

**BADGER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**  
**AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM**

63. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe (Chairman)

Cllr. G. Bond

Cllr. R. Greenwell

Cllr. Mrs. S. Greenwell

64. ALSO PRESENT

Three parishioners.

F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin

66. OPEN FORUM

Discussion with parishioners present focused on the prospects of an event in May to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Chairman advised, with its agreement, that the Council, while not organising the function would encourage and support an independent local community group that did so, including consideration of financial assistance for essential costs. It was also open for any individual Councillor to volunteer to be a member of the group. One parishioner who was unable to attend the Council meeting had submitted written suggestions that were given an airing. These included an outdoor picnic event and an appropriate genre film. The response following the article in Council's newsletter, The Badger Bulletin, was disappointing so Councillors agreed to pursue enthusing people in the community to form a group to arrange an event. The question was raised on whether the Church was intending to hold a special service which a parishioner present volunteered to ascertain.

67. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY INTERESTS NOT ALREADY DECLARED FOR MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

There were none.

68. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER COUNCIL MEETING ON 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

Council agreed that the minutes were a true record and accordingly the Chairman signed a copy.

69. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

a) Minute 59 c): The Council agreed that the problem of moles on the Crescent Green had receded and that no further action was needed at this time.

b) The Council nominated Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin to attend the Road Safety Event on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. However if she is unable to attend the Clerk would go to represent the Council

## 70. ADMINISTRATION

There were no matters requiring attention.

## 71. FINANCE

a) The Council approved seeking a precept requirement of £3,000 for the 2016/2017 financial year. The Clerk will inform Shropshire Council.

b) The Council noted that the Clerk has informed Mrs. S. Hackett of SDH Accounting that she had been appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2015/2016 financial accounts.

c) The Council approved purchase of two Gopak folding tables at a total cost of £252.00 (including VAT), for the use at Council meetings. They will be stored in St. Giles' Church.

d) The Council approved the following payments by cheque:-

- Office Furniture Online (cheque 100348)	£252.00
- Badger Print (cheque 100349)	£ 15.00
- Clerk's salary & expenses (cheque 100350)	£338.77
- HMRC – income tax on Clerk's salary (cheque 100351)	£ 75.80

e) As at 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank stood at £7,760.71 in credit. After encashment of cheques in section d) above, the Community Account will be £7,079.14 in credit, of which £1,342.20 is Parish Plan Steering Group funds, leaving £5,736.94 belonging to the Parish Council. The Council's Business Saver account is £1,551.40 in credit. Petty cash is £62.70 after payment for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## 72. PLANNING MATTERS

a) The Council noted that the Site Allocation & Management of Development (SAM/Dev) Plan was adopted by Shropshire Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) has provided a briefing note on the Inspector's Report for parish and town councils. The Inspector found the draft plan "sound" provided the changes he recommended were incorporated. This has been accomplished and published. It is the view of the Inspector that these changes do not alter the thrust or basis of Shropshire Council's overall strategy. The SAM/Dev has now become part of the development plan for Shropshire alongside its Core Strategy.

b) Shropshire Council advised that this year it will not be undertaking an annual review of Place Plans but instead using the time to identify the approach needed to the Plans in the future. With this in mind a working group of its council officers plus town & parish clerks will be set up to re-design and refocus what a Place Plan looks like and the value it can bring to communities. Proposals and recommendations on this work can be anticipated in six months time.

## 73. PARISH MATTERS

a) Councillors noted that its Shropshire Ward Councillor had visited the gymnasium site at Stableford and agreed it was "no pretty picture", and that the owners were responsible to ensure safety standards were met. As Councillors still considered that the gymnasium site was a health and safety hazard the Clerk was

asked to notify the Team Building Control Manager of Shropshire Council that the Parish Council would not accept any responsibility if an accident or injury occurred due to negligence of site maintenance. Also Shropshire Council should be informed that scrap tyres on the field by the gymnasium belonging to the same owner, which the Parish Council had reported some years ago, have now been deposited on the highway verge of Stableford Lane.

b) The Clerk advised that a STAR Housing official had inspected the pavement around the homes at The Crescent, Badger, to decide what repairs were necessary. The question of lighting on the steps at The Crescent that was raised recently in correspondence between a parishioner and Shropshire Council was reviewed. However, the Parish Council took the same view as at its meeting in July 2012, when Shropshire Council was informed that as it owned the land responsibility for health & safety rested with it, so lighting at the Crescent and any other measures necessary to care for the well-being of The Crescent residents was for it to consider.

c) The Chairman outlined the problems experienced by people in Badger village with BT Broadband and the telephone system. The Chairman has been in correspondence with the local MP and in contact with BT. A photograph was shown of the BT line through the Dingle, where a bracket had broken and a tree was bearing down dangerously on the line. After consultation with the agent of the Dingle's land owner, a BT engineer has inspected the line. Arrangements have been made to remove the tree on 15<sup>th</sup> January and for the line to be re-tensioned. The engineer accepts that the whole system serving Badger Parish needs overhauling. During the Chairman's discussion with the engineer it was revealed that there are two lines into Badger, one overhead through The Dingle, and the other underground from Burnhill Green. The collapse of the former would mean no Broadband provision but the underground cable ensured continuance of the land line telephone service. The Council looks forward to BT urgently improving its broadband and telephone system in Badger and the Chairman awaits a full response from the MP.

d) The Council formally decided to leave it to members of the local community to pursue a celebratory event for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2016, but will consider giving the group financial assistance on request for any essential costs.

#### 74. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

There were no matters to consider.

#### 75. CORRESPONDENCE

None had been received that needed Council's attention.

#### 76. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the unavailability of three Councillors on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the Council agreed that the next meeting of the Council would now be at St. Giles' Church, Badger on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 starting at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.