



T: 07570 812421
E: badgworthparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
W: parish-council.com/badgworth

Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **19th May 2025** at 7pm at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Bristol Road, Biddisham.

Present

Cllrs Vining (Meeting Chairman), Beynon, Mahoney, Shaw, and Spooner. Also in attendance were Somerset Cllrs Filmer and Grimes and the Parish Clerk. There was 1 member of the public present.

Cllr Vining Chaired the meeting.

53/24 Election of the Chairman: Cllr Body was proposed by Cllr Vining seconded by Cllr Spooner and unanimously elected.

Resolution: The Declaration of Acceptance of Office may be signed before or at the next meeting.

54/24 Election of the Vice Chairman: Councillor Vining was proposed by Cllr Spooner, seconded by Cllr Mahoney and unanimously elected.

Resolution: The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed, and witnessed by the Clerk.

55/24 Apologies: Cllr Body, ill health.

Resolution: The apology was approved.

56/24 Declarations of Interest Cllrs Shaw and Mahoney declared a personal interest in item 79 h as they know one of the persons providing a quote.

57/24 Dispensations: None

58/24 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **14th April 2025**

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

59/24 Somerset Councillor report: Cllr Filmer gave a report including the following matters: Boundary Commission consultation to commence at the beginning of June for 6 weeks, the Parish is to be aligned with Cheddar and Axbridge, the final decision on the new boundaries should be made in December; Finances, there will be a shortfall of £43m this year, 562 posts have gone which will impact services, parking charges are being expanded in towns and a consultation will be issued on each one; County Hall in Taunton has had 1 building sold off for accommodation; new Planning legislation will propose that no application of less than 10 dwellings should go to Committee, this will go through parliament in the autumn/winter.

60/24 The Committees, Groups and Officers of the Council were reviewed.

Resolution: Cllr Beynon will join the staffing committee; Cllr Spooner will join the Budget Advisory Group; Footpath Officers, Cllr Beynon will cover Badgworth, Cllr Mahoney will cover Biddisham and Tarnock.

61/24 The policies of the Council, including the Financial Regulations. were reviewed.

Resolution: To adopt the Model Standing Orders 2025 as amended and previously circulated.

Resolution: To adopt the Safeguarding Policy as drafted and to send it to the village halls and scouts.

62/24 Resolution: The Financial and Recreation Area Risk Assessment were approved as drafted. Unanimous.

63/24 Resolution: The schedule of **direct debits** for the Council was reviewed and approved being the Information Commissioners Office, data protection registration fee; Axe Brue Drainage Board, drainage rates. Unanimous.

64/24 Resolution: The schedule of **regular payments** was approved: Clerks Salary and Mileage; PAYE and payroll.

65/24 The **expenditure incurred under the power of general competency** was noted as grant payments in 2024/25

66/24 The insurance arrangements: The renewal for 2025 was approved at the April 2025 meeting.

67/24 Resolution: Subscriptions to other bodies were reviewed and having been considered within the budget were approved as Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC), Society of Local Council Clerks, CPRE and the Information Commissioners Office. Unanimous.

Resolution: The increase in the affiliation fees for SALC were discussed and approved.

68/24 The Asset Register

Resolution: The draft asset register was approved. Unanimous.

69/24 Biodiversity duties were reviewed. Cllr Spooner noted communications on no mow May and the bird nesting season; the consultation on the use of the fields; and that a number of the items on the Action Plan had now been achieved.

70/24 Matters arising from the Minutes: Cllr Vining reviewed a recent meeting regarding **flooding on Church Lane**. The landowner is to contact the representative of a local flood group to discuss potential mitigation options. Cllr Vining reviewed a recent meeting regarding the brook in Badgworth. Resulting investigations had shown that the riparian ownership was with the neighbouring bungalow.

71/24 Green Matters: Cllr Spooner reviewed the Climate and Nature Local Community Network meeting including the nature recovery strategy which pledges to stop biodiversity loss and to contribute to recovery. Next meeting is July. It is hoped to include a response to the consultation on the Somerset strategy, although it was discussed that there are unlikely to be issues specific to the Parish.

72/24 Community Matters: Quote to upgrade the defibrillator cabinet in Biddisham before any decision is made, an attempt to reset the locks on the cabinet doors will be made. Councillor Spooner will attend the **Local Community Network meeting** on the 12th June.

73/24 Highways: It was noted that there are a number of **road closures in May and June along the A38 for patching work**. Details are updated on the one.network website. No further information has been received regarding the **speed limit on the A38**, the information is not expected until the summer.

74/24 Jubilee Field: Members discussed **the opportunity to purchase the Jubilee Field from Somerset Council** and the heads of terms agreement including the following matters: the likely cost of solicitors' fees, costs and savings, covenants on the field and the benefit to the community.

Resolution: to confirm that the Parish are interested in purchasing the field from Somerset Council and potentially any further assets.

The **draft land use consultation for the field**, having been previously circulated, was discussed including: the desire for a field in Tarnock, circulation of the document

using Contact magazine, facebook and the circulation groups, an online form will be used, with paper copies available, a leaflet drop will be made if necessary. This will inform the Council of the residents' approach to the use of the fields in the Parish. It was also discussed that the fields will benefit from being rolled in the spring. This will be added to the agenda for the January meeting.

Memorial Field: No matters were raised.

75/24 To consider the hedge cutting contract. A quote was awaited. This item was deferred to the June meeting.

76/24 Crime report and policing update: No matters were reported. Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

77/24 Planning: The Planning Report was reviewed. Application 03/25/00007 was discussed.

Resolution: To respond that as the site had previously been used for lorry and coach maintenance, the land is highly likely to be contaminated, and there are concerns that due to the age of the building the roof may be asbestos which should be considered in any demolition plan.

78/24 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council, including that the Bank interest rate is dropping on the reserve account.

79/24 Finance It was noted that the Precept had been received.

- a The May **financial statement**, and end of year statements, having been circulated, were approved as a true record
- b **Resolution:** The Internal Auditor's report was received, and there were no matters to report.
- c The Council considered the questions in **Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement**.
Resolution: The document was completed and approved and witnessed by the Council.
- d Having been previously circulated the Council considered **Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement** in accordance with the previously approved end of year financial statements.
Resolution: To approve the document. Section 2 was signed and witnessed by the Council.
- e **Resolution:** The certificate of exemption was completed and approved and witnessed by the Council.
The dates set for the exercise of public rights were agreed as Tuesday 17th June to Monday 28th July 2025.
- f **Requests for grants:** Friends of St John the Baptist Church Biddisham towards new bell ropes and towards the upkeep of the Churchyard; Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.
Resolution: To grant £100 to Friends of St John the Baptists Church Biddisham towards the upkeep of the Churchyard; other grant requests from Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and Friends of St John the Baptist Church Biddisham towards bell ropes will be deferred to the February meeting.
- g **Resolution:** The Payments Schedule was approved:

DD Axe Brue Drainage Board Drainage Rates 4.25 to 3.26 £5.08

I113 Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd Affiliation fees £243.12

i119 R Young Internal Audit £20.00
i120 H Marshall Clerks Salary and Expenses £479.35
i121 HMRC PAYE £140.12
i122 Insurance Premium Zurich Municipal £300

h Quotes for .gov.uk email and website domains were discussed, the Clerk is to investigate the cost to increase email storage and will seek a further quote.

80/24 Member's Points of Information: None

81/24 Items for the Parish Magazine/social media to include notice of the draft land use consultation in Contact magazine.

82/24 Date of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting 23rd June 2025 Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.56pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date 23.6.25