

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019
AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

76. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe, Cllr. S. England, Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin & Cllr. I Wright.

77. ALSO PRESENT

Two parishioners (for Open Forum only) & F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. G. Bond.

79. OPEN FORUM

The parishioners present asked what was happening about the future of Badger Estate following the death of its owner. The Chairman explained that a son of the deceased had assumed responsibility for the Estate until probate was granted which would become a public document. He advised the parishioners that a partner for Balfours Estate Agents of Shrewsbury was handling Estate affairs who could be approached if more information was sought.

The question of pot holes on roads was also raised but those causing concern were on the Burnhill Green Road, which were the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council.

80. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS.

There were none.

81. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 16TH JANUARY 2019
Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true record and thus the Chairman signed a copy

82. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 16TH JANUARY 2019
a) Minute 68a): Councillors noted that a positive business case has been made to install traffic lights at Broad Bridge on the B4176, and providing funds are available in the 2019/2020 financial year (F/Y) the work will be undertaken within the next year.

b) Minute 70c): The Chairman reported that work to remove derelict old iron railings at Stableford highway bank has been satisfactorily completed.

c) Minute 70d): Council noted receipt of a grant of £456 from Shropshire Council for minor highway maintenance work undertaken during the 2018/2019 F/Y.

83. FINANCE

a) Council agreed that there were no grounds when considering the 2018/2019 F/Y accounts to seek a Limited Assurance Review by the External Auditors. The Chairman will therefore sign the Certificate of Exemption at its May meeting when approving the internal audited accounts, and the Clerk will forward it to the External Auditors.

b) The Council gave the Clerk approval to seek a further minor environmental maintenance grant of £456 from Shropshire Council for the 2019/2020 F/Y. In the submission it should be

explained as recorded in The Treasurer's Report of 26th March 2019, why less than the usual two cuts of highway grass had been done in the financial year resulting in only £642 being spent rather than the normal £912.

c) The Council approved the following payments by cheque:

- M.C.J. Gretton (highway maintenance)	cheque 100428	£180.00
- Clerk's salary & expenses	cheque 100429	£387.23
- Clerk's income tax to HMRC	cheque 100430	£ 92.00
- Web site fee	cheque 100431	£ 72.00

d) Council approved a rise in the Clerk's salary to £11.22 an hour from 1st April 2019, which is the amount recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government (NJC).

e) After encashment of cheques in section c) above, the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank will be £6,022.77 in credit, which will be increased by the receipt of £3,800 precept for 2019/2020 F/Y that Shropshire Councils confirmed will be credited to the Council's Bank on 26th April 2019. As at 27th February 2019 the Business Premium Account at Barclays stood at £2,207.14 in credit. After payment for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 26th March 2019, petty cash is £56.38.

84. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Application 18/04062/FUL: Councillors were surprised that the erection of a boating shed at Stableford had been refused on the grounds that there were no very special circumstances justifying the development in the Green Belt. It was acknowledged that the applicant has the right of appeal.

b) It has come to the attention of Council that the Planning Authority had granted permission for the erection of posts and gates at Herons Wood, Badger. Council cannot recall being consulted nor advised of the decision for this application and consequently has asked the Clerk to seek explanation from Shropshire Council, for this failure.

c) Councillor Ian Wright and the Clerk reported on the Albrighton Place Plan meeting of 13th March 2019. There was marked disillusionment by local representatives at the poor handling of planning issues and the breakdown of communication by Shropshire Council. There was strong opposition to Shropshire Council's proposals for a large housing development at Albrighton. Local Parish Council representatives had major concerns about the ability of the Planning Authority to provide adequate infrastructure. There were no planning issues directly affecting Badger Parish.

85. PARISH MATTERS

a) Council agreed to give one of the two metal Smartwater signs it has received to the Church to use.

b) The Chairman raised the issue of parking at The Crescent, Badger, following representations by a resident. There are currently insufficient car parking spaces in the lay-by to accommodate all the cars of residents. This causes parking in the narrow lane that at times creates highway obstructions. Some years ago, the Council had lengthy discussions

with Shropshire Council to see if it was viable to expand the parking bay, but the number of extra spaces that could be achieved were minimal and at a high cost, so the possibility of a scheme was abandoned. The Clerk was asked in the first instance to check with Shropshire Council Highways to find out who owns the parking bay area and seek the Authority's thoughts on how to avoid parking that is causing road obstructions.

c) Councillors were concerned that incidents had occurred by the village bridge of drawing pins apparently being deliberately strewn across the road creating road safety problems, especially for cyclists. It was agreed to raise the issue in an article in the next edition of Badger Bulletin.

d) Concerns were expressed about the state of the road by Badger Heath House where the surface was badly broken up and was a road safety hazard. The Clerk is to bring the matter to the attention of the Highways Authority. The Chairman also undertook to contact the Highways Inspector at Shropshire Council to arrange a site visit which will include discussing the state of the road at Badger Heath, the need for attention to the dip in the road at Stableford Bridge, and the obtaining of improved lay-bys along the narrow lanes in Badger Parish.

e) The Chairman advised his discussions with Balfours Estate Agents (who act on behalf of the owner) for improvements to the Town Pool area are ongoing.

86 UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) Councillors noted the establishment and appointment of the Place Plan Officer of Shropshire Council who was responsible for Badger Parish.

b) Council was concerned about the proposals by Shropshire Council to reduce the local bus service subsidies from the 2019/2020 F/Y. It was noted that Shropshire Council recognised there was little scope to amend the two hourly bus services 113 and 114 from Telford to Bridgnorth that travelled through Badger. As the service is well used by Badger parishioners and the only means of transport for some locals, the Clerk is to approach Shropshire Council emphasising the value and need to retain these current services.

87. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Council noted the campaign by the Rural Services Network for the Government to develop a Rural Strategy but considered it should be left to individuals to sign the petition.

b) Council agreed that a poster from Healthwatch Shropshire about "Having your Say on the Future of the NHS" could be displayed on the Council's notice board.

88. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

To accommodate the presence of all Councillors the next meeting will now be held on Wednesday 8th May 2019, at St. Giles' Church, Badger. It will start at 7.00 pm with the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by The Annual Parish Council and Business Meetings.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm

