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Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **October 18th 2021** at 7pm at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Biddisham.

Present

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Bowley, Hipwell, Shaw and White. Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk, Mrs H Marshall. There were no members of the public present.

126/21 Apologies: Cllr Vining Vacation; Cllr Wilkie, work commitment; The apologies were accepted. District Cllr Godwin Pearson and County Cllr Filmer also sent apologies.

127/21 Declarations of Interest None.

128/21 Dispensations None

129/21 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **September 13th, 2021**.

Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read and approved as a true record.

130/21 County Councillor's report: Having been previously submitted, the Clerk read out the report. Matters included: Coronavirus update and local figures; Vaccination programmes roll-out; Local government reorganisation and the local conference; Applications for school places 2022. A copy of the report is in the Minute book.

131/21 District Councillor's report: None was received

132/21 Community matters: Use of the highway adjacent to St Congars Barn, Church Lane, Badgworth: Matters discussed included: the potential change of designation; previous confirmation of the extent of the adopted highway; The history of the site; the use of the highway for passing and parking; Congregations and Church meetings and recent discussions with the Church Warden; ownership of land and adopted highways; highway safety.

Resolution: To contact highways to declare an interest in protecting the highway at the location as a passing and parking place; to confirm the understanding that any stopping up order application will be publicly advertised, and the Parish Council will be notified.

Unanimously agreed.

Bus Service and bus stops: Matters discussed included: Correspondence from the Somerset Bus Partnership regarding any concerns we have about the bus service in our area; the new 48 service request stops; local bus stops.

Resolution: To contact the bus service and clarify the location of bus stops in the Parish and circulate the information.

A **Bag of bulbs** is available from the District Council. Cllr White will collect the bulbs. The **Reconnecting Communities Fund** had awarded the Council the grant requested in full, and the funds were paid to the halls. Both halls had thanked the Council. The monies will be used to provide hygiene and safety equipment at the halls. It was noted that the Grit Bins are scheduled to be topped up. **Climate Emergency Training:** Cllr Hipwell will circulate

information prior to, and will give a report at, the next meeting. **Hinkley Connection Project** was updated including the programme to take down the old WPD pylons from Bridgwater to Sandford and the use of traffic lights on the A38 from 22 to 29 October. Information will be updated on their website.

133/21 Footpaths, Cllrs Bowley and White offered to repair the catch on a public footpath gate post in field adjacent to Church Lane Badgworth.

134/21 Highways matters included: **Tarnock Village Signs** Cllr Shaw is to investigate the condition of the signs; A letter from the parent of a resident about speed and crossing the A38 to reach school buses was discussed.

Resolution: The Clerk is to respond recommending that the family contact school transport to arrange pick up and drop off on their side of the road; to note that the Council have requested that the 40mph limit be retained when the current temporary speed restriction ends and will contact highways again to reiterate the request for an average speed indictaor; to contact the police again to request a speed check in the Parish; to register concern that the removal of the speed camera in Rooksbridge will lead to increased speeds in the Parish.

A **blocked drain** outside Westlea Biddisham Lane has been reported and will be inspected during and after rainfall.

135/21 Jubilee Field and Memorial Field Memorial Field: A resident contacted the Parish Council about a stretch of the hedge not being cut. The matter will be investigated and the deeds will be checked. No further matters were raised.

136/21 Crime report and policing update: No matters were reported. Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

137/21 Planning: The Planning Report was reviewed. It was raised that the case officer had contacted the Council regarding their response to application **03/21/00016**, and additional information had been circulated to the Council. The Chairman discussed that the case officer had requested an informal response form the Council to understand if they might be minded to reconsider their response. Members discussed the information and felt that the access and movement of traffic on the A38 and the scale of the development remained concerns and it was felt that they would not reconsider their response. The Clerk will report this to the case officer. **Enforcement:** A number of residents had raised the matter of a gateway in the Parish, the District Council will investigate the matter.

138/21 All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. The Somerset Association of Local Councils will be hosting a Climate Forum, Cllr Hipwell will attend; One Somerset hosted a Town & Parish Council conference and slides are available; Information was received on lighting beacons for the Queens Jubilee, the Clerk is to investigate what will be burnt and who will provide materials; Bristol Airport Stage 2 Engagement Presentation, Cllr Shaw will attend; CPRE will be holding a Rewilding Somerset Event, Cllr Bowley will attend; The PCC has published the draft Police and Crime Plan, Cllr Wilkie will be invited to respond.

139/21 Finance:

- i. The October financial statement, having been circulated, was approved as a true record. It was noted that the final precept payment was received.
- ii. The Payments Schedule was unanimously approved:
DD Clerks Salary and Mileage September £ 467.47
Chq 846 Grant to Schoolrooms from reconnecting communities fund £85.00
Chq 847 Grant to Biddisham Hall from reconnecting communities fund £210.73
Chq 848 Clerks Expenses (Phone, Internet Security) £62.14
- iii. The draft budget, having been previously circulated was discussed.
Resolution: The draft budget for 2022/2023 was approved.
- iv. The Precept was discussed, including increasing costs; the financial pressures on residents; a 4% increase.
Resolution: The Precept for 2022/2023 will be £9,500
- v. The **RLT2 and RLT3 funds** available were discussed. It was noted that the Parish has £23.29 available, and it will be investigated whether equipment for the table tennis table can be purchased, as it is well used.

140/21 Member's Points of Information: It was raised that people are letting **dogs off lead** in the field in Badgworth. The Clerk is to investigate applying for signage showing the public space protection orders.

141/21 Items for the Parish Magazine/social media None.

142/21 Date of next Meeting: 15th November 2021 – Biddisham Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 9pm

Signed F Body (Chairman)

Date