

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **21st October 2024** at 7pm at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Biddisham.

Present

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Beynon, Hipwell and Spooner. Also in attendance were Somerset Cllrs Filmer and Grimes and the Parish Clerk. One member of the public was present.

127/24 Apologies: Cllr White ill health; Cllr Vining leave; Cllr Shaw family ill health and work commitment.

Resolution: The apologies were approved.

128/24 Declarations of Interest None

129/24 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **16th September 2024**. Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read.

Resolution: The Minutes were approved subject to changing Minute 112/24 to reflect that Cllr Hipwell sent apologies due to leave.

130/24 Somerset Council Report: Somerset Cllr Filmer gave a report including the following matters: the financial position and further staff restructuring, reduction in services. It was noted that private companies cannot be engaged by individuals to work on public highways issues. Verges will be maintained to a metre off the highway and at visibility splays; recycling centres are operating winter hours; recycling collections are in the top 20% in the Country; parking scams involving texts and emails are not from Somerset Council; Questions were asked and answered including that Cllrs Filmer and Grimes will hold office until 2027.

131/24 Matters arising from the Minutes: Cllr Spooner and her husband were thanked for installing the dog bin in Badgworth. Vet and Physio have kindly donated a sum which covers the cost of the bin. Cllrs noted that they had received positive comments about the bin and an email of thanks was read out.

132/24 Green Matters: Biodiversity Policy actions: Cllr Spooner discussed communicating information around planting trees and wild/open gardens; and reviewed policy actions, proposing that the policy be updated regarding pesticides.

Resolution: The policy is updated to include '**Pesticides**, including herbicides, shall not be used on land owned or managed by the Parish Council except with the consent of the council in extreme circumstances.' The Council will support **communicating initiatives** such as tree planting and wild gardens.

133/24 Community Matters: Cllr Hipwell reviewed **The Local Community Networks**. The **access to services survey** was discussed, including the lack of bookings at both village halls, Cllr Hipwell will collate a list for the meeting. Flooding issues on Coombs Way and a previous request for a crossing at the Badgworth junction will be discussed at the **Highways Sub Committee**. Cllr Spooner noted that she is considering taking forward a **Climate and Nature Sub Committee**. It was noted that the Council website has been checked against the **new website accessibility regulations WCAG 2.2**, the failing elements have been righted bringing it to 100%.

134/24 Highways matters: 2 accidents on the A38 in Tarnock were noted; a blocked drain on Coombs Way has been reported, Somerset Cllr Filmer also offered to

contact highways and Cllr Hipwell is to raise the matter at the Highways subcommittee.

135/24 Jubilee Field: Self closing springs have been added to the kissing gate. Memorial Field: No matters were raised.

136/24 Crime report and policing update: Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

137/24 Planning: The planning report was reviewed. Enforcement matters were reviewed.

138/24 All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council including: **Hinkley Connection Project update**, members had no comments; **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue - Precept consultation**, this will be circulated on social media; **Frome Council** had enquired whether the Council would like to explore a **boundary review**, members refused; recommendations to adopt a **.gov.uk website address and email addresses** for the Council were raised, members still did not wish to pursue this option.

139/24 Finance:

- i. **Resolution:** The **October Finance Statement**, having been previously circulated, was approved as a true record. Unanimously agreed.
- ii. **The Payments Schedule** was unanimously approved. It was noted that the Clerk and the Chairman would complete the online payments in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

- I83 Glasdons UK Dog Bin £305.58
- I84 Clerks salary and mileage October £456.38
- I85 Clerks expenses (phone) £27.08
- I86 Somerset Association Local Councils Ltd Planning Training £30
- I87 Glasdons UK Tamtorque bit £19.93
- I88 Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall Mment Cttee Hall Hire £15
- I89 HMRC PAYE £110.40
- I90 CK Fencing Fit gate springs £50.00

- iii. **The budget and Precept 2025 26:** Matters discussed included reduced services and the financial crisis at Somerset Council; costs, challenges and funding to maintain standards of highways services in the Parish

Resolution: To defer setting the budget and precept to the November meeting to consider the cost of additional service provision to meet shortfall caused by the financial crisis at Somerset Council, and to inform residents of a possible increase.

140/24 Members Points of Information: A local grant funding source for green matters was noted.

141/24 Items for the Parish Magazine/social media Parking scams, delays to National Grid road works.

142/24 Date of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting 25th November 2024
Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall.

2025: 20th January, 17th February, *17th March*, 14th April, 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November 2025.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date 25.11.24