



**BADGWORTH**  
PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **17<sup>th</sup> February 2025** at 7pm at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Bristol Road, Biddisham.

### Present

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Beynon, Shaw, Spooner, Vining and, following co-option, Cllr Mahoney. Also in attendance were Somerset Cllrs Filmer and Grimes and the Parish Clerk. 4 members of the public were present.

### Open Forum

It was raised that a footpath had been diverted in Badgworth. Members noted that they hadn't received notice of a diversion. Somerset Cllr Filmer requested that he be copied into correspondence on the matter. The residents agreed to forward correspondence to the Clerk.

**18/25 Apologies:** Cllr Hipwell, family commitment. The apology was approved.

**19/25 Declarations of Interest** item 32/25 iv Request for a grant, Cllr Spooner stated that she was a member of the Wild Gardens Group and would not participate in the discussion and decision.

**20/25 Minutes** of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Monday **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**. Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read and approved as a true record.

**21/25 Somerset Council Report** received from Somerset Cllr Filmer, including the following matters: Finances, up to 500 redundancies and the impact on the rights of way team; request for approval to raise Council Tax by 7.5%; the boundary review deadline extended, a consultation will be held in the summer; assisted collections are being reviewed; no deadline to register unregistered footpaths.

**22/25 Councillor Vacancy:** Chairman Body welcomed the applicant, who outlined their career and experience, their interest in the wellbeing of the community and the desire to give something back. Gemma Mahoney was proposed by Cllr Shaw and seconded by Cllr Spooner and unanimously coopted and duly appointed to the Office of Parish Councillor. Cllr Mahoney signed her declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

**23/25 Matters arising from the Minutes:** The Clerk is to follow up safeguarding discussions on the possibility of training for the Council.

**24/25 Green Matters:** Cllr Spooner reviewed the Wild Gardens Group as an informal group who had recently organised an event to create bird boxes for 5 public spaces in the Parish, 3 in Badgworth and 2 in Biddisham. 13 adults and children were so far signed up. A community quilt would also be on display.

**25/25 Community Matters:** The Clerk reviewed the recent **Local Community Networks (LCN) Highways sub committee** meeting about the scheme to update Edithmead roundabout, Rooksbridge, Cross and the Strawberry Line crossing near

Shute Shelve on the A38. The Clerk was thanked for attending. The nominated LCN representatives were discussed:

**Resolution:** Cllr Spooner and Beynon are the nominated representatives; Cllr Spooner will attend the Climate and Nature sub committee. Members of the Council will share responsibility to attend the highways subcommittee.

It was noted that the Biddisham defibrillator had been used.

**26/25 Highways matters: The speed limit on the A38:** It was discussed that the traffic management officer had offered to arrange for more enforcement in the Parish, and had indicated that a 40mph limit would be supported, members decided to wait for further clarification on the extent of the proposed limit; a list of the criteria for a 30mph limit that the Parish is not meeting, with speed and crash data; to confirm if there would be any restriction to submitting a further request in the future; and whether Speed Indicator Devices can be used on the A38. Subject to the response received, a further meeting would be discussed. A report will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Request regarding a crossing in Rooksbridge.** The resident had been advised to contact East Brent Parish Council, and to ask them to investigate whether the previous objections to the crossing were still held.

**27/25 Somerset Association of Local Councils** No matters were raised.

**28/25 Jubilee Field:** The inspections sheet for 2024 was received from the Chair of the Schoolrooms Management Committee. **Memorial Field:** the first cuts of the field were discussed as being poor. It was agreed to try putting sheep in the field for a week before the cutting commenced. **Replacement of the fence and associated works.** Quotes will be sought for the replacement of the fence and cutting back the tree and brambles in September.

**29/25 Crime report and policing update:** Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

**30/25 Planning: The planning report** was reviewed.

**31/25 All correspondence** was brought to the attention of the Council including: Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours AGM. Cllr Spooner hopes to attend.

**32/25 Finance:**

- i. **The January Finance Statement was discussed including** the budget for booking rooms.  
**Resolution:** The **January Finance Statement**, having been previously circulated, was approved as a true record. Unanimously agreed.
- ii. **The Payments Schedule** was unanimously approved.
  - i105 HMRC PAYE £115.80
  - i106 H Marshall Clerks Salary and Expenses £476.18
- iii. **Arrangements for the internal audit.** It was discussed that Mr Young is an experienced auditor and experienced Clerk, members were very satisfied with the audits previously carried out.  
**Resolution:** To engage Mr Young for the Internal Audit 2025.
- iv. **Request from the Badgworth Wild Gardens group for a grant towards expenses for the bird box making event.** Members discussed the benefit to the community; that it was a great initiative from an informal group; was a well supported community event for all age groups; provided cheap bird boxes and contributed to biodiversity in the Parish.  
**Resolution:** to award a grant in the amount of £63.71 subject to the presentation of the receipts.

**33/25 Members Points of Information:** There were none

**34/25 Items for the Parish Magazine/social media** to circulate information on the transport provided by the Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours; Somerset needs foster carers; new Councillor Mahoney.

**35/25 Date of next Meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting 17th March 2025, Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall. Also, 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November 2025.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date 14.4.25