

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7pm.

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Badgworth Parish, held virtually due to the Coronavirus pandemic via Zoom.

Present

Parish Councillors: Body (Chairman), Shaw, Vining, and White.

County Councillor B Filmer, District Cllr G Godwin Pearson, Village Agent K Wilcox, Mrs H Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 3 members of the public were present.

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

1/21 **Apologies** PCSO Becky Smith and Mr R Stiddard, footpaths officer.

2/21 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 17th March 2020** were circulated and published prior to the meeting. Minutes are also available on the Parish Council website. The Minutes were proposed, seconded and confirmed as a true record to be signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council at a later date.

3/21 **Report by County Councillor Bob Filmer** Topics discussed included: Covid and the Council's support including seconding staff and staff working from home; finance and the budget; the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund, which was 3 ½ times oversubscribed, and signing up to the Climate Emergency Strategy; broadband provision by Truespeed in the area and continuing work with Gigaclear as a private company; the registration service moving to a phone service; the budget, social care provision in the precept and support for the Citizens Advice Bureau; unitary discussions; County elections postponed until 2022; Vaccinations going well; the Biddisham Lane Small Improvement Scheme to go ahead imminently; flooding on Church Lane, jetting, and water run off from the Dog Walking Field is being addressed. A question was asked regarding other fields causing run off. Cllr Filmer is to investigate.

Cllr Body thanked Cllr Filmer.

4/21 **Report by District Councillor Graham Godwin Pearson** Topics discussed included: challenges to Sedgemoor staff, a good level of service has been delivered; the dedicated Coronavirus telephone number which has had thousands of calls; the budget and £5 increase on a band D property, tackling Climate Change, regeneration and antisocial behaviour; the Climate Strategy and the search for Environment Champions – information is available here [Environment Champions \(sedgemoor.gov.uk\)](https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/environment-champions); the census on 21st March 2021; the Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 6th May and to encourage postal votes; Grants Committee and available grants; to be aware of many scams by text message e.g. the vaccines and requesting payment and Council Tax refunds.

A comment on a similar post office delivery scam was raised.

5/21 **Report from Badgworth Schoolroom Foundation, Mr D Parker.** The report is held in the Minute Book. Topics discussed included thanks to Jackie Klinker; comments from Trustees; Finances and educational grants; no meetings this year; Schoolrooms closure; Play Area is well used; financial support to the Management Committee. The Church is Covid safe; a mums and toddlers group was opened as part of the Covid support and a new Church Warden is appointed. There were no questions. Cllr Body thanked Mr Parker for all that he does.

County Cllr Filmer then left the meeting to attend a further meeting.

6/21 **Report by Village Agent Kim Wilcox.** The report is held in the Minute Book. Topics discussed included: it has been a very challenging year; most work has been digitally; support for all vulnerable residents; food resilience task force; food bank and increased donations at Christmas; social distancing and daily digital talking cafes; village and home first agents expanded; launch of the chat to connect service; Cllr Body thanked the village agent.

7/21 Report by PCSO Becky Smith. Having been previously submitted, a copy is held in the Minute book.

8/21 Report by Chairman of the Parish Council The Chairman's report is held in the Minute Book. The following topics were discussed: Coronavirus and the move to online meetings; successful grant application to buy an outdoor table tennis table for the Badgworth Schoolrooms Play Area; unsuccessful application to the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund to make some much-needed improvements to the hall in Biddisham; working towards creating a village design statement; some rather unpleasant problems at the Badgworth layby; thanks to Cllr Winsor, who stepped down earlier this year; Sedgemoor District Council continues working to enforce the Planning Inspectors decision on the reinstatement of the field at the rear of the Castle Mills site; the Unitary proposals consultation now open; The financial statements and the annual accounts are available on the Councils website.

Footpaths Report on behalf of R Stiddard:

The footpaths in the Parish are in good condition at the moment; waiting for an opportunity to put a new gate access in to one of the paths in Biddisham; waiting for an update on repairs to the path that collapsed near the National Grid works towards the northern end of Biddisham Lane.

Thanks to footpaths officer Bob Stiddard who has continued in his role during the pandemic. Thanks to the Councillors, the District and County Councillors, police, village agents and all the local groups.

9/21 Open Forum for Parishioners A resident asked if there was any progress on replacing the Tarnock Village signs. The matter had been referred to the County Council, but lockdown and the pandemic had soon followed and no response was received. The Council will raise the matter again and will visit the signs when possible. A suggestion to apply to National Grid for grant funding was discussed. The conditions of National Grid grants were reviewed, the residents were advised to apply individually.

Cllr Body thanked the Councillors and their families for everything they've done this year and thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.55pm