

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014
AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

80. PRESENT

Cllr. T.J. Lipscombe (Chairman)

Cllr. G. Bond

Cllr. Mrs. S. Greenwell

Cllr. R. Greenwell

81. ALSO PRESENT

Mr. F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted by the Council from Councillor G. Godbert.

83. OPEN FORUM

As there were no members of the public present, the Council went directly into formal session.

84. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Robin & Sharon Greenwell declared a PERSONAL interest on item 8 a) on the agenda regarding the discussion on turning heavy vehicles at the Bridge, Badger, on to their property.

Councillor T. J. Lipscombe declared a PERSONAL interest on item 8 c) on the agenda as discussion could affect usage of the public telephone kiosk situated on his property.

85. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2014.

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2014, were a true record and accordingly the Chairman signed a copy.

86. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2014.

a) The Council accepted that the delay to receive the revised proposal for car parking at The Crescent, Badger, and other highway enquiries, was caused by priorities given to emergency highways work as a result of recent inclement weather. The Clerk is to request receipt of the revised proposal from the Highways Divisional Surveyor in good time for the Council meeting on 8th May 2014.

b) The Council was pleased that Michael Wood, Shropshire Councillor, was arranging for Badger parish to be on the next tranche of work in the process to bring superfast broadband into rural areas.

Councillors asked the Clerk to arrange for the regular receipt of “The Shropshire & Marches Campaign for Better Broadband in Rural Areas” newsletter.

87. ADMINISTRATION

a) The Council decided to allow more time for Members to digest the revised Standing Orders submitted by the Clerk, and to consider formal approval of them at its meeting on 8th May 2014.

b) Councillor R. Greenwell explained the benefits of upgrading the software on the Council’s web site, including making it fully “mobile friendly”, so enabling the site to be viewed on a tablet or smart phone. The Council approved the upgrading of the web site to the new V6 software with the annual licence/ hosting fee being a total of £32.00.

88. FINANCE

a) The Council noted the Council’s Financial Regulations are incorporated in its Standing Orders which are under review, and are for consideration at its meeting on 8th May 2014.

b) The Council approved the procedure outlined by the Clerk to update its Register of Assets, and to annually record revised current values of its assets. As the Council recalls that it purchased its marquee for £300 in 2001, it directed the Clerk to calculate its current value by using an estimated yearly inflation figure, then include on The Schedule of Assets.

c) The Council ratified/approved the following payments by cheque:

- D. M. Wood, Master Thatcher, (cheque 100299)	£ 1,355.00
- Upright Scaffolding Ltd, (cheque 100301)	£ 456.00
- Clerk’s salary & expenses, (cheque 100300)	£ 304.40
- Income tax to HMRC, (cheque 100302)	£ 74.20
- Web site fee, re-imburement to Cllr. R. Greenwell (cheque 100303)	£ 32.00
- Badger Print, from Parish Plan Funds, (cheque 100304)	£ 57.00

d) The Council noted that after encashment of the cheques in Section c) above, the Council’s Community Account in Barclays Bank will be £5,698.45 in credit, which includes £1,423 of the Parish Plan Steering Group funds. The Council’s Business Saver Account remains recorded as £1,549.85 in credit. Petty cash is £57.05 after the £20.00 payment for using St. Giles’ Church for the meeting of the Parish Council on 13th March 2014.

e) The Clerk reported that he received notification on 4/3/14 that the £905 Shropshire Council grant towards the cost of repairs to the thatched roof of the Council’s bus shelter had been deposited in the Council’s Community Account at Barclays Bank. Also, a contribution of £380 towards the bus shelter repairs had recently been received from Badger’s “Village Fund”. The Chairman explained the background to the Village Fund which had been a voluntary local fund raising body where net proceeds were shared between The Parish Church and local charities.

The fund had now been wound up with half of the contingency reserve being awarded to St. Giles' Church, and the other to the Parish Council. Councillors noted that the total cost of repairing the thatched roof of its bus shelter had been £1,811, but after accounting for grants/donations of £1,285, and an anticipated £76.00 VAT refund, the net cost to the Parish Council's own funds was £450.00.

89. PLANNING MATTERS

a) The Council noted that permission had been granted under planning application 14/00823/TCA, to fell in the conservation area, one holly tree, one crimson acer and one silver birch at Sawmill Cottage.

b) It was also reported that under planning application 13/04989/FUL, permission was granted for the installation of a 50Kw ground mounted solar array south of Snowden Road.

c) The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to the local MP along the lines of the draft letter supplied by Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC), regarding concerns about the inequitable way the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) condition to maintain a five year land supply for development was being applied by the Planning Inspectorate.

90. PARISH MATTERS.

a) Councillor R. Greenwell reported on the site visit by the Bridge, Badger that he and his neighbour had with the Highways Divisional Surveyor and his local road Inspector about heavy vehicles turning at their properties. An inspection showed that currently there was no sign of damage being caused by these heavy public utility vehicles which Councillor R. Greenwell acknowledged needed to provide services up to the bridge which was too low for them to pass under. It was accepted that no remedial work was currently required but due to the potential risk to property future monitoring would be necessary.

b) Councillor Mrs. S. Greenwell informed the Council that SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) forms had been distributed to households in the parish by the Parish Plan Steering Group, and completed ones were requested for return by 14th March 2014. The findings would be considered at the Steering Group meeting on 17th March and used, with the guiding aid of the Beckbury version, for the production a community questionnaire for a local plan survey. The initial thoughts of the Steering Group were to issue the questionnaire within the next three months and allow a month for responses. While the Council was pleased with progress it expressed the hope that the Steering Group could consider completing the survey in a shorter time scale in order to avoid main summer holiday period.

c) The Chairman reported seeing the defibrillator at Beckbury, which was the size of a small knapsack. The cost of such defibrillators is around £800 to £900. There would be a need for easy access for volunteers trained to use it. The Chairman suggested the possibility that either the porch of St. Giles's Church, or the public telephone kiosk at Sawmill Cottage which has not been used for some considerable time, could be the home of the defibrillator. The Council agreed to pursue the provision of a defibrillator for Badger parish, and asked the Clerk to seek the following information for consideration at its meeting on 8th May 2014:

- Consult the West Midlands Ambulance Service about training courses.
- Investigate the possibility of grants towards the purchase of a community defibrillator, including The Oliver King Foundation charity.
- Find out if BT would be willing to let the Parish Council have the telephone kiosk in exchange for de-commissioning the public telephone.

d) The Council agreed that there was no immediate need for a cut of the highway grass verges in the parish. The Chairman will alert the Clerk when a cut was required.

91. UNITARY AUTHORITY ISSUES

a) None needed the attention of Councillors at the meeting.

92. CORRESPONDENCE

a) The Chairman would see if he was available to attend the Bridgnorth Area Committee of SALC on Tuesday 25th March 2014, at Quatt Village Hall, when there would be a presentation on the Shropshire Council Commissioning Strategy. This will be followed by a consultative survey of parish councils with responses required by Friday 2nd May 2014. No other Councillor was available to attend the SALC meeting, but in the event of the Chairman also being unavailable the Clerk would be willing to represent the Council at the meeting.

93. DATE OF NEXT METING

The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council and Business Meetings, to be held at Sr. Giles's Church. Badger on Thursday 8th May 3014 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.