

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019
AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

22. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe (Chairman), Cllr. G Bond, Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin & Cllr. I Wright.

23. ALSO PRESENT

Four parishioners & F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. S. England.

25. OPEN FORUM

Two parishioners present raised the issue of the poor quality of maintenance in cutting the grass on The Green at The Crescent. The Chairman advised that this has been a continuing concern of the Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that the land in question belonged to Shropshire Council, but Star Housing Association has responsibility for cutting the grass on The Green. This was undertaken by Kier, Shropshire Council's contractor. It has been confirmed that the contract does not require to remove grass cuttings, and does not stipulate the necessary frequency of cuts, but had to maintain a specified standard. The parishioners agreed to write to Star Housing complaining about the poor standard of work and asking whether other bodies could voluntarily undertake additional cuts. Councillors agreed to discuss the matter in formal session and decide what action to take.

The parishioners were also concerned about problems of insufficient car parking spaces at The Crescent. The Chairman advised that this was a perennial problem, particularly because cars parked in the narrow lane could create a traffic blockage and prevent emergency vehicles passing. A few years ago, in negotiation with Shropshire Council plans were put forward to expand the parking bay at The Crescent to allow for two or three more car parking spaces, but these were dropped as not viable. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Shropshire Council asking whether each resident could be allocated one car parking space.

Mention was made about large cycling groups riding through Badger village at speed and spread over the whole width of the lanes creating a road traffic hazard. Council noted the position and took the view that cyclists like any other highway user should comply with the Highway Code.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for their contribution to discussion on local issues.

26. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS NOT ALREADY DECLARED ON MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED.

There were none.

27. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 8TH MAY 2019

Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true record and thus the Chairman signed a copy.

28. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON 8TH MAY 2019

a) Minute 18a): The Chairman will pursue arranging a site meeting with the Highways Authority regarding road safety issues in Badger Parish.

b) Minute 18f): Council asked the Clerk to write to Star Housing Association about the poor quality of cutting the grass on The Green at The Crescent, and to see if voluntary additional cuts controlled by the Parish Council were possible. On reply the Council would decide what action to take.

c) Minute 20a): Councillors noted that Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) had been informed about their views regarding the Environmental Maintenance Grant scheme run by Shropshire Council.

29. ADMINISTRATION

a) The Chairman informed Council that he had registered, through West Midlands Ambulance Service, The Badger village defibrillator scheme with the National Defibrillator Network that helps give cardiac arrest victims the best chance of survival.

30. FINANCE

a) Council approved the following payments by cheque:

- Cardiac Science (cheque 100437)	£ 55.14
- Information Commissioner's Fee (cheque 100438)	£ 40.00
- Clerk's salary & Expenses (cheque 100439)	£403.44
- Clerk's Income Tax to HMRC (cheque 100440)	£ 94.20

b) Council noted the receipt of the precept of £3,800 in April 2019, and an Environmental Maintenance Grant of £456 in June 2019. After encashment of cheques in Section a) above the Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £8,201.87 in credit. The Business Savings Account at Barclays Bank stands at £2,209.34 in credit. After payment of £20.00 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 18th July 2019, petty cash held will be £56.38.

31. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Councillors noted the comments submitted to the Planning Authority of Shropshire Council regarding planning application 19/02039/FUL for the creation of a menage at Badger House. The Council had not raised any objections in principle but made several observations of concern.

b) There were no new planning applications to consider.

32. PARISH MATTERS

a) Councillors noted that since the recent media coverage there had been no further incident of drawing pins being strewn on the lanes in Badger Parish.

b) It was agreed to arrange a voluntary working party of Councillors to tend to the highway verges in the centre of Badger village.

c) The Chairman raised concern about the condition of the trees at Town Pool. Council was informed that shortly he would be meeting a representative of Balfours Estate Agents who acted on behalf of the owner, to discuss environmental issues relating to the Swire estate in the village.

33. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) The Chairman gave a brief account of the Road Safety Campaign meeting he attended on 12th July 2019.

b) Councillors were content with the current polling arrangements for Badger and asked the Clerk to complete the questionnaire from Shropshire Council accordingly.

34. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Council delegated the completion of the questionnaire about the quality of the Police Service to the Chairman and Clerk.

b) Council asked the Clerk to respond to the request from West Mercia Police to supply details regarding local publications where it could provide articles about police activities that would improve engagement with local communities.

c) Councillors noted that the AGM of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) would take place on 15th November 2019, where the 70th Anniversary of SALC would be celebrated. Council awaited further information on the arrangements for the event.

d) The Chairman confirmed that he would attend the training session arranged by SALC on 30th October 2019, on the new web site accessibility regulations.

e) Councillors expressed their condolences at the recent death of the Mayor of Bridgnorth Town Council.

35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held at St. Giles' Church, Badger, on Thursday 19th September 2019, starting at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.