

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020
AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

11. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe (Chairman), Cllr. G. Bond, Cllr. S. England., Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin & Cllr. Ms. L Wilson, who was warmly welcomed by the Chairman to her first meeting as a Member of the Council.

12. ALSO PRESENT

F.D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

14. OPEN FORUM

As there were no members of the public present Council immediately went into its formal session.

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

There were none.

16. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF REMOTE MEETING OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2020.

Councillors agreed that they were a true record, so the Chairman signed a copy.

17. TO NOTE OUTCOME OF MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 21ST MAY 2020.

a) Councillors noted that Ms. Lorraine Wilson had signed the Declaration of Office on 22nd May which was witnessed by the Clerk.

b) Arrangements have been made for accounting documents to be found together in a more accessible format on the Council's web site.

c) Council noted insurance cover has been arranged under a new three-year agreement starting from 26th June 2020.

18. ADMINISTRATION

a) Councillors unanimously approved the adoption of the 2020 Annual Risk Management Assessment presented by the Clerk, which they considered had satisfactorily taken account of all the important aspects of evaluating risk.

b) Council decided not to set in stone dates of Council meetings for the rest of the civic year.

c) The Chairman explained the outcome of his discussions with IT Consultant, Adrian Voysey, about producing a new, updated web site. He also referred to the obligation under recent Regulations to ensure ready access for the disabled to council web sites or meet the criteria for seeking exemption from certain advocated procedures.

The Chairman advised that the cost of the work and software for upgrading the web site would be between £500 and £1,000, depending on what was required. Adrian Voysey has experience in setting up web sites for councils. Council resolved to ask Adrian Voysey to take on the task of creating a new web site for Badger Parish Council. Therefore, under Standing Order 18 n) ii & iv Council does not require its Responsible Finance Officer (who is also the Clerk) to obtain three estimates from appropriate suppliers. It was agreed that a group of three Councillors, the Chairman, Councillors Liz Wakelin and Lorraine Wilson would discuss the contents, format and design of the web site by way of a virtual meeting with Adrian Voysey.

19. FINANCE

a) Council approved a rise in the Clerk's salary to £11.53 an hour that he wishes to claim from 1st July 2020, which is the amount recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government (NJC) from 1st April 2020.

b) Councillors approved the following payments by cheque:

- The Clerk's salary & expenses (cheque 100470)	£395.26
- Clerk's Income Tax to HMRC (cheque 100471)	£ 96.80
- Donation to Albrighton First Response (cheque 100472)	£100.00

c) After encashment of cheques in Section 2 above, the outstanding data protection fee of £40.00 to the Information Commissioner's Office and payment to MJC Gretton for highway maintenance on 3/9/20, the Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £7,681.86 in credit. The Business Premium Account at Barclays stands at £2,212.91 in credit. Petty cash will be £50.86 after payment of £20 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting held on 30th September 2020.

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 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 transactions.

20. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Councillors acknowledged that the revised application 20/02692/FUL for new entrance gates and posts at Cartref, Badger had been granted permission By Shropshire Council.

b) Planning Application 20/03205/FUL for the erection of an agricultural building at Badger Clump which the Council was supporting has yet to be considered by the Planning Authority.

c) The proposal to fell an ash tree within the Conservation Area under application 20/03861/TCA was supported by Council as it was in very poor condition and that it was intended to replace with a sweet chestnut tree.

d) Council considered the report presented by the Clerk regarding the draft Local Plan, and as Badger Parish was not directly involved in any development decided to take no further action.

e) The Clerk submitted a detailed report on the “Changes to the Planning System” document and the White Paper on “Planning for the Future”. Council discussed them in some depth and responded to the 26 questions raised by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Council generally approved the views expressed in the Clerk’s report. The Chairman read out the proposed letter of response to the White Paper by Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) received on 30th September 2020. Council considered it succinctly identified the main issues, and clearly expressed the major concerns. Council delegated authority to the Chairman and Clerk to issue a suitable reply to SALC in support of its responses to the White Paper.

21. PARISH MATTERS

a) To date there has been no communication from Shropshire Council regarding progress in meeting the proposals on road issues that were agreed at the site meeting on 3rd September 2020. The Clerk is to follow up.

b) Details of the cost for Shropshire Council to supply a litter bin at the cemetery at Badger have now been received. The purchase price of a bin is £294 plus £11.95 for the fixings, installation costs approximately £249.65 and annual maintenance £121.20 which may be subject to change. Council decided to offer to pay for half the costs of the bin, fixings and installation which totals £277.80. It was considered that the regular emptying of the bin should be undertaken by Shropshire Council’s contractor at the same time it emptied the other three bins in the village, and responsibility for payment of the £121.20 maintenance charge should be met by Shropshire Council. Following discussion, it was agreed on the exact location of the bin and the Chairman will provide a map marking the spot.

c) The Chairman stated that it would be useful for Council to possess a laminator to achieve some of its promotional functions. The cost will be between £30 and £50. The Clerk confirmed that a Council can meet such an expense under Section 111 of the LA Act 1972, where a local authority is given the power to do anything that discharges its function. Council approved for the Chairman to purchase a laminator for Council and seek reimbursement. The Clerk will then include the purchase of a laminator on the Council’s assets register and record that the Chairman is the custodian.

d) The Chairman informed Council that voluntary work was proposed to tidy up parts of Badger Dingle. The Clerk advised that providing the work was organised and undertaken on behalf of the Council the volunteer workers were covered by the Council’s insurance.

22. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) Discussion emanated from the Market Intelligence Review update from “Connecting Shropshire”. Councillors reported that not all households in Badger has yet obtained fibre broadband and Open Reach has miscoded some properties on availability. The position was noted by Council.

b) Councillor Lorraine Wilson has studied Shropshire Council’s draft Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy that was out for consultation,

who found it wanting and poorly researched. She was particularly concerned that there was no reference in the strategy to provisions and plans for the Bridgnorth area. She agreed to let the Clerk have a short report who was authorised by Council to submit comments to Shropshire Council based on her findings.

23 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Council did not consider that there was sufficient benefit to local people to warrant a grant to East Shropshire Sports Partnership. The Chairman advised that Council policy was to award grants sparingly due to Council only having a very small precept.

b) Council decided to “leave on the table” the request for a grant from Shropshire “Mind” for similar reasons expressed in a) above.

c) Council considered that the request for a donation for Albrighton & Cosford First Committee Response merited an award as this organisation provided free of charge the training of volunteers for Badger village defibrillator scheme. Consequently, Councillors unanimously approved a grant of £100.

24. COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 25th November 2020, at St. Giles’ Church, Badger, starting at 7.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm