

**BADGER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2019**  
**AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM**

**50. PRESENT**

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

**51. ALSO PRESENT**

One parishioner (for short period of Open Forum only).

F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

**52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**53. OPEN FORUM**

The parishioner asked when is there to be refresher training for volunteers who operate the public defibrillator scheme and raised concern about the overgrown hedge at The Old Rectory, Badger. The Chairman advised that both matters were in hand with arrangements being made for defibrillator training in the near future, and the owner of the Old Rectory is to be approached about cutting his hedge back.

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

There were none.

**55. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

**56. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

a) Minute 46 c): There has been no report from Western power regarding the need for any pruning of the ash tree by a power cable on Stableford Lane.

b) Minute 46 f): Cllr. Gary Bond has purchased daffodil bulbs on behalf of the Council to help maintain road verges, and under The Highways Act 1980, S.96 Council approved payment to reimburse him of the cost.

c) Minute 46 h): arrangements were made at the Council meeting on 21 November 2019, for Councillors to voluntarily refurbish the Council's notice board which will mean that it will be out of commission for a week or so from 23 November 2019.

d) Minute 48 a): Councillors noted that the Police questionnaire had been completed and returned on 25/11/19.

**57. ADMINISTRATION**

a) Council approved adoption of the revised Code of Conduct for Badger Parish Councillors who have received copies of it. All Councillors signed a written undertaking to observe the Member's Code of Conduct.

b) The Clerk advised Council that in November 2014 he had entered a deposit agreement with Shropshire Archives to store papers of historical interest appertaining to Badger Parish Council. Deposits have been made in November 2014 and November 2019.

c) The Chairman reported that he had attended a training session arranged by Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The session gave guidance on how the new Website Accessibility Regulations 2018, affected the web site standards for a parish council.

#### 58. FINANCE

a) After consideration of the budget figures presented by The Responsible Finance Officer (the Clerk) Council agreed to provisionally set a precept for the 2020/2021 Financial Year (F/Y) of £3,800, the same rate as the 2019/2020 F/Y. After Council has been advised by Shropshire Council of the council tax base for the coming year Council will formally ratify the precept amount at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

b) Council re-affirmed its wish for SDH Accounting to undertake its internal audit for the 2020/2021 F/Y and approved to meet payment of the £125.00 quoted fee.

c) Council approved the following payments by cheque:

- Badger Print (cheque 100446)	£27.00
- SALC AGM delegate fee (cheque 100447)	£28.50
- Money for petty cash (cheque 100448)	£60.00
- Purchase of daffodil bulbs. (cheque 100449)	£23.97

(Re-imburement to Cllr. G. Bond)

d) After encashment of cheques in Section c) above, the Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £6,834.50 in credit, and the Business Premium Account at Barclays at £2,210.44 in credit. After payment of £20.00 to use St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019, and the deposit of the £60 cheque above, petty cash will stand at £99.10.

#### 59. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Councillors noted that under Planning Application 19/049292/TCA permission was granted to fell 13 ash trees at Badger House, Badger Lane, Badger.

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

#### 60. PARISH MATTERS

a) The Chairman presented an account of his dealings with The Highways Maintenance Technician of Shropshire Council with the following results:

i) Remedial action is to be taken regarding the roadside edge drop at Stableford Bridge which is causing a road safety hazard.

ii) The owner of the Old Rectory is to be approached asking for his hedge to be cut back to the boundary of his property to remove a road safety hazard.

iii) The filling in of potholes along the lanes in the Parish to take place and to make arrangements for work to improve the condition of passing places along the roads from Badger to Stableford, and from Badger to Burnhill Green. When the work can be done will much depend on availability of funds which is unlikely until during the next financial year that starts in April 2020.

The Chairman has raised with the Highway Maintenance Technician several issues regarding the materials and methods to be employed on the above projects which is ongoing.

b) Councillors were concerned at the lack of suitable temporary arrangements for a village public bus service while BT cable work was blocking through traffic on Stableford Lane. Council agreed to express its dissatisfaction by the Chairman writing a letter of complaint to Shropshire Council. The Clerk is to provide the Chairman with details of events covering the matter and to whom best to contact at Shropshire Council.

c) Council agreed that in a Badger Bulletin the local community should be supplied with details of "The Albrighton Flyer" mini-bus service. Parishioners should be asked to let the Parish Council know whether they would use it if it could be extended to cover Badger. If the response is sufficiently positive Council agreed to pursue the matter further.

d) Council asked the Clerk to find out from Shropshire Council what is the latest position regarding the provision of high-speed broadband for Badger Parish as reception is still poor in some areas of the village.

e) An overgrown hedge along Stableford Lane was causing a road safety concern. As there is a legal dispute about ownership that is causing inordinate delay in cutting it, the Council decided to arrange for its highway verges contractor to cut the hedge.

#### 61. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) In response to the consultation about the re-tendering of local bus services Council asked the Clerk to inform the Contracts Officer of Shropshire Council that bus services 113 and 114 were well used by Badger parishioners, and was the only means of transport to town for some locals. Consequently, these local public bus services were of great value and vital for them to be retained in any revised or new contracts.

b) Reference was made to Shropshire Council's Library & Consultation Strategy, with Councillors commenting that the current mobile library service for Badger was valued and should be retained.

#### 62. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Councillor Ian Wright attended the AGM for The Shropshire Association of Local Councils and its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations which he found an interesting experience.

b) Council agreed to arrange a celebratory village event for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to follow the successful one commemorating the centenary of the end of The First World War last year.

**63. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at St. Giles' Church, Badger on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, starting at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.