

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT ST. GILES' CHURCH, BADGER, STARTING AT 7.00 PM

52. PRESENT

Cllr. T. Lipscombe (Chairman), Cllr. S. England, Cllr. Mrs E. Wakelin & Cllr. I. Wright.

53. ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Ian Banks (guest speaker from BT), 14 parishioners & F. D. Voysey (Clerk to the Council)

54. OPEN FORUM

a) The Clerk referred to the concern raised by a parishioner at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th May 2017, about the state of the road with hazardous pot holes from Badger Heath to Burnhill Green. He advised that Staffordshire Highways Authority confirmed on 14/11/17 that the road repairs had been completed

b) Mr. Ian Binks from BT discussed the plans to provide high speed fibre Broadband in Shropshire and in particular Badger Parish. First he outlined the background and how current copper lines would be replaced by fibre ones. He stated that the Government's ambition was to provide all premises with fibre Broadband by 2020, but there is no guarantee that this will be achieved. The outlying and isolated properties representing the 5% hard to reach will require special consideration and likely additional cost. Mr. Binks explained in detail how conversion to high speed Broadband will be introduced. He advised that all properties in Badger village should have been supplied with high speed Broadband by the end of 2018 under the Shropshire Council Scheme.

Mr. Binks referred to the BT Community Partnership Scheme whereby a community independent of the Council Scheme, could privately arrange for BT to undertake providing high speed Broadband that would ensure distant and isolated properties were covered, but there would be a cost to householders in the local community. He gave the example of a settlement where it cost householders in the local community £300 each.

Following queries from parishioners Mr. Binks admitted he was unsure whether some of the fibre band work claimed to have been done in Badger was a true and accurate picture. He agreed to investigate and report his findings to the Council.

On establishing that the signal by all suppliers for mobile phones in Badger Parish was virtually non-existent, Mr. Binks explained a method by which adequate reception was possible with extended antennae on a suitable raised location on a building.

The Chairman warmly thanked Mr. Binks for his informative and helpful talk.

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor G. Bond.

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

There were none.

57. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

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

58. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

a) Minute 48b): The defibrillator training was successfully completed on 7/10/17. The Disclosure & Barring Service has confirmed that as it is a voluntary independent group operating the AED Scheme and not conducted on behalf of an organisation established for that purpose, there is no requirement for DBS checks for Badger volunteers.

b) Minute 48b): The Clerk is still pursuing with Shropshire Council for it to undertake repairs to the bridge in Badger Dingle.

59. ADMINISTRATION

a) The Council decided to wait and assess the progress of Shropshire Council's high speed Broadband that aims to be introduced to all Badger Parish properties by the end of 2018, before considering whether or not to adopt the BT Community Partnership Scheme.

60. FINANCE

a) The Council noted that payment of £100 for the non-contested local elections in May 2017, will be requested by Shropshire Council in April 2018.

b) After consideration of budget figures presented by the Clerk, the Council provisionally approved to set its precept for the 2018/2019 financial year (F/Y) at £3,300. The Council will ratify the precept amount at its meeting on 18th January 2018, by which time Shropshire Council will have advised the council tax base and possibly whether there will be environmental maintenance grants for the 2018/2019 F/Y.

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

- Hire of Beckbury Village Hall (cheque 100397)	£ 20.00
- Lewis Arborcare Ltd (cheques 100398)	£462.00
- Money for Petty Cash (cheque 100399)	£ 95.00

d) After encashment of cheques in Section c) above, the Council's Community Account at Barclays Bank will be £5,963.59 in credit. Then Business Saver Account remains at £2,205.35 in credit. Petty cash will be £99.62 after payment of £20.00 for the use of St. Giles' Church for the Council meeting on 15/11/17, and encashment of the £95.00 cheque for petty cash.

61. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Application 17/04245/TCA: The Council noted that Shropshire Council received no objections to reduce the height of a silver birch tree at Sawmill Cottage, Badger.

b) Planning Application 17/04679/AGR: Shropshire Council has notified that this application for a general purpose storage building by Badger Heath Farm has been withdrawn.

c) The Clerk gave a brief outline of the "Preferred Scale & Distribution of Development" proposals in the Review of the Shropshire Local Plan, which is out for public consultation during the period 27th October 2017 to 22nd December 2017. He referred to the proposed methodology for the Settlement Hierarchy Assessment. This system categorises settlements in the Shropshire Council area and identifies those which have potential for the development of dwellings and employment land. Badger is being recognised as a rural settlement and classified as part of the countryside. The Council decided not to complete the consultative questionnaire.

d) The Chairman and the Clerk will be attending the special LJC (Local Joint Committee) on 29th November 2017, which is intended to be an information evening on the Place Plan Review, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and Neighbourhood Plans.

62. PARISH MATTERS

a) Shropshire Council has still yet to arrange a site visit with the Chairman of Council to inspect the condition of the roads in Badger Parish. The Clerk will pursue.

b) Councillor Stephen England reported on the work being done for Town Pool and surrounds and commented that clearance of dogwood has been a particular problem. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner's agent thanking her for the attention given to maintaining the Town Pool and surrounds.

c) It was generally considered that the recent meeting to present the draft Badger Parish Plan had gone well. However, the Chairman of Council considered that the Plan was more an information document than a future plan for developments and improvements in the Parish. Councillors agreed to look at aspects in the Plan that seeks consideration by the Parish Council. The Chairman observed that the document had not been considered or approved by resolution at a public meeting and that it should merely be "noted" by the Council as a draft.

d) Council decided to adjust the positioning of one of the Smartwater road signs installed by the Police and provide another to be located by the Badger road sign on the road entry to the village from Beckbury.

e) Council agreed that Councillor Mrs. Liz Wakelin can make any necessary amendments on the Council's web site due to changes in factual information.

f) Following outside comment the Council agreed that from time to time it would submit suitable articles for the Beckbury Newsletter.

h) It was agreed that at a meeting in the New Year the Council will consider whether to hold an event to commemorate the centenary of the ending of The Great War in November 1918.

63. UNITARY AUTHORITY MATTERS

a) The Council noted that the current on-line consultation from Shropshire Council about the provision of youth facilities. The Council decided not to respond as the Bridgnorth area will not be disadvantaged by the proposals.

b) The Clerk completed and submitted the on-line consultation questionnaire on the Shropshire Council's Review on the provision of environmental maintenance grants. He stated in the questionnaire that the grants awarded to Badger Parish Council for the maintenance of the highway verges were highly valued and supported their continuance.

64. CORRESPONDENCE

a) No Councillor was able to attend the AGM of Citizen's Advice to be held on 23rd November 2017.

b) Council asked the Clerk to write an article for the Badger Bulletin and possibly the Beckbury Newsletter on Healthwatch Shropshire's request for local older people to share stories of stressful hospital journeys.

65. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held at St. Giles' Church, Badger on Thursday 18th January starting at 7.00 pm. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

