



Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **June 19th 2023** at 7pm at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Biddisham.

Present

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Beynon, Hipwell, Shaw and White. Also in attendance were County Cllrs Filmer and Grimes and the Parish Clerk. There were 3 members of the public present.

Open Forum

Residents were invited to speak during the meeting on the following matters: **The proposal for a speed reduction scheme in Badgworth** including: the results of the speed checks and speed results in neighbouring Parishes; the cost to the Parish; the evidence; the guidance from the traffic engineer; previous discussions and the survey; types of road user; street lighting, pavements and safety; enforcement and continued speeding.

A **pre application proposal** to develop land in Biddisham behind the Memorial Field was raised including the following matters: self-build and mixed housing, the plot size at @4 acres, the possibility of removing the fencing and leaving the field open.

083/23 Apologies: Cllr Vining, work commitment.

Resolution: The apology was approved.

084/23 Declarations of Interest None.

085/23 Dispensations None

086/23 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **May 15th 2023**. Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read and unanimously approved as a true record.

087/23 County Council report: The following matters were discussed: Buses: the £2 travel in the County scheme is extended to the end of October, then will be £2.50 for a further year; extending the 126 route is still under discussion; a lot of people are using the 48 bus but more users needed; Somerset fund for pothole repair is available, please report using the online reporting tool; tetrapaks will no longer be accepted at Cheddar and Highbridge recycling sites.

A question about grass cutting and fire risk was raised. Grass cutting frequency under the new County regulations is fewer cuts at 6 per year. Visibility at the Badgworth junction is to be reported to County Highways

088/23 Matters arising from the Minutes: The declarations of acceptance of office had been received from the Chair and Vice Chair prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that the planning officer could not investigate the **roadside sign in Badgworth** that had been raised with members unless it was reported to enforcement.

Resolution: To report the sign for investigation. Agreed.

089/23 Green matters: It was reported that solar panels and a battery had been installed at The Schoolrooms to reduce their carbon footprint. This was funded by a grant from The Hinkley Connection Project.

090/23 Request for Dog Bins in Badgworth Matters discussed included the comments received regarding the proposed locations, the Doles Lane site being the most popular; that the bin will be reviewed if financial support lapses.

Resolution: To request that Clean Surroundings investigate the site for a bin with a weekly emptying schedule and request that support is received in the form of a donation.

Resolution: To write to the Hinkley Connection Project to thank them for the grant for the noticeboards.

Tree plaque Members considered the 3 quotes.

Resolution: to order the 6 x4 plaque from Premier Trophies.

Resolution: To donate the obsolete Biddisham defibrillator to the NHS for training purposes. Unanimously agreed.

091/23 Resolution: Cllr Hipwell is the representative; Cllr Beynon is the substitute **Local Community Network Representative** Unanimously Agreed.

092/23 Highways matters: The proposal for a 30-mph scheme in Badgworth: members discussed the matter at length including the speed reading results, the guidance from the traffic engineer, costs, the survey results, the vote at the APM, speeds in adjacent Parishes.

Resolution: Based on the evidence and advice, the Parish Council will not commit to the scheme. Unanimously agreed.

Somerset Councillor Filmer was thanked for his guidance and support through the process.

093/23 Jubilee Field and Memorial Field It was noted that the grass had not been cut for a while due to the contractor's broken machinery and may need a few cuts before it looks better.

094/23 Crime report and policing update: No matters were reported. Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

095/23 Planning: The Planning report was reviewed. There were no updates.

096/23 All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. It was noted that Citizens Advice were exploring an option to merge the 4 Somerset organisations; a card had been received from the King and Queen with thanks for wishing King Charles III well for the coronation.

097/23 Finance:

i. The June **financial statement**, having been previously circulated, was approved as a true record. Unanimously agreed.

ii. **The Payments Schedule** was unanimously approved:

Somerset Association Local Councils £25 Councillor Training

Axe Brue IDB Drainage Rates £4.86

CPRE Subscription £36

H Marshall Salary and expenses June £500.71

HMRC PAYE £26.80

PATA UK Payroll Fees £45.80

iii. The **Recommendations of the Staffing Committee** were discussed.

Resolution: To increase the Clerk's incremental salary point to 12 on the NJC recommended scales with immediate effect. To hold a staffing committee prior to budget setting to discuss raising the Clerk's hours and to consider pension contributions. The clerk is to submit requests for any overtime prior to the meeting. The Clerk is to keep a check on hours worked. Unanimously agreed.

098/23 Member's Points of Information: The size of a planning development under construction was raised. No action was recommended.

099/23 Items for the Parish Magazine/social media It was requested that the wording of the card from the King and Queen was included in Contact magazine.

100/23 Date of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting 17th July 2023 Badgworth and Biddisham Hall

Meeting Closed at 8.36pm

Signed

(Meeting Chairman)

Date 17.7.23