

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020
AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

64. PRESENT

Cllr. G. Bond, Cllr. S. England, Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin & Cllr. I. Wright

65. ALSO PRESENT One parishioner (Open Forum only) & F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council).

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Council accepted apologies from Chairman, Cllr. T. Lipscombe. In his absence Cllr. S. England proposed, seconded by Cllr. G. Bond and carried unanimously, that Cllr. Ian Wright should chair the meeting.

67. OPEN FORUM

The parishioner present raised concern regarding the litter strewn by the village cemetery, and the dog faeces left on the ground to the entrance and along the public bridleway on the opposite side to the graveyard, and asked for consideration to be given for the provision of litter bins at the site. The Clerk advised that he is waiting for a reply from the Manager of Street Scene at Shropshire Council to his recent enquiry on whether her Council could provide, install and regularly empty the bins at no cost to Badger Parish Council.

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

There were none.

69. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019
Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true record and so the Chairman signed a copy.

70. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019

a) Minute 56 f): Councillors have planted the daffodil bulbs along the highway grass verges around the village centre.

b) Minute 56 h): Council has completed the refurbishment of its notice board by Town Pool.

c) Minute 60 f): Councillors noted that the Chairman is in possession of all the facts relating to the recent temporary closure of Stableford Lane for BT cable work.

d) Minute 61 a): Council noted that Shropshire Council has been informed of the need to retain local bus services.

71. ADMINISTRATION

a) Cllr. Liz Wakelin who oversees the Council's web site made the recommendation to pay £39.95 to meet the domain fee for a period of five years, which was approved by Council.

72. FINANCE

a) Council noted that there was no material change to the budget calculations presented at its November 2019 meeting. Councillors therefore unanimously agreed that the Council's

precept for the 2020/2021 Financial Year should be £3,800, the same amount as for the current financial year that ends on 31 March 2020.

b) Council noted the conditions needed to qualify for an environmental maintenance grant from Shropshire Council for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2020.

c) Council approved the following payments by cheque:

- Clerk's salary & expenses (cheque 100450)	£392.64
- Clerk's Income Tax to HMRC (cheque 100451)	£ 94.20
- Badger Print & Design (cheque 100452)	£ 28.00
- SALC -delegate fee (cheque 100453)	£ 27.00
- Hope House Children's Hospice (minute 76 b) (cheque 100454)	£100.00

d) After encashment of cheques in Section c) above, the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank will stand at £6,192.66 in credit, and the Business Premium Account at Barclays at £2,211.54 in credit. After payment of £20.00 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 16th January 2020, petty cash will stand at £79.10.

73. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Council had advised Shropshire Council's Planning Authority that there was no cause to object to the pruning of a weeping willow at The Sheiling which was within the Badger Conservation Area.

b) Councillors having sighted the updated Albrighton Place Plan acknowledged that as there were no proposals or projects involving Badger Parish, no action was needed by Council.

74. PARISH MATTERS

a) Once it was known whether or not Shropshire Council could provide, install and empty litter bins by the village cemetery, Council would then decide what action, if any, was necessary.

b) The Council's contractor has cut the overgrown hedge along the Stableford Lane that was causing a road safety hazard. The Chairman has also arranged for the contractor to provide quotes for other highway hedge and verge work in Badger Parish which have yet to be received.

c) Council noted that due to the lack of funding some of the road work in the Parish including improvements to lay-bys, agreed with Shropshire Council to be needed, will not be undertaken in the current financial year that ends on 31st March 2020.

d) As there has been no interest expressed by Badger parishioners Council decided not to pursue the possibility of the provision of "The Albrighton Flyer" mini-bus service for Badger.

e) In the light of comments by Shropshire Council it was decided by Badger Parish Council that at this time it was not worthwhile pursuing further the possibility of any alterations to the car parking facilities at The Crescent, Badger. It was noted that there were now signs at the Crescent stating the car parking bay was for residents only.

f) Councillors had concern about an overgrown hedge on the highway verge along Badger Heath Lane just within South Staffordshire, which was causing a road safety hazard. Cllr. Liz Wakelin volunteered to approach Pattingham Parish Council to ensure it was aware of the dangerous condition of the hedge and was pursuing remedial repairs by South Staffs County Council.

g) Councillors raised concerns regarding the gun noise emanating from a field in the village that has been creating unacceptable disturbance to local residents. Following an approach to the responsible farmer by the Chairman the noise level has abated somewhat. However, Council did not consider the reduction in noise was sufficient to remove cause for complaint. Cllr. Ian Wright agreed to consult the Chairman about the need to make a further representation to the farmer responsible.

h) Councillors were worried at the increasing instances of traffic racing through Badger village at excessive speed. The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council Street Scene Section to see whether it was possible to provide road signs stating, "PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY", at appropriate locations on the lanes entering Badger village.

i) Council agreed to arrange defibrillator training for volunteers on Saturday afternoon of 29th February 2020 or if this is not possible, then on Saturday 22nd February 2020. The Clerk will book Beckbury Village Hall for the training once it has been confirmed that the Training Officer is available on these dates.

75. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) Council noted that faster fibre broadband is now available to order in parts of Badger village not previously able to connect to a fibre broadband connector, and that parishioners have been informed of this in the December edition of The Badger Bulletin.

76. CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

a) Council considered that as the Smartwater signs in Badger village had not long been installed and were quite adequate for their intended purpose, it was not necessary to opt to replace them with the new signage design ones.

b) The request for financial support to help with the costs to run Hope House Children's Hospices that provided much needed services for seriously ill young people was favourably considered, with Council approving a grant of £100.00.

77. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Although two Councillors are not available for the next scheduled Council meeting on Thursday 19th March 2020, as Council would still be quorate it was decided not to alter the date for the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.