in Little Witcombe and danger from traffic in Mill Lane, Little Witcombe. In a lively and heated exchange of views, it was agreed that the Parish Council would again contact County Highways regarding the cutting of verges in Mill Lane. The meeting was adjourned for a 5-minute break.

1. **Apologies** – were received from Jill Jones
2. **Declaration of Interest** – there were none.
3. **The minutes of the last meeting held on June 21st 2016** were agreed as a true record and signed.
4. **Report from the County and Borough Councillor** –
 - There are political changes at national level since the referendum
 - Joint Core Strategy – the Inspector has raised some interesting issues
 - Brookfield Road, Badgeworth footway – it appears that the funding for this project cannot be ring fenced.
5. **Planning**
 - a. **To note the decisions of the Planning Authority** on planning applications - none to report.
 - b. **Planning applications** –
 - i. **16/00694/FUL**. Revised application for a contemporary replacement dwelling, including changes to residential curtilage, and the retention of

- 'The Granary' for use ancillary and incidental to the new dwelling only at **Hunt Court Farm, Sandy Pluck Lane, Bentham – NO OBJECTION**
- ii. **16/0058/TWMAJM.** Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference: 07/0016/TWMAJM, granted on 22/08/2007 [for sand extraction and ancillary development with restoration back to original levels by infilling with inert material]; to permit the extraction of sand until 31 August 2016 and restoration of the site by 31st August 2018 at **Land at Shurdington Road, Shurdington Road, Shurdington** – Support for the infill of the land and return to agricultural land, but 2 years seems to be a long time to complete the process. Can the infilling be completed within a quicker timescale? The Parish Council also supports the sand extraction until the end of August this year, but no longer. The wish is that there are no further extensions in time given and the site should be restored as soon as possible

6. Finance

a. **Payment was authorised and cheques** issued for:

- G. Knight, grass cutting June & July £300
- Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall. Contribution to signs. £192
- Witcombe & Bentham Village Hall. Hire charge May. £20
- GAPTC Independent Internal Audit - £158.10
- Expenses – £25.48.

b. **Clerk's salary** –payment was authorised & a cheque issued.

7. Miscellaneous

a) **Verges and hedges at Badgeworth Village Hall** –a quote was received of £230 plus VAT for the cutting of hedges and verges at Badgeworth Village Hall car park. Cllr Cottell proposed that the expenditure be agreed and Cllr Hunt seconded this. The proposal was agreed.

b) **Grass cutting in Little Witcombe** – concerns had been raised that the grass cutting on the green at Little Witcombe is the responsibility of 3 different authorities and that the standard of cutting varies. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would find out from Tewkesbury Borough Council whether the Parish Council could take on responsibility for cutting the upper half, and if so what contribution TBC could make to the Parish Council for the extra costs involved.

c) **Speeding & traffic issues in the Parish** – it appears that the funding 'window' for projects is now closed.

8. **Allotment Working Party Report** –a report had been prepared by the Allotment Working Group (see appendix). Cllr Howe outlined the discussions. Various issues require further information, and the Clerk would work closely with the allotment

manager. It was agreed that: Dr. Helen Makins would Chair the Allotment Sub Committee, and that the Parish Council would join the National Allotment Society.

9. Ward Reports.

Badgeworth

- a) Progress is being made in obtaining quotes for the repairs to Badgeworth Village Hall mullion windows
- b) Overhanging branches are obscuring a traffic sign at the crossroads – Clerk to report
- c) White junction markings have worn away at Badgeworth Green – Clerk to report.

Bentham

- a) Problems with public footpaths have been reported directly by Cllr Hitchcock.
- b) Reinstatement of public footpaths on the former ‘golf course’ is on-going.

10. Next Meeting: An item relating to a new war memorial at Great/Little Witcombe would be on the next agenda and the date of the next meeting would be held on 23rd August at Badgeworth Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.25pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

**Appendix to the minutes:
BADGEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

Report of the Allotments Working Group

1. The Allotments Working Group was established to report on the present and future management of the Council's allotments.
2. The Council has 16 allotment plots, the tenants of which reside in the following areas: 12 (70.5%) in Brockworth, 4 (23.5%) in Badgeworth and 1(6%) in Cheltenham. 4 tenants rent more than one allotment. The allotments vary in size and the annual rents charged are 13 @ £12, 2 @ £6, 1 @ £15 and 1 @ £nil. There are no rent arrears. The Allotment Budget at present stands at £1494.
3. The Group met on the 17 June 2016 following a visit to the allotments on the same day.
4. The Group recommends that, in future, the Council takes a greater interest in its allotments, adopts a clear and simple management structure to manage this asset, improves communication with its allotment holders, provides allotments to meet, in the first instance, the needs of its Parishioners, allocates and charges for allotments on a fairer and more economic basis and, finally, takes more immediate action to terminate tenancies which do not comply with the terms of the tenancy agreement.
5. In order to meet the objectives in paragraph 4 above the Group makes the following **Recommendations:**
 - a. **THAT** the wording of the tenancy agreement relating to termination should be simplified and the dates of the 6 April and 29 September be deleted. The termination clause should be worded to allow the termination, by agreement, for a period shorter than a full year. **AGREED – Clerk to modify**
 - b. **THAT** the future management of the allotments be delegated to the Allotments Committee with the support and link to a designated allotment holder who would provide a liaison role with the Committee and allotment tenants- **AGREED** that liaison continues with one allotment holder (currently Mrs. Jacques – or other representative agreed by all allotment holders having formed their own association)
 - c. **THAT** the tenancy agreement and allotment charges should be reviewed annually each Autumn. The charges made by the Council should have some regard to those being made by other local public allotments. Consideration should be given to introducing a range of charges related to the size of allotment plots. **AGREED - CLERK** to seek information from neighbouring Parish Council allotments

- d. **THAT** consideration be given to introducing a refundable deposit of £20 to be made by allotment holders at the time of accepting a tenancy. The deposit to be refunded on the termination of a tenancy providing the allotment holder is not in contravention of the terms of the tenancy agreement at the date of termination. **AGREED** – that the Clerk would find out from other Parish Council’s if this was a practical arrangement.
- e. **THAT** the Allotments Committee be required to determine whether allotment plots should be divided when they (the plots) fall vacant. **AGREED**
- f. **THAT** the Council contacts all existing allotment holders to ascertain whether they would wish their allotment plot to be reduced in size. **AGREED**
- g. **THAT**, in future, allotment holders should not hold more than one tenancy agreement (i.e.one plot per named tenant). **AGREED**
- h. **THAT** the Council, for the time being, should not advertise its allotments in order to create a waiting list. However, vacant allotments should be advertised, in the first instance, locally within the Parish. **AGREED** – priority given to residents within the Parish of Badgeworth.
- i. **THAT** the Council writes to a small number of tenants regarding the present unsatisfactory condition of their allotments. **AGREED**
- j. **THAT** the Council should agree to improve the condition of vacant allotments (scythe long grass/weeds and undertake rotavation) before advertising the vacant plot. **AGREED**
- k. **THAT** the Council should not convert an existing allotment(s) in order to provide additional car park space for allotment holders. **AGREED**
- l. **THAT** the Council be requested to write to the holder of Plot 14 seeking reassurance that the number of persons working on this allotment should be limited to a level that will not place pressure on the existing car park provision. **Clerk to liaise with allotments manager and plot holder.**
- m. **THAT** the Council ensures that existing allotment holders are made aware of the contents of this report and, at the same, are invited to indicate suggested areas of improvement for consideration by the Council. The present allotment budget is available to meet small improvements. **AGREED**