

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:

Councillors Clive Hawkins (CH) (Chairman), Ed Walsh (EW), Diane Donat (DD), Clive Morris (CM), Stephen Russell (SR) and David Smith (DS).

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Meyer, District Councillor

1. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

1.1 None

1.2 County Councillor Jane Storey – email report tabled in her absence.

1.3 District Councillor Richard Meyer highlighted various points in his report and asked Councillors to take a special note of the Gateway 14 Project and MSDC's response to the new Government Planning proposals and to submit a report on this.

2. APOLOGIES

Richard Morris (RM).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

3.1 Councillor Donat in relation to 6.6 and Clive Hawkins re 8.2

3.2 Councillor Donat in relation to 6.6.

4. MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 September 2020 had previously been circulated. These were proposed by Councillor Donat and seconded by Councillor Morris.

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 The BAPC laptop has problems and discussion ensued as to whether to pay approx. £100 to 121 Computers to update it or whether to purchase a new one with faster speeds and increased memory and options. It was agreed to seek advice from Richard Morris to obtain a new one at a reasonable cost (approx. £500). **This was unanimously approved.**

5.2 It was suggested, following DC Meyer's comments above that BAPC should submit a report on the Government's planning proposals. Once MSDC had a Local Plan in place, it should be possible to add on directions such as increased commitment to green energy and solar panels, particularly to commercial planning.

5.3 Following further advertising, no applications had yet been received for a Street Cleaner for Badwell Ash.

5.4 A survey had been received requiring BAPC to update its Covid 19 response for the benefit of the local community should a second lockdown ensue throughout the winter. Councillor Russell agreed to put himself forward if any extra help was needed in addition to Caroline Morris (already received). The Clerk would complete and return the survey updating our willingness to continue should it become a reality.

5.5 The Chairman had received an update from Gt Ashfield Speedwatch Team who confirmed that since March of this year no SIDs had been deployed in Badwell Ash and two Speedwatch volunteers from Badwell Ash had stepped down. Gt Ashfield PC had recently received a Locality Grant and so now had the funds to purchase extra wipes and sanitiser as and when the Speedwatch operations start up again.

6. ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Playground project – The playground equipment is now all installed and, barring a few minor glitches, should be complete by the end of the week in time for the proposed Opening Ceremony on Saturday 17 October at 10.00am. It was proposed to take photographs and submit them along with a short piece to Bury Free Press, Suffolk Radio and Facebook. The Chairman and Clerk are having a final meeting with the contractors on Thursday 15 October prior to the security fencing being taken down and the new Rules Sign being erected near the gate. The wooden fencing remains to be done and hopefully this will be repaired/replaced over the winter months. A decision to not purchase the benches and tables until next Spring was agreed. It has been a slightly longer and more complicated project to undertake during pandemic conditions but the Parish Council were very pleased that the residents of the village will have a lovely new facility to use and hope it is appreciated and respected by all who use it.

This was unanimously approved.

6.2 The resin surface around the telephone box is complete and looks very smart. We have received many comments to say how much better it looks so a big thank you to Aaron for his work in undertaking this.

6.3 The Chairman and Mrs Hawkins and the Clerk have jointly repainted the telephone box both inside and outside and, pending the installation of the new door, it is nearly complete and looks much smarter.

6.4 The new noticeboard at Badwell Ash has been totally repainted with both an oil process and varnishing to the rear to ensure it is totally watertight and can withstand the winter. The noticeboard at Long Thurlow also needs maintenance and Councillor Morris agreed to supervise this.

6.5 There has been questions over the ownership of the pathway which leads from The Street up to Orchard Way and after very lengthy investigations by our District Councillor, no owner has been identified conclusively. The Clerk was asked to write to the developers of Orchard Way, who still own the top of the footpath, to ask them to carry out long overdue maintenance on this path.

6.6 The residents of the private road – Austin Close – have all been written to with a view to undertaking repairs to the gravel surface which is constantly being transported onto the pavement and the road where it joins The Street. Whilst the residents have agreed verbally to undertake a resurfacing of approximate 5 metres at the entrance, they are in turn asking the PC to instruct SCC Highways to repair the pavement first. The Clerk will write to SCC to propose this.

6.7 A letter had been received with possible grant funding for 'Quiet Lanes' i.e. single track roads with passing places. Discussion took place as to whether Back Lane might qualify at the top end but having read the categories and qualifications it was decided that due to the traffic attending the gun club and fishing lake, it was unlikely that it would qualify.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Progress of recent planning permissions were as follows:

DC/20/03656 6 The Row, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3JD - **PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.**

DC/20/03350 Cadogan House, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3JA – **PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.**

DC/20/03062 Mill House, Hunston Road, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3DJ – **PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED.**

- 7.2 To consider a planning consultation request letter relating to planning application - DC/20/02614 Land at Warren Farm, The Street, Badwell Ash (revised plans) (1.10.20) **It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council approved this modified planning application with two specific requests – that the public footpath from the development to meet the existing footpath outside Durham House and The Wurlie is compulsory and that it wanted to ensure that the SUDS project requested by the Flood Defence Team at SCC was implemented at the end of the development as there were concerns about flooding on to Wash Lane.**
- 7.3 To consider a planning consultation request letter relating to planning application – DC/20/04040 Green Farm Barn, Badwell Green Badwell Ash. **It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objections to this planning application.**

8. FINANCE AND POLICIES

- 8.1 The Councillors considered the issue of the following payments:
£312.70 – Salaries September
£240.00 – PKF Littlejohn (external audit)
£528.20 – HMRC
£1380.00 – Site Fix Ltd (resin)
£42.00 – CAS (annual website hosting)
£115.29 – Clerk’s expenses Aug & September
£274.40 – CAS Insurance policy renewal
It was resolved that these payments could be made. The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed an approval for these to be paid by BACS.
- 8.2 The Clerk had received an invoice from the Village Hall Committee for fees for use of the village hall dating back to 2017. This had been queried and it was established that this was inefficient handling of the Village Hall accounts by the current Treasurer and somewhat surprising for a registered charity required to submit accounts to the Charity Commissioners annually. Once the invoice can be verified and checked, it was agreed that this could be paid with the proviso that if future invoices were not received on an annual basis, then the PC reserved the right to not honour them. **This was unanimously approved.**
- 8.3 The Clerk reminded the Councillors that we would be discussing the Budget for 2021 at the upcoming December meeting and that a Precept figure would have to be agreed to be submitted to MSDC in January.

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 11 November.