

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday **18th March 2024** at 7pm.

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Badgworth Parish, held at Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Bristol Road, Biddisham

Present

Parish Councillors: Body (Chairman), Beynon, Hipwell, Shaw, Spooner and Vining; Somerset Cllrs Filmer and Grimes; Village Agent, Kim Wilcox; Schoolroom Management Committee Chair, C Abbiss; Church warden D Parker and Mrs H Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council) were also in attendance. 4 members of the public were present.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Fred Body, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1/24 Apologies Cllr White; PCSO Nathan Chard; and ex-Chairman of the Parish Council S Hayes had sent apologies.

2/24 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March 2023 were circulated and published prior to the meeting. The Minutes were unanimously confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

3/24 Report by Somerset Councillor B Filmer Matters discussed included: A review of the Unitary Somerset Council, savings achieved, redundancies to come, the budget, capitalisation and the sale of investments and assets, a restructure, and the section 114 notice; The increase in Town and Parish Council precepts; statutory services and the reduction of non-statutory services; low morale. Questions were invited. The Clerk read out a question submitted by a resident regarding enforcement. Cllr Filmer reviewed the history of the enforcement including fines issued; the lack of enforcement staff at Somerset Council and long-term sick leave; that the legal team are prioritising Council issues; enforcement is not a statutory service; Local Community Networks were raised including that there is no budget for meetings, officers are in place, they don't want them to be just talking shops, the next few months will be critical, and there could be working groups between meetings to increase effectiveness.

The next item was brought forward as speakers had to attend other meetings.

4/24 Presentation of the Honorary Freeman award to Parish Council Chairman Fred Body in recognition of 50 years of service as a Parish Councillor: Ex Chair Sue Hayes had sent congratulations, which the Clerk read out. The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Graham Vining spoke outlining Cllr Body's achievements and noting the award was well deserved. Somerset Cllr Filmer spoke to congratulate Fred. Cllr Body was extremely grateful and thanked those present noting that his father had also helped on the Council before him.

5/24 Report from Badgworth Schoolroom Management Committee Camilla Abbiss gave the report and discussed the following matters: The new committee formed last Autumn; the previous successful team; the returns from the solar panels; the new noticeboard; the schoolrooms income and hirers; the venue and the 100 club; fundraising events and maintenance issues. The report is held in the Minute book

6/24 The Church Warden's Report David Parker gave the report including the following matters: The Crook Peak Music Festival; the Quinquennial Inspection report; completion of outstanding work on the bells; clearance of the churchyard; safeguarding training; and a successful report from Historic England. The report is held in the Minute book.

7/24 Report by Village Agent, Kim Wilcox The Village Agent introduced herself and reviewed the role of the village agent including the following matters: 78 agents working under the different districts; community agents and the impacts to adult social care; referrals and self-referrals; home visits; the new CEO and the 5 year strategy; 2 years of funding; home first agents who work with social workers for safe discharge from hospital; talking cafes; micro providers. Questions were invited. A resident identified a relative who was seeking help; a resident praised the service as excellent and recommended that an item was placed in contact magazine. The Clerk is to forward the details.

8/24 Report by Chairman of the Parish Council The Chairman's report is held in the Minute Book. The following topics were discussed: Somerset finances; National Grid leaving the Parish over the next few months; speeds on the A38; new signage at the Biddisham Lane junction; registering an interest in taking over the Jubilee Field and damage to the fence; the accounts. A copy is held in the Minute book.

9/24 Open Forum for Parishioners No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm

Signed:

Chairman of the Parish Council