

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 5 JANUARY 2017 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Clive Hawkins (Chairman) (CH), Bim Patel (BP), Louise Boucher (LB), David Smith (DS) and Stephen Rose (SR).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG) and 9 members of public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Arthur Peake spoke of the willingness of Great Ashfield Parish Council to work together on the shared interest of traffic calming and speed reduction.

Clive Morris expressed concern about the number of HGV's using Long Thurlow and the damage to the road and the environment. Also, mentioned that broadband speeds were an issue.

Pat Monk added that some reduction in HGV's might be gained by contacting hauliers and asking them to use other more appropriate routes. However, it was acknowledged that many of the HGV's related to local users.

Janet De Vries mentioned there are still issues with parking in Back Lane. It has now got to the stage where the police need to perhaps get involved. Also, it was considered the speed limit signs need moving to extend the 30 mph zone.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1. Councillor Julie Evans due to illness.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1. SR declared an interest in items relating to the Parochial Church Council of Badwell Ash.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED BY SUBSEQUENT ITEMS

- 3.1. The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Thursday 24 November 2016 and Thursday 8 December 2016 had been circulated previously.

It was resolved that these minutes were an accurate record of these meetings.

- 3.2. Sign in front of Barrack Cottages. It was considered that no action was appropriate.
- 3.3. Pot holes in Back Lane. SCC have advised that they will not be taking any action as they do not meet their criteria for needing repair.
- 3.4. Parking in Back Lane. This had already been discussed during the Public Forum.

4. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1. To record the resignation of Councillor Melanie Bignell and to note the process for seeking a new councillor. This was noted. CG advised that MSDC had said there was no demand for an election so notices advertising the vacancy would be posted and highlighted in the Badwell Broadsheet.

- 4.2. To consider email from Fields in Trust in respect of the dedicating of war memorial area as a Centenary Field. This was considered worth pursuing. However, need to ascertain land ownership. This needs investigating.

ACTION: CG

4.3. To consider the notice served by PCC of Badwell Ash under section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972 and actions needed.

SR left the meeting because of his declared interest. The options for the future management of the churchyard were discussed.

It was resolved to pass the responsibility to Mid Suffolk District Council and to advise them and the Parochial Church Council of Badwell Ash accordingly.

ACTION: CG

4.4. To consider request from the Rural Dean for an informal meeting to discuss maintenance of churchyard and cemetery.

It was agreed this should happen and it was suggested that CG and CH attend and report back to Council. SR returned.

4.5. To consider progress with defibrillator refresher training.

Stuart Turner, First Responder, has in principle agreed to do refresher training providing he is familiar with the machine type at Badwell Ash. Need to ascertain model and then, if he is still willing, dates need to be arranged.

ACTION: CG

4.6. To consider management and relocation of the defibrillator.

CG advised that there had been issues with the defibrillator. LB mentioned that the cabinet has been damaged but the machine appears in good order. Concern has been expressed by the owners of the fish and chip shop about the suitability of its current location. It is at risk of damage and perhaps misuse in this location. CG has been asked to arrange for it to be relocated. Options were considered and the most appropriate might be the use of the telephone box. CG was asked to contact BT to see if the telephone was still in use and how often and whether it could be adopted for the defibrillator.

ACTION: CG

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Both councillors were not at the meeting. However, Jane Story had previously circulated a report.

6. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

6.1. To review progress and actions needed in respect of the permissive footpath.

LB will use an article in the Badwell Broadsheet to take this forward.

ACTION: LB

6.2. To review progress with employment of a Community Street Cleaner.

CG advised that an advert had been circulated around the villages. The closing date is 15 January 2017. To date there have been no applications but one indication of interest.

6.3. To review progress to reduce speeding vehicles in Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow.

A group led by BP will be getting together to look at the options and actions needed.

ACTION: BP

6.4. To review progress with new street lighting in Back Lane.

CG advised that an order had been placed with SCC for one new light at the junction with Birch Gardens and had been advised that installation will be completed by the end of February.

6.5. To review progress with displaying the bus timetable.

CG reported that SCC were agreeable to installing cases displaying appropriate bus timetables. However, there was concern over locations and possible moving and renaming of bus stops. It was suggested a case could be installed at the pub car park. BP said he would ask if this was possible. In the meantime, CG to advise SCC that there is to be no change in stopping locations and try and find other alternative locations.

ACTION: CG

6.6. To consider the purchase of a dog waste bin for Long Thurlow.

The residents of Long Thurlow have been consulted about the need and location. A suitable location would be on the footpath sign post where the footpath meets Long Thurlow Road near to the junction with Sheepgate Lane. The cost of an appropriate dog waste bin is approx. £85 plus fitting. The annual cost of emptying by MSDC is £35.

It was resolved to proceed with the purchase and fitting of a dog waste bin in Long Thurlow.

ACTION: CG

- 6.7. To note the decisions of previous planning applications.
Noted.

7. FINANCE AND POLICIES

- 7.1. To approve the issue of cheques for the following payments:
£45.10 to Sarah Brown – Badwell Broadsheet.
£19.20 to SALC – Clerks’ meeting.

It was resolved that the cheques can be issued.

- 7.2. To note income receipts and payments to 31 December 2016 and reconcile with bank statements.
A report had been previously circulated and noted. LB signed report and bank statements.

- 7.3. To consider and agree budget for 2017/2018.

A second draft of the budget had been circulated previously. This included the changes suggested at the previous meeting. There were still unknowns regarding possible financial support to the PCC and equipment needed for Community Speedwatch. It was suggested to include a figure of £3000 for the later. To enable this budget to be financed whilst mindful of any increases in precept, it was suggested that the precept be increased by 10% and if necessary use reserves to support expenditure.

It was resolved that the budget be adopted and the precept requested from Mid Suffolk District Council is £14181.

- 7.4. To consider donating all the proceeds from the recycling bins to the PCC of Badwell Ash.

SR proposed that all the proceeds from the recycling bins should be given to the Parochial Church Council.

SR then left the meeting and advised that he would not be returning. The options were discussed and the implications if this did not happen.

It was resolved that the proceeds from the recycling bins should continue to be distributed equally between the Parochial Church Council of Badwell Ash and Badwell Ash Playing Field and Recreation Ground.

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

It was suggested that there was little value in discussing this unless all councillors were present. Therefore, it was decided to defer this agenda item until the next meeting.

- 7.6. To consider the way forward for fulfilling the role as trustee of the Badwell Ash Playing Field and Recreation Ground, management and future separate trustee meetings.

To fully understand what is required, sight of the constitution was needed. It was suggested that possibly the current constitution needs updating. BP will circulate a copy of the current constitution and then this can be discussed further at a future meeting.

ACTION: BP

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
14 January 2017