

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2016 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Clive Hawkins (Chairman) (CH), Bim Patel (BP), Louise Boucher (LB), David Smith (DS), Melanie Bignell (MB), Julie Evans (JE)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG) and 15 members of public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Gillian Clarke talked about the need for a dog waste bin in Long Thurlow and asked the Parish Council to consider taking this forward.

Robin Neale talked about concerns from Long Thurlow residents about the anti-social behaviour of some drivers and the main issue being speeding vehicles. A written presentation was handed over together with the signed support of 73 residents with a request that the Parish Council take this forward.

Sylvia Balham highlighted that the sign for Barrack Cottages is often obscured by a parked vehicle.

Helen Mayhew highlighted the number of potholes in Back Lane. CG had reported to SCC the concern following the last meeting and will do so again.

Helen Flack highlighted inconsiderate parking in Back Lane with vehicles either parking on the pavement or if using the road not allowing space for access by emergency vehicles.

Meeting commenced at 7.50 PM

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1. Councillor Stephen Rose due to a church commitment and Councillor Roy Barker (Mid Suffolk District Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1. No interests were declared.
- 2.2. The need for Councillors to update their Register of Member's Interests was noted.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2016 had been circulated previously.
It was resolved that these minutes after one minor amendment were an accurate record of the meeting.
- 3.2. There were no matters arising that were not covered by subsequent agenda items.

4. CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1. To consider email from resident of Long Thurlow in respect of speeding vehicles.
This was deferred and discussed under 6.3 below.
- 4.2. To consider email request from Parochial Church Council to finance the repairs to the churchyard boundary walls.
The issues of maintenance of the boundary walls of the churchyard and the churchyard generally were discussed. Councillors considered they needed more information.
It was resolved to ask the Parochial Church Council to submit a formal proposal for the future maintenance of the churchyard with their request for a specific grant.
- 4.3. To consider email from resident requesting a dog waste bin in Long Thurlow.
This request was considered and the comments from Gillian Clarke from the Public Forum were noted. Councillors decided that there was a need and CG was asked obtain costs for purchase, installation and servicing and identify a suitable location.
- 4.4. To consider emails concerning issues with refuse collection in Back Lane area.
These issues were noted by Councillors. It is hoped that the solution suggested by MSDC and their contractors will mean normal service will resume shortly.

- 4.5. To consider Clerk's contracted hours.
In view of the confidentiality aspect of this item and to avoid members of public having to leave and wait outside, this item was deferred until after item 8.2.
- 4.6. To consider individual Councillors taking oversight of various aspects of Parish Council activities.
CG considered it would be helpful if individual councillors took oversight of different aspects of village life. It was understood that councillors would still need to seek agreement before committing the Parish Council. It was decided to trial this and see if it was beneficial. The allocation of oversight is:
BP - Traffic and transport
CH - Finance and resources
LB - Highways and footpaths
JC - Village Groups
MB and DS - Planning
- 4.7. To consider email from East of England Ambulance Service Trust and nominate two people as emergency contacts.
The recent issues with the defibrillator were discussed together with perhaps the need for refresher training.
It was resolved that LB and JC to be emergency contacts for the defibrillator. It was also resolved to arrange a refresher training course.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Both councillors were not at the meeting and no reports were available.

6. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1. To review progress and actions needed in respect of the permissive footpath.
LB clarified the issues and will report to the next meeting.
- 6.2. To consider actions needed to proceed with the contract for a village handyman and street cleaner.
There was discussion on the best way forward. This is now to look to employ a street cleaner for three hours per week at £8.60 per hour. It was recognised that there will be handyman type jobs from time to time and a suitable person would be sought to undertake these on a when needed basis. BP and CH are to prepare a schedule for the street cleaner. CG will place an advert for a street cleaner.
- 6.3. To consider actions to reduce speeding vehicles in Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow.
There was discussion on how this is to be tackled using resources available. There may be financial assistance from SCC. It was identified that Long Thurlow and Badwell Ash should work together. In this respect BP has agreed to put together a community team. The problem perhaps should be confronted initially with community speed watch using a speed gun, then consider fixed SID signs and then hard traffic calming.
- 6.4. To consider actions needed to proceed with new street lighting in Back Lane.
SCC have now provided a fixed price of £2181.87 plus VAT which includes the work by UKPN for a new light in Back Lane opposite the junction with Birch Gardens.
It was resolved to proceed and formally request SCC to undertake this work at a cost of £2181.87 plus VAT.
- 6.5. To consider progress with displaying the bus timetable.
SCC have responded and have presented various options. CH has spoken with the shop owners and there is an area where a timetable could be displayed. There was a discussion and it was decided to display one at the bus shelter and another at the shop.
- 6.6. To consider and respond to Planning Application No 3820/16 –
Installation of oil tank and associated hard standing. Retention of post and rail fence.
Tiptofts Farm House, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash, IP31 3JF.
It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council has no objections.
- 6.7. To consider and respond to Planning Application No 3821/16 –
Installation of oil tank and associated hard standing. Retention of post and rail fence. Installation of oil boiler exhaust flue.
Tiptofts Farm House, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash, IP31 3JF.
It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council has no objections.
- 6.8. To note the decisions of previous planning applications.
The list was reviewed and decisions noted.

7. FINANCE AND POLICIES

- 7.1. To approve the issue of cheques for the following payments:
£82.21 PCC of Badwell Ash – share of funds from recycling bins
£82.21 Badwell Ash Playing Field and Recreation Ground – share of funds from recycling bins
£19.20 SALC – Clerk's meeting
£500.00 PCC of Badwell Ash – donation for the maintenance of churchyard

£115.94 C Garman – Clerk's expenses 1/8/16 - 17/11/16

£36.00 CAS – website hosting fee

£35 ICO – renewal.

Apart from the cheque for £500 to PCC of Badwell Ash, it was resolved that the cheques can be issued.

It was decided to postpone a decision on a donation of £500 to PCC of Badwell Ash for maintenance of the churchyard until there was more information to enable a decision to be made. CG is to write to the PCC of Badwell Ash asking for evidence of need for funds for this purpose, details of insurance liability and any cover for the boundary walls, and whether the PCC intend to serve notice under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972.

7.2. To consider draft budget for 2017/2018.

A draft budget prepared by CG had previously been circulated. There was discussion on the various budget lines and some figures revised. CG was asked to prepare a revised budget based on comments and various scenarios for consideration at the next meeting.

JE left the meeting at 9.30 pm

8. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8.1. To receive a report from Badwell Ash Playing Field and Recreation Ground (Village Hall) including a financial statement.

A financial report had previously been circulated and noted. It was recognised that the Parish Council needs to consider how best to manage its responsibilities as trustee of Badwell Ash Playing Field and Recreation Ground and should be considered at a future meeting.

8.2. To consider the future of the Parish Council and how it can move forward with such diversity and apparent failings to work together.

In view of the lack of time, it was decided to defer this until the next meeting.

4.5 To consider Clerk's contracted hours.

CG considered that the existing 2.5 hours per week was insufficient to fully do the role. To date, an additional 18 hours have been worked. SALC suggest that a minimum of 4 hours per week are need to do the basics of the Clerk and RFO role. CG asked if the contracted hours could be increased to 4 per week.

It was resolved that the Clerk's contracted hours be increased to 4 per week with immediate effect with a review in 3 months.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Christopher Garman

Parish Clerk

28/11/16