

Badgeworth Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. H. Jones | 07840073143 | clerk@badgeworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on 12th March 2026 at WITCOMBE & BENTHAM Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Cottell, Cooper, Howe, McKay (Chair), Norman,

Clerk: Mrs. H Jones

Borough & County Councillor Vines

Annual Report from Chairman (Rosemarie McKay) 2025/2026

Our thanks go to Helen Jones, our Clerk, without whom we would struggle to run the council. Thanks to all Councillors for their time and commitment, particularly to Neil Marshall for his assistance with our financial matters and Mike Howe, whose knowledge of planning in our locality and nationally, is invaluable. In the summer, we were pleased to welcome Rosemary Norman, Bentham Ward and Katie Azam, Badgeworth Ward. We thank Councillor Yogish Sekhar for his time on the council and Councillor Jill Jones, Bentham Ward, after 10 years' service.

We are pleased that Councillor Robert Vines, Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC), regularly attends the Parish Council meetings and that, in these last 12 months, both Councillor Richard Stanley (Severn Vale Division GCC & Leader of TBC) and County Councillor Ben Evans (Brockworth Division GCC) have also attended some of our meetings.

Finance

For several years, we have been able to avoid increases to the Parish Council precept, or to keep increases below the rate of inflation. This year the precept for a Band D property will increase by 90p per year to £19.61. The precept remains one of the lowest in the borough, only Great Witcombe, Oxenton and Snowhill being lower.

Planning Applications

This year, we have received approximately 40 planning applications from Tewkesbury. Mostly these applications are for extensions to existing properties. Much to local residents and Parish Councillors concern, are the number of development applications that relate to land in the Badgeworth Ward, mainly on the Badgeworth Lane side of the A46 from the Shurdington roundabout to the new roundabout at Kidnappers Lane. If approval is given for all these developments to take place, estimated at 900 plus homes, there has been no thought to infrastructure; schools, parking, General Practitioners, and the already congested traffic especially during 'rush hours. Although labelled as a service village, Shurdington does not have the capacity to serve this number of additional homes.

A417 Missing Link

In Bentham Ward, local residents have become increasingly affected by the work on the section of the A417(Missing Link) running parallel to Dog Lane. The work takes place during the night and is expected to continue until 1st June 2026. The noise, though varied, can be extremely disturbing. There are also blocked drains that have been reported to Gloucestershire Highways since October repeatedly, as gallons of water are pouring down Dog Lane into Cirencester Road which continues as this report was written. It was extremely concerning on the very few icy days earlier this year. Still no work has been undertaken to rectify this nor any update in any investigation.

Defibrillators

On an uplifting note, the two replacement defibrillators have been installed at both Badgeworth (BVH) and Bentham and Witcombe (WBVH) Village Halls. Both the Village Hall management committees gave financial assistance with these purchases, which were both very welcome and essential for the funding.

Bentham Ward Noticeboard

A new noticeboard was purchased and fitted on the Green at Witcombe. We have invited WBVH to advertise on this noticeboard.

Grass Cutting Contracts

The Parish Council works with Contractors to cut the grass in three locations in Bentham and Badgeworth 12 times usually between March and October.

Trees

Trees on the land the Parish Council is responsible for have been inspected and necessary work carried out.

Badgeworth Village Hall

Work on revising the BVH Management Committee constitution with the assistance of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council is ongoing.

Community 20s and Safer Roads

We were contacted in June 2025 by GCC Councillor Roger Whyborn regarding the 'Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiatives' which hopefully will have a three-year delivery period. We have provided the names of roads in both Wards, known to residents as roads where a reduction in speed allowance would promote safer travel and greater pedestrian use.

Gloucestershire Airport

The Parish Council is represented at meetings of the Consultative Committee of Gloucestershire Airport so that we are kept informed on matters of concern such as the future development of surrounding land and operational matters. If necessary, we can bring matters of concern to the management of the Airport through these consultative arrangements. We understand that the sale of the Airport by its current owners (Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucester City Council) to a private company is expected to be completed soon. The Parish Council will be particularly interested in any operational changes that the new owners may wish to make.

Report of the Responsible Financial Officer 25 - 26

RECEIPTS

25-26 PREDICTED INCOME	
Precept	15150
HMRC VAT REFUND	814
Donations (defib)	800
Allotment rents & misc.	603
Interest	365
CIL (*must be ringfenced)	9876
TOTAL	27607

PAYMENTS

Budget was set at: **£20713**

End of year prediction: **£21537**

25-26 END OF YEAR PREDICTED EXPENDITURE			
CATEGORY	PAYMENTS	BUDGET	% SPENT
PAYE/NI/SALARY	7621	7500	102%
HOME OFFICE	312	312	100%
GENERAL ADMIN/EXPENSES/PAYROLL	250	575	43%
BANK FEES	78	0	
GRASS/HEDGE CUTTING	1716	1866	92%
ROOM HIRE	160	135	119%
SUBSCRIPTIONS	690	600	115%
INSURANCE/LEGAL/ACCOUNTS	1712	1750	98%
DONATIONS	450	450	100%
BADGEWORTH WARD PROJECT	2013	2200	91%
BENTHAM WARD PROJECT	2138	2425	88%
MAINTENANCE (Inc. trees)	1000	1000	100%
CONTINGENCY	685	500	137%
ALLOTMENTS	745	500	149%
TRAINING	65	400	16%
WEBSITE/IT	230	500	46%
VAT (To be reclaimed)	1673		
TOTAL	21537	20713	104%

Taken from reserves

Over budget: Allotment (extra will come out of allotment reserves), contingencies (tree surgery more than anticipated), room hire (extra meeting)

So, this is the first year the PC has spent up to and beyond the budget. Reserves have been able to accommodate this, but it does mean that there is no longer a financial cushion. In future years, the precept must cover the whole budget.

Reserves are available for emergencies, but these must not be reduced further.

Meeting closed 7.10pm