

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020 at 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Clive Hawkins (CH) (Chairman), Chris Evans (CE), David Smith (DS), Ed Walsh (EW), Diane Donat (DD) and Richard Morris (RM).

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the public.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to this meeting at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. He appreciated that Councillors were able to attend but warned that going forward it was likely that the Parish Council would have to hold its meetings remotely by email or telephone as public gatherings were being discouraged. He hoped all residents would understand the situation and emphasised that the PC would continue to work on pressing matters as quickly as they arose.

- 1.1 A comment was made about the environmental condition of a property in Long Thurlow (Hawthorns) adjacent to The Grange which was becoming a health hazard. District Councillor Richard Meyer promised to look into this.

Jeremy Bond from Long Thurlow asked for further details of the Street Cleaner's role in Long Thurlow and was provided with a job description and application form which he would consider.

Potholes on Back Lane were again raised despite two emails sent to our County Councillor remaining unanswered. Again DC Meyer offered to try to liaise and help.

Concern was raised that Badwell Ash did not appear to be getting its fair share of the use of the SID we share with Great Ashfield. It is supposed to be rotated between the two villages regularly but has not been in BA for some weeks. It was stated that this would be particularly useful during the toad population migration (Feb-Apr) on Hunston Road as cars continually speed along the road with little care being shown to the toad patrollers wearing high vis jackets. The Clerk is looking into solar power SIDs recently installed in Stowlangtoft which are large, bright, highly visible and cannot be ignored.

- 1.2 County Councillor Jane Storey tabled a report in her absence.

- 1.3 District Councillor Richard Meyer presented his report to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Councillor Clive Morris (CM) personal.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

3.1 None

3.2 None

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 (February meeting having not been quorate) had previously been circulated.

It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

- 4.2 None.
5. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - 5.1 All correspondence received had been circulated.
 - 5.2 The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors if they wished to continue receiving Rural Services Bulletins and SALC updates by email. They unanimously confirmed they would.
 - 5.3 The Clerk confirmed that the Bullguard internet protection had been renewed for another year for the PC's laptop.
 - 5.4 The new noticeboard for Badwell Ash should be available at the end of March.
 - 5.5 The Clerk reported that MSDC had advised there would be a small increase in the annual cost of emptying litter and dog bins which had been anticipated and budgeted for within this year's precept.
 - 5.6 The Clerk presented a new grounds contract from Vertas for the coming year which showed a £40 increase on last year's figure. **The Parish Councillors agreed to renewing this contract and instructed the Clerk to implement this.**
6. ENVIRONMENT
 - 6.1 The Clerk reported that we had been extremely fortunate in receiving a grant from the National Lottery towards the costs of the new playground. This was very well received. We were now waiting to hear whether a grant from MSDC would also be successful before being able to confirm an order for playground equipment. It is still hoped to undertake this project during this year. Councillor Smith raised a cautionary note about the water table level on the village playing field and suggested this should be highlighted before any equipment was installed.
 - 6.2 As recommended by one of the playground equipment manufacturers, the PC have instructed a specialist to sort out the molehills on the village playing field as installing new equipment on a flat and even surface was optimal.
 - 6.3 The new defibrillator has now been installed and is 'ready for use'. It has been registered with the Ambulance Service and would be monitored weekly by the Clerk to ensure constant efficiency.
 - 6.4 It is hoped to get a working party together soon to start restoring the paintwork to the telephone box. No date has been set during the current health crisis.
 - 6.5 The Councillors agreed not to organise a group Great British Spring Clean, again due to the health crisis, but asked the Clerk to put a piece in the Badwell Broadsheet asking villagers to 'tidy' the area directly around their own properties if possible.
 - 6.6 The Clerk shared a formal quote regarding the LED lighting upgrade to The Street and Richer Road and explained how this would have a significant reduction on our annual running costs. **The Councillors unanimously approved this expenditure to be undertaken this year.**
 - 6.7 There had been no formal applications for the Street Cleaner vacancy and so from 31 March 2020, when the present incumbent leaves, unfortunately this will not continue at the present time. Again, it is hoped that residents will look after their own pavements, verges and banks to the best of their ability if they are able to.

6.8 It was agreed by the Parish Council to ask our Footpath Officer to attend the April PC meeting to give an updated report on all local footpaths and possible recommendations for a change to the cutting schedule undertaken annually by SCC.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Progress of recent planning permissions were as follows:

DC/19/05931 Badwell Ash Primary School, The Street, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3DG – **NON MATERIAL AMENDMENT APPROVED.**

DC/19/05679 The Poplars, Hunston Road, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3DJ – **PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.**

DC/19/05803 Land Adj 3 The Paddocks, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3LW – **PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED.**

DC/19/05816 Beechcroft, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3JA - **PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.**

7.2 To consider a Planning Consultation Request Letter relating to Planning Application DC/20/00325 - Land to The Rear Of Back Lane, Accessed Off The Broadway, Badwell Ash, Suffolk (17.2.20). **It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objection to this request.**

7.3 To consider a Planning Consultation Request Letter relating to Planning Application DC/20/00765 - 3 Old Vicarage Drive, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3DU (13.3.20). **It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objection to this request.**

7.4 To consider a Planning Consultation Request Letter relating to Planning Application DC/20/00902 – Land north east of Hill House and Broadway Bungalow, The Broadway (24.3.20). **It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objection to this request subject to a satisfactory aquifer report.**

8. FINANCE AND POLICIES

8.1 The Councillors considered the issue of the following cheques:

£238.44 – Salaries February

£57.98 – Clerk's expenses Jan and Feb

£192.96 – Vertas (Feb)

£250.00 – Citizens Advice Bureau (Feb)

£44.99 – Bullguard internet security

£1243.65 – SCC annual streetlight costs

It was resolved that these cheques could be issued.

8.2 The bank reconciliation as at 4 February 2020 was presented to the meeting and signed. **It was agreed that this was an accurate and correct state of the PC's finances.**

8.3 The Clerk, as RFO, updated the Parish Council on the successful transfer and implementation from Barclays to HSBC on 5 March 2020. All monies were transferred and safely received and the PC was looking forward to the ability to use online banking for future payments where appropriate. For audit purposes, a separate sheet of intended payments would be presented at each PC meeting to be approved and signed for by two Parish Councillors before BACS payments could be implemented.

This was warmly applauded and approved by all Parish Councillors after receiving a very poor service from Barclays over the last few years.

- 8.4 The Clerk had amended the Parish Council's Policy documents to reflect the changes required within our Banking Policies. All Parish Councillors had received an email copy due to the large number of pages requiring printing.
9. NEXT MEETING
- 9.1 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
10. Chairman's 'in camera' session. Confidential note filed.
11. It was with huge regret that we received a resignation from Councillor Christopher Evans due to health and work reasons. This was accepted by the Chairman and Councillors Evans was thanked enormously for all his work over the years and hoped we would still see him around the village from time to time.

Carole Rose, Parish Clerk
22 March 2020