

**BADGER PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ONLINE ZOOM MEETING  
HELD ON  
THURSDAY 21 MAY, STARTING AT 7.00 PM**

**1. PRESENT**

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

**2. ALSO PRESENT**

One member of the public & F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**5. TO CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS & RECORDS OF DECISIONS ISSUED ON 23 MARCH, 6 APRIL & 14 APRIL 2020.**

Councillors agreed that these were a true account of proceedings since the advent of the Coronavirus Crisis.

**6. ADMINISTRATION**

Chairman advised that two people had interest in being co-opted as a Councillor on to the Council to replace Ian Wright who resigned in March 2020. He has discussed the matter with them. It was then agreed between the two that Ms. Lorraine Wilson only would put her name forward for consideration to fill the casual vacancy. She qualifies as being registered as a local government elector for Badger Parish and there are no grounds as set out in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 to disqualify her from holding office. The Chairman considered her eminently suitable to be a parish councillor and consequently Councillors unanimously voted her co-option on to the Council. The Clerk will contact Lorraine Wilson accordingly and arrange for written declaration of acceptance of office, declaration of pecuniary interests and for her to seek dispensation to discuss financial issues at Council.

The other interested person is willing to wait to stand for office at the local elections due in May 2021.

**7. FINANCE**

a) Council acknowledged that the Internal Auditor had completed a comprehensive examination of the Council's financial records on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and finding the level of administration and system of controls and the affairs of the Council properly conducted, signed the Annual Audit Report.

- b) In response to issues raised in the Internal Auditor's Report, Council agreed that:
- i) In future for transparency, full details of the budget calculation will be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting when the precept for the year in question is approved.
  - ii) Care will be taken to ensure that either the Council's general reserves in funds at the end of a financial year are less than double the amount of the precept, or a fuller explanation is supplied why it is necessary to exceed it.
  - iii) The Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk) will ensure in future that all invoices together with the cheque foils are initialled to acknowledge correct payment.
  - iv) Council will look at the possibility of making the accounting documents on its web site more readily accessible.

c) Council considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, and unanimously Councillors approved the following:

- i) The completion and signing of the Annual Governance Statement by the Chairman & Clerk
- ii) The Accounting Statements and for the Chairman and Clerk to sign.
- iii) The Certificate of Exemption from the need for a limited review by the External Auditor which the Chairman & Clerk will sign.
- iv) The dates of the "Period of the Exercise of the Public Rights to Inspect the Accounts", from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020, to be announced on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, on the Council's web site and its notice board in the village.

d) Council considered that it was of value to be a member of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC), so approved payment of the annual subscription fees totalling £120.15.

e) Under delegated powers given to the Chairman & Clerk, Councillors were informed that of the three quotes received, Pen Writing Limited who were substantially the lowest and best value for money, were awarded a three year agreement for the Council's insurance cover, with the first annual premium of £358.61 now payable for the year commencing 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020. In response to a query about future year premiums on the agreement the Clerk, based on previous history and experience was reasonably confident that they were likely to be no more than the inflation rate.

f) Councillors approved the following payments by cheque:

- Numbers Plus (cheque 100460)	£118.80
- Web site fee (cheque 100461)	£ 72.00
- SDH Accountancy (cheque 100462)	£125.00
- Came & Company (cheque 100463)	£358.61
- SALC affiliation fees (cheque 100464)	£120.15

g) After encashment of cheques in Section f) above, the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £8.453.12 in credit. The Business Premium Account stands at £2,212.32 in credit, and petty cash at £87.86

h) While referring to the Pandemic Record of Decisions Report of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, where it was accepted to the postponement of face-to-face defibrillator refresher training, Council gave delegated authority to the Chairman in consultation with the Clerk, to consider a grant to Albrighton First Responders who will be providing the future defibrillator training free of charge.

#### 8. PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors noted that an investigation by Shropshire Council was ongoing regarding an alleged breach of planning control in relation to ground works carried out at Stableford Gymnasium.

#### 9. PARISH MATTERS

a) The Chairman gave an account of problems with traffic and parking along the lanes of Badger Parish much caused by people visiting Badger Dingle seeking leisure as a result of the relaxation in the travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic. He has made an approach to the police requesting patrols along the parish lanes and taking any necessary action against offenders causing highway safety hazards and obstruction. The Chairman mentioned road signs seen in another county stating "SINGLE TRACK ROAD WITH PASSING PLACES" for a road wider than the lane from Stableford to Badger. He wondered whether a similar one could be installed at the entrance to Stableford Lane from the B4176. Cllr. Stephen English wondered whether an addition on the sign of "BUS ROUTE" could be considered.

Council was already seeking signs on entrance to the village stating "PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY" and at parking places with something like "FOR PASSING NOT PARKING". Shropshire Council had recently been approached about these two signs who advised they could be considered but asked what contribution could be made by the Parish Council towards the cost. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Clerk to investigate possibilities and come back to Council with proposals and associated costs.

b) Cllr. Stephen England reported that there had been a house break-in at nearby Ackleton and wished to alert people to be on their guard.

#### 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting was left for a date to be decided and depended on progress to resolve the Covid-19 Crisis.

The Chairman closed the meeting after 40 minutes.