

**BADGER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015**  
**AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

**92. PRESENT**

Cllr. T. Lipscombe (Chairman)

Cllr. G. Bond

Cllr. R. Greenwell

Cllr. Mrs. S. Greenwell

Cllr. Mrs. E. Wakelin

**93. ALSO PRESENT**

F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

**94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**95. OPEN FORUM**

As there were no members of the public present the Council resolved to immediately go into formal session.

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

Cllr. T. Lipscombe declared a personal interest on item 6a) of the agenda regarding the telephone kiosk.

**97. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015.**

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015, were a true record, and accordingly the Chairman signed a copy.

**98. TO CONSIDR ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING.**

a) Minute 87c): Building Control Section of Shropshire Council has been asked to investigate the site of the gymnasium at Stableford to ensure that the building is not in a dangerous condition. Councillors will supply photographs showing the state of the site if this proves necessary.

b) Minute 88c): Severn Trent acknowledges that there have been rising main defects causing three burst pipes since 2010. As risk is now high it is proposed to replace the existing rising main. Due to Severn Trent tankers damaging the highway verges at a number of locations during recent emergency sewage work, including by the telephone kiosk and by numbers 6,7, & 8 Badger, the Council will consider requesting Severn Trent to make good the damage.

## 99. ADMINISTRATION

a) Before installing the community defibrillator in the telephone box in Badger arrangements are being made for Western Power to ensure that the power connections are safe and to acceptable standards. If there is an unacceptable delay in accomplishing the task the Council agreed that BT should be contacted to assist.

b) The Council considered that the training for the 10 volunteers willing to operate the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) scheme went well. Mrs. Laura Nixon agreed to be co-ordinator of the scheme, and will pursue the use of a Numbers Plus Telephone Activation System. The West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) need to be advised once the defibrillator and telephone activation schemes have been installed in order to put Badger's AED on its system.

c) The Clerk informed the Council that to have a WiFi hot spot system in the telephone kiosk would cost at least £110 to install and a monthly payment of £39 for broadband. The Council decided not to pursue a public WiFi after bearing in mind that the likely minimal usage by parishioners would not bring value for money.

## 100. FINANCE

a) The Council decided to offer the grass verge maintenance work to Lewis Arborcare Ltd at a price of £385 + VAT per cut. It was decided not to pursue arranging the Tree Management Work on Stableford Road, but to refer the matter to Shropshire Council as it has responsibility for the upkeep of the highway.

b) The Council noted that documents for the 2014/15 financial audit of accounts would be submitted to the Internal Auditor on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The accounts would be submitted for Council approval at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, and then forwarded to Mazars, the External Auditor.

c) Shropshire Council has requested completion of an application form for the continuance of the grant it awards to Badger Parish Council for minor highway maintenance work. It also asked for a brief summary of work carried out during the 2014/15 financial year (F/Y) which the Clerk will supply. The grant received for the 2014/15 F/Y was £650. However, it has been necessary go out to tender for the grass cutting work outside the centre of the village. In consequence there will be a substantial rise in cost for future work. The Council agreed to have two grass verge cuts each year which will cost £770 net. Together with the grass trimming and the sandstone walls upkeep, this will mean total annual expenditure on minor maintenance work is likely to be £996. The Council decided to seek a grant of £950 for the 21516 F/Y.

d) The Council approved payments of £15.00 for future editions of the Badger Bulletin.

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

- The Clerk's salary & expenses (cheque 100326)	£351.17
- Income tax to HMRC (cheque 100327)	£ 75.80
- Parish Plan Printing (cheque 100328)	£ 20.00

f) The Council noted that on 12th Mach 2015, the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank was £6,898.46 in credit. After encashment of cheques in section e) above, it will be £6,451.49 in credit, of which £1,403 are the Parish Plan Steering Group's funds, thus leaving £5,048.49 belonging to the Council. The Council's Business Saver Account at Barclays Bank remains at £1,550.63 in credit. After payment of £20.00 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015, petty cash will be £64.34.

#### 101. PLANNING MATTERS

a) The Council noted that there were no objections to planning application 15/00254/TCA to fell a yew tree in the Badger conservation area.

b) The outcome of Shropshire Council's investigation into the condition of the gymnasium at Stableford is awaited( see minute 98a).

#### 102. PARISH MATTERS

a) Councillors were informed that through its highway contractor, Shropshire Council will provide free of charge, three litter picking sticks for the use by volunteers to help keep clean and tidy the highway verges in Badger parish.

b) As no other Councillor was available to take on the role, the Chairman agreed to continue being the representative for Badger Parish Council on Shropshire Council's Local Joint Committee. The Clerk will act as his (non-voting) substitute.

c) The Chairman reported that a tree had perished on the green of The Crescent. The Council resolved to replace the tree at an appropriate time.

#### 103. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

There were none for discussion.

#### 104. CORRESPONDENCE

a) The Clerk commented that the AGM and Conference of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) on 9/2/15, contained an interesting talk on "Improving Local Communities Together" presented by Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils. At the Conference there was a lengthy debate about the refusal of Shropshire Council to pass on Council Tax Support Grant to town and parish councils. It was resolved that a representative from SALC would attend the Shropshire Council meeting when it was to be debated and raise a question in protest.

#### 105. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, at St. Giles' Church, Badger, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.