

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ONLINE VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2021, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

36. PRESENT

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

37. ALSO PRESENT

One parishioner & F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

39. OPEN FORUM

As there were no issues raised for discussion Council immediately went into formal session.

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

There were none.

41. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2021

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

42. TO NOTE ANY ACTION ON MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 14TH JANUARY 2021

a) Minute 29d): The Chairman made it clear that only the more protracted or controversial planning applications would be displayed on the Council's web site.

b) Minute 32b): Open Reach had not responded to the online report about the need to replace the manhole cover & remove barrier by the bridge in Badger, so the Clerk phoned Open Reach on 15th March to prompt action.

43. ADMINISTRATION

a) Councillors noted that the Council's new web site was now up and running, and they expressed satisfaction with its content and quality.

44. FINANCE

a) Council agreed that there were no grounds to seek a "Limited Assurance Review" by the External Auditors in respect of the 2020/2021 financial year accounts. The Chairman will therefore sign the Certificate of Exemption at the Council's meeting in May 2021, when approving the internal audited accounts, and the Clerk will forward it to the External Auditor.

b) Council noted that the Clerk had submitted a claim for an environmental maintenance grant from Shropshire Council, for the financial year 2021/2022, and was hopeful of receiving an award of £456.

c) Councillors approved the following payments by cheque:

- Edition of Six Parishes Newsletter – ratification – (cheque 100478)	£30.00
- The Clerk’s salary for period 1 January to 31 March 2021 (cheque 100479)	£387.46
- Clerk’s income tax to HMRC (cheque 100480)	£96.80
- SLVC Ltd for new web site production (cheque 100481)	£672.00

d) After encashment of the cheques in Section c) above, the Council’s Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £5,360.34 in credit. The Business Premium Account at Barclays stands at £2,213.28 in credit. Petty cash stands at £67.05.

e) The Chairman advised that he had been re-imbursed £14.39 in cash from the Council’s funds for the fee he made to Zoom for the virtual meeting.

45. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Council noted that Planning Application 20/04796/FUL in respect of the proposal for a fishing bait production building by Badger Hall has been withdrawn.

b) Council noted that Planning Application 21/00103/FUL regarding the erection of a glasshouse west of Badger Lane has been withdrawn. The Chairman explained that although the site of the planning proposal was outside the Badger Parish boundary, as it could cause traffic problems to local parishioners who travelled along the Lane, Council had had informed The Planning Authority at Shropshire Council that it objected to the proposal.

c) For Council’s information only (not for consultation) Shropshire Council reported the Application for a Lawful Development to erect a mobile unit to provide an office and ancillary accommodation at Brockwell, Badger.

d) There were no other planning applications requiring the Council’s attention.

46. PARISH MATTERS

a) Councillors were informed that a site meeting is to be arranged with Shropshire Council’s Highways Divisional Manager to discuss a number of road issues. These include * road repairs needed at Badger Heath, * remedy work for the break-up of the road edge to the village from Stableford, * a timescale for the provision for “passing place” signs, * signage/warning posts needed at the dangerous drop in the road by the bridge at Stableford, * a general discussion on how to improve the deteriorating traffic situation caused by increased visiting tourists to Badger Dingle and * the dangerous pot holes on the A464 from Burnhill Green to Albrighton.

b) The Chairman advised that he will be consulting the Chairmen of all the Parish Councils affected by the deplorable state of the road from Worfield to Albrighton, in order to gain a co-ordinated complaint to the Highways Authority.

c) The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council’s Traffic Engineer will be arranging for the supply and installation of requested road signage. However, he advised that during the pandemic lockdown, on the grounds of health & security this type of work had been put on hold by Shropshire Council’s contractor, and there is now a backlog of jobs awaiting completion. Council considered the reasons for the delays were hollow and not acceptable.

The Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council and challenge the grounds given by its contractor for the delays. Also, the Traffic Engineer is to be requested to let Council have the two options he considers feasible for double yellow lines in Badger Parish.

d) Councillor Lorraine Wilson raised concerns regarding the number of residents who will be without electricity on Thursday 1st April 202, while Western Power undertake work on poles in Badger village. Despite local protests by residents that this work is during the pandemic lockdown putting some people's health and safety at risk, Western Power are insisting the work is urgent and cannot be delayed any longer. Council decided to submit a formal protest to Western Power, asking that either to delay the work until the removal of Covid 19 restrictions, or take measures to ensure the electricity supply is maintained. Cllr. Lorraine Wilson agreed to provide a written account of the position for the Clerk to use in his submission to Western Power.

47. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) The Clerk advised Councillors that for those proposing to stand for re-election on 6th May 2021, he will be delivering the Candidate's Application Pack on Thursday 18th March 2021. He outlined the time scales for applications to be received, and the need in the period from now until the elections for Council not to publish/broadcast any comments or material that could influence the way electors vote.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

There were none needing Council's attention.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors agreed to have the Annual Parish Meeting, The Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Ordinary Business Meeting, all on Wednesday 12th May 2021, which will be the first meeting of the new Council. It has yet to be decided on whether the meetings will be virtual or face-to-face which will depend on the Lockdown restrictions at the time.

The Chairman formally closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.