

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019
AT ST. CILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

36. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe, Cllr. G. Bond, Cllr. S. England & Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin

37. ALSO PRESENT

Two parishioners (one for Open Forum only & the other for part of formal meeting as well), and F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council).

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Council accepted apologies from Cllr. I. Wright.

39. OPEN FORUM

One parishioner raised concern about overgrown hedges on highway verges along the lanes in Badger which are causing hazards for traffic especially for cyclists. The other parishioner enquired about the possibility of the "Albrighton Parish Flier" mini-bus service being extended to Badger village, as there were people in the local community needing transport to towns for various essential reasons, such as appointments for medical purposes. The Chairman agreed to consider these raised matters during formal session.

40. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL/ PECUNIARY INTERESTS NOT ALREADY DECLARED FOR MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

There were none.

41. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18 JULY 2019

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

42. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 18 JULY 2019

a) Minute 32 b): A Councillor working party had mown the grass highway verges in the centre of the village, and volunteers will continue to maintain them or the foreseeable future.

b) Minute 32 c): The Chairman reported that he had raised the issue of the condition of the trees at town pool with Balfours, the agents for the owner. Arrangements have been made for a contractor to submit a quote for some work on the trees.

c) Minute 33b): Council noted that the Chairman had submitted to West Mercia Police the questionnaire about its services.

d) Minute 34 d): Council was informed that the Chairman had attended the memorial service for the late Mayor of Bridgnorth Town Council.

43. ADMINISTRATION

a) The Clerk advised that Council had previously approved the adoption of Shropshire Council's model of the Code of Conduct in July 2012. In January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public life published its Review of Local Government Standards. The Report made a number of recommendations relevant to local councils which included the need for

a new national model Code of Conduct. This required that parish councils to adopt either the Code of Conduct of their Principal Authority or the new National Model.

Council agreed to adopt the latest version of Shropshire Council's Code of Conduct amended where appropriate to suit local needs. The Clerk is to prepare and submit the model to Council at a later meeting. The Code is designed as a personal statement required to be signed by each individual Councillor.

b) Councillors unanimously approved the adoption of the 2019 Annual Risk Management Review Report presented by the Clerk, which they considered had satisfactorily taken account of all the important aspects of evaluating risk.

44. FINANCE

a) Council noted that a replacement battery for the public defibrillator had urgently been needed, and it was in order to have obtained and paid for it without seeking prior approval of Council.

b) Council approved the following payments by cheque:

- Cardiac Science -ratification (cheque 100441)	£288.00.
- M.C. J. Gretton- highway maintenance (cheque 100442)	£456.00
- Clerk's salary & expenses (cheque 100443)	£384.84
- Clerk's Income Tax to HMRC (cheque 100444)	£ 94.20
- Money for petty cash (cheque 10045)	£ 60.00

c) Council noted that the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank stood at £7,969.01 in credit. After encashment of all the cheques in Section b) above, the Account will stand at £6,973.97 in credit. The Business Saver Account at Barclays Bank stands at £2,209.34. After payment of £20.00 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 19 September 2019, and the deposit of the above £60 cheque, petty cash held will be £96.38.

d) Before commencement of the Council meeting Cllr. Mrs. Liz Wakelin examined the cash book, cheque book, and bank statements since the beginning of the current financial year and found all in order. Also, she checked the vouchers and payments made from petty cash and found cash currently held was correct, and that the petty cash register and cash book had properly recorded all transactions.

45. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Councillors noted that Shropshire Council had approved Planning Application 19/02639/FUL for the change of use of land for the construction of a manege at Badger House.

b) There were no other planning issues that needed attention.

46. PARISH MATTERS

a) The Chairman reported that the highway inspector of Shropshire Council has been in touch to arrange a site visit with him to discuss some road and traffic issues. These will include problems of the dangerous dip in the road at Stableford Bridge, inadequacy of passing places along the lanes in the Parish, hazards of pot- holes, car parking difficulties at

The Crescent in the village, and also now, the visibility and narrowing of the roads caused by overgrown hedges along highway borders as raised in open Forum.

b) Currently the grass on The Green at The Crescent is being well maintained by the voluntary assistance of a resident and consequently Council decided to take no further action.

c) Council was concerned about the growth of the ash tree on the Stableford Lane which will soon endanger the overhead power cable. The Clerk was asked to warn Western Power of the risk.

d) Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact the Clerk of Albrighton Parish Council for information about the "Albrighton Flier" mini-bus service. He should ascertain whether the service could be extended to include Badger, how it operates such as where it goes and frequency, and what would costs be to the Parish Council and users. The Chairman will also approach the Chairman of Albrighton Parish Council for information and his views on the "Albrighton Flier". If the service could become available to Badger then enquiries will be made of local residents to find out what would be the demand for the service.

e) The Clerk was asked by Council to find out what were the arrangements for the local bus services for week commencing 30 September 2019, when Badger Lane would be closed during BT work on Broadband.

f) Council agreed to acquire a supply of daffodil bulbs from TFM to sow during the autumn along highway lane verges in the Parish. Cllr. Gary Bond will obtain the bulbs and send the invoice to the Clerk for payment.

g) In future it was proposed that local news items will be published in the Six Parishes Newsletter which is issued monthly, rather than regular issues of the Badger Bulletin. The Clerk will seek what would be the annual cost to the Council for articles in the Newsletter. The Chairman will consider preparing a Christmas issue of The Badger Bulletin.

h) The Chairman advised Councillors that the poor condition of the public notice board was mainly due to being underneath part of the bus shelter roof that drains into it. Councillors will arrange for the posts to be moved to avoid excessive rainfall on to the wooden notice board.

47. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

There were none requiring attention.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Council agreed to support the Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Service remaining independent and not become under the control of The West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner. The Clerk will complete the survey questionnaire accordingly and return to the Fire & Rescue Service.

b) Council approved to meet the costs of Cllr. Ian Wright to attend the AGM and celebrations of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils for 70 years of serving town & parish councils in Shropshire.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held at St. Giles' Church, Badger, on Thursday 21st November 2019, starting at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.