

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 9 MAY 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors Richard Morris (Chairman), Stephen Russell (Vice Chairman), Will Draper, Maciej Siarkowski, Roy Woodfine, Nick Harvey, Bill Woodhall.

Carole Rose (Clerk to the Council), 8 members of the public.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Morris welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2022

The minutes had previously been circulated. It was agreed these were an accurate record of the meeting and were therefore signed by the Chairman.

REPORTS

3. Report from Badwell Ash Parish Council - Councillor Morris read his report out at the meeting (report attached).
4. Report from District Councillor – no report due to recent District Councillor elections.
5. Report from Andy Mellen, Suffolk County Councillor – The Clerk read out Cllr Mellen’s report in his absence (report attached).
6. Report from the Reverend Philip Merry on behalf Parochial Church Council – The Clerk read out the Vicar’s report in his absence (report attached).
7. Report from the History Group – The Clerk read out a report on behalf of Pat Monk in her absence (report attached).
8. Report from the Village Hall - A report was read out by Clive Hawkins, Chairman of the Trustees (report attached).
9. Reports from Badwell Ash Church Charity and Badwell Ash United Charities – no report received.
10. Report from Mrs Midge Hawkins, President of the WI – This report was read out by the Clerk (report attached).
11. Public Forum – No matters were put forward.

(All reports to be retained with the Minutes on file)

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Carole Rose

Parish Clerk

15 May 2023

BADWELL ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022

PRESENT:

Councillors Clive Hawkins (Chairman), Diane Donat, Stephen Russell, Clive Morris, Richard Morris and Lesley Yates.

Carole Rose (Clerk to the Council), Jane Storey, County Councillor Andy Mellen, Rev Philip Merry and 2 members of the public.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Hawkins welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2021

The minutes had previously been circulated. It was agreed these were an accurate record of the meeting and were therefore signed by the Chairman.

REPORTS

3. Report from Badwell Ash Parish Council - Councillor Hawkins read his report out at the meeting (report attached).

4. Report from Richard Meyer, Councillor Hawkins read out this report in Cllr Meyer's absence (report attached).

5. Report from Andy Mellen, Suffolk County Councillor – Cllr Mellen read out his report. (report attached).

6. Report from the Reverend Philip Merry on behalf Parochial Church Council:

Rev Merry verbally gave his report at the meeting. He stated that Badwell Ash is one of the six parishes that make up his Benefice. In 2021 all six churches reopened after the pandemic but with limited services. The Carol Service in Badwell Ash had to be cancelled as it was feared that too many people would attend and be in breach of the Govt restrictions issued during the pandemic. Hopefully now in 2022, everything would be as normal again. Events are again planned in the church like the art exhibition and various sales. Rev Merry mentioned that the primary school in Walsham le Willows had appointed a new Headmistress in 2021 and everything was now on an even keel. Rev Merry also reported that the new cemetery in The Broadway was taking shape due to generous donations of paving slabs and gates and it was hoped to be open in the Autumn/Winter of 2022 although it had to be consecrated by the Bishop first. He also thanked the Parish Council for their offer of help with a CIL funding but said the PCC would not now need this facility.

7. Report from the History Group – The Clerk read out a short statement from the History Group to say that they had not met up this year so far.

8. Report from the Village Hall - A report was read out by Clive Hawkins in his role Acting Chairman (report attached).
9. Reports from Badwell Ash Church Charity and Badwell Ash United Charities – this report was read out by Jane Storey who is the Chairman of the Trustees (report attached).
10. Report from Mrs Midge Hawkins, President of the WI – This report was read out by the Clerk (report attached).
11. Public Forum – Comments were made on the appalling condition of the road surface and pavement conditions in Back Lane. Despite this having been reported many times before, there appears to be no change. Cllr Hawkins stated that he and Cllr Mellen had visited the area before the meeting tonight and Cllr Mellen had taken note of the conditions himself and would report back to Suffolk County Council Highways Dept.

(All reports to be retained with the Minutes on file)

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Carole Rose

Parish Clerk

12 May 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a series of horizontal, wavy lines extending to the right.

The Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow Parish Council has seen many changes over the past year. I'm proud of everything we've achieved in my first year at the helm.

Changes to the Parish Council

We've seen changes in the people sitting on the committee. One of our team sadly past away after many years of service to the Parish, But we've also had five new parish councillors join during the last 12 months.

With an increase in our numbers, we've seen an uplift in the amount of work we've been able to complete. It's been fantastic to see the results and hear the comments around the villages.

Village aesthetics

The Parish Council have done several projects to help keep our villages' looking their best. These include:

- The erection of village gates in Long Thurlow - white structures as you enter and exit the village to show the boundary lines
- The renovation of the noticeboard in Long Thurlow
- Investment in flower troughs, and bulb planting in Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow
- Repair of the Badwell Ash village sign after storm damage.

Litter is a real issue over the whole area that we serve. We've addressed this with organised litter picks and increasing the number of general waste and dog poo bins around the villages.

The play area

The Parish Council has funded more play equipment in the Badwell Ash play area for our younger residents.

We've also added a multi-coloured benches and put up more fencing around the edge of the area. The new fence aims to keep the playground neat and tidy, and those using it safe.

Cost of living

The Parish Council have hosted winter warmer sessions for all our residents, especially those struggling with the cost of living crisis. The aim was to provide a warm lunch and companionship on a Friday.

We've also contributed to the Walsham le Willows food bank that serves many surrounding villages - including Badwell Ash and Long Thurlow.

Residents safety

Safety is paramount for us all. To address this, we've now got a defibrillator in Long Thurlow (as well as one already in Badwell Ash), and we've completed the rollout of LED street lights in both villages.

The Back Lane footbridge was replaced late last year, ensuring the safety of the numerous walkers using that footpath.

Wildlife

After a suggestion from a village resident, the Parish Council supported the installation of several different types of bird boxes on houses around the village.

The village hall and events

The Parish Council have invested significantly in the village hall. With an ever-increasing population in the village, the hall is a central part of community life.

Events at the village hall continue to thrive. The number of people attending activities at the hall has increased dramatically over the last 12 months. The Parish Council have financially supported some of

these events.

This year, we've seen Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, The State Funeral and His Majesty the King's Coronation. The latter brought the village together with a coronation 'after party' held at the village hall and playing field. It was supported financially by the Parish Council. The 'after party' was an excellent example of how the Parish Council and village hall committee can work together to achieve great things for the village residents that we serve.

The Broadsheet

The village newsletter has seen a revamp and continues to go from strength to strength. We now have at least four issues worth of financial support lined up, making the printing more financially viable. The Broadsheet continues to be published every other month.

The future

Looking to the future, we have started the villages' neighbourhood plan. We have engaged specialist consultants to enable us to produce an effective plan. The initial meeting to inform residents about the plan was well attended, and a team of four local residents is now pushing the initiative forward.

Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to thank the editorial team, contributors and distributors of The Broadsheet.

I'd also like to thank the Clerk and other members of the Parish Council for their contribution over the last 12 months and all their hard work.

R. Morris
Chairman
May 2023

Annual Parish Report – 2022/23

Councillor: Andy Mellen

Division: Thedwastre North

Councillor contact details:

Mobile: 07790 992619

Email: andy.mellen@suffolk.gov.uk

Representing the parishes of: Badwell Ash; Elmswell; Finningham; Great Ashfield; Hunston; Langham; Norton; Stowlangtoft; Tostock; Westhorpe, Wyverstone and Woolpit.

April 2023

I have now been representing these villages as your County Councillor for almost two years. I aim to attend all Parish Council meetings, even if only briefly (there are often two or three parishes meeting on the same evening). I always try to find an answer to residents' queries, and continue to follow up on long-standing issues of concern. Most of my e-mails are related to Highways: potholes, flooding, signage, speed and safety. Whilst making progress in some areas, it is a continuing source of frustration to me and to residents as it often takes far too long to resolve problems. We do now have a new Community Liaison Engineer, Andy Moore, who is vastly experienced in the SCC Highways systems and can often find ways to get work done. There continues to be a shortage of funding for Highways work at this time, which can cause an enormous amount of frustration for communities who want their problem resolved straight away. Later this year will see a change in our highways contractor, Kier will be replaced by Milestone Infrastructure. We are hoping that this new contractor will mean an improvement in service delivery.

Please do contact me if you have an issue where I can help.

SCC Council members

Since the 2021 elections the Conservatives have a large majority on the County Council: 55 of the total 75 Councillors, so they continue to lead the Council. After a by-election in Beccles the Greens retained the seat, so we continue to have 9 Green Councillors who work together with 4 Liberal Democrats and 2 Independent Councillors to form the official opposition group (Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent, GLI). Our role is to scrutinise what the administration is doing, hold them to account and also bring forward ideas and motions of our own. Opposition members also sit on various committees: I am a member of the Scrutiny committee and the Constitutional working group.

Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined

Suffolk County Council voted in their budget for 2023-24 earlier this year. Our Group put forward several amendments but these were defeated. SCC's portion of your council tax was raised by 1.99% plus a further 2% social care precept.

A14 re-surfacing works

The current works on the A14 between Woolpit and Stowmarket to break up and replace the concrete road surface are clearly going to cause a lot of disruption as traffic seeks to find a short-cut through nearby villages. Although the main work is being carried out by National Highways, SCC are liaising with them to ensure that signage is in the right place to direct traffic away from bottlenecks etc.

Scrutiny of the Carbon “Budget”

The administration brought forward a report which was scrutinised in January – although called a Carbon Budget for Suffolk, it was mostly a backward-looking report. The main headline from this is that the council has a long way to go to reduce its own emissions, and by 2030 (when we should be at Net Zero) there will still be a significant gap between where we should be, and what we are likely to achieve.

Devolution: The County Deal

Council leaders have signed an initial agreement with the government for a devolution deal for Suffolk. This will mean more powers and funding, but the most significant change is the creation of the position of a directly elected leader for the county council – this may happen as early as May 2024.

From: badwellashpc@outlook.com

Last year was a much more settled year in the life of the Church after the uncertainty of the two previous years due to the pandemic. Services were almost back to normal, and fund raising was able to take place. Although a small band of PCC members and helpers, they are loyal, hard working and dedicated. Badwell Ash church was able to pay it's Parish Share to the Diocese of some £9,000.00, a not inconsiderable sum of money. There is still uncertainty over the 'new extended churchyard,' with the finishing touches to be made when finances allow. The present graveyard being all but 'full.'

Several new faces have appeared at church services, notably at harvest and Christmas, some coming from the new developments of properties. The Carol Service was extremely well attended, standing room only.

There is always repair work to be done on the building, but which medieval church does not suffer in that way.

Everything points to optimism for the future.

Philip Merry

Carole Rose

Clerk to the Parish Council, Badwell Ash

Website: badwellash.suffolk.cloud

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Badwell Ash Parish Council, Old Pit Cottage, Richer Road, Badwell Ash, IP31 3EU

BAHS Summary of 2022 for PC Meeting 9th May 2023

The Society had a tentative restart in 2022 with a couple of meetings to regroup after the enforced closure by Covid 19 from 2020 to 2021. Our numbers had dwindled to below 10 with no more interested volunteers to help as we are still primarily a research group rather than having funds to hold history talks/have speakers for the village.

We had a members' spring visit to the Langham Walled Gardens to look at the history, architecture and archaeology under the guidance of the owner of Langham Walled Garden, Steve. Despite awful weather with rain practically non-stop it was a worthwhile visit so a further visit is planned for 2023.

The Society then embarked on research work for an Exhibition which was held in St. Mary's Church on September 3rd. As there were no traceable records of people buried in either the churchyard or the lower part of the Richer Road cemetery, every gravestone was recorded, where legible, and displayed at the Exhibition. Other exhibition topics were some aerial "Then and Now" photos of Badwell Ash, a video of the 1985 White Horse pub fun run around the village and the past Recorder books. This was very successful event with over 80 people attending and The Society also gained some potential new members.

The latter part of 2022 was spent consolidating this exhibition with the aim to add all of the research to the website: <http://www.badwellashheritage.co.uk/> and also to display permanently the location and details of all gravestones for future interest and genealogy in St. Mary's Church.

Since then, we have been focused on future Exhibitions for 2023 and further research.

AGM Badwell Ash Village Hall Report May 2023

Since the last report how things have changed for the benefit of all hall users and the general improvement of the Hall itself.

With COVID all but gone the classes who enjoyed use of the halls have fully returned including the Art Class. More recently another new monthly club, the 4cs, a craft club has started up. This together with other hiring's helping to pay our way, for we are ever mindful of costs.

The committee has been joined by new members and the job of raising further funds was set about in earnest. To this end an Events Subcommittee was formed and as a result of which, a Christmas Brunch and Raffle, followed by Quiz Nights and a Jumble Sale raised much needed funds. Moreover during the past year two events celebrating Royal occasions were also organised, one for the late Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and more recently one for King Charles III's Coronation. Both events were a great success and brought together villagers of all age groups. All of the aforementioned have helped with adding to our Charities funds.

Moves have also been made to address and update our legal status. As a result the committee is now made up of officially named Trustees, with the name of Badwell Ash Village Hall being the official title of the Trust, both being registered with the Charity Commission. This process is also including the clarity of the Charity and its property Deeds.

Maintenance and improvements are ongoing issues and for these we need those all-important funds. Thanks must go to our last District Councillor, through whom we are grateful for grant funding, the last of which enabled us to purchase new chairs. The fabric of the hall is part of a new programme of improvements that is in hand and being made in stages. The first of these is new heating in the small hall and the replacement of the remaining old wooden doors and windows. Both will aid efficiency and costs related to the running of the hall. For these we are grateful to external funding.

Other noticeable additions around the hall are the solar lighting and the base for the forthcoming new storage shed. Both of which have been installed in association with the Parish Council.

Thanks must also go to all the Committee for their hard work in achieving the aforesaid.

To conclude, it can be said that the last year has been one of achievement, a year of progress and one which has, and is seeing the Village Hall being improved for the benefit of the inhabitants of Badwell Ash and environs. Long may this continue.

GREAT ASHFIELD & BADWELL ASH WI

REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL

PRESIDENTS REPORT May 2023

We have enjoyed another busy year with some excellent speakers. It was another long hot summer which was great for any of our outside visits and meetings. At our AGM in May 2022 our Committee was re-elected for the year.

We enjoyed a varied programme during the last twelve months. The afternoon meetings for our December 2022 and January & February 2023 meetings proved a great success and the members voted to continue with these. For our June meeting the speaker was an ex Bluebell Girl – Jane Hogger and it was both interesting, entertaining and very amusing. July we visited the gardens at Holme House in Drinkstone. It was a very hot day and the gardens were beautiful. We all enjoyed tea and cake in the lovely surroundings. Our annual garden meeting was held in the grounds of our Secretary Kate's lovely garden. Again another very hot day and it was a lovely to relax under the shade of the trees. Other speakers were - in September Liza Jones – Behind the Bathroom Door and in October Robert Leader – In search of Secret Suffolk. November proved to be a lively evening when we made Christmas Decorations – An Angel, Tree Hanging Decorations, a Christmas Tree Cutlery Holder for the table and we painted 'empty' wine bottles into which one places string lights. Our hostesses for the evening cooked up some tasty bits for us to eat – as all our hostesses do at our monthly meetings which are very much appreciated. We also held a Bring and Buy Sale and all monies raised are going towards our Centenary Year in 2024. For our January 2023 afternoon meeting our speaker Sarah Woodhouse gave us a talk about ways to relax and sleep. It was a very interesting talk. February was a members meeting and the committee hosted the members and we did some quizzes. We had also received the sad news of the sudden passing of Peggy Elms, a member for many years. She was a lovely lady who will be sorely missed by all who knew her. We had a change of speaker for our March meeting and had a talk on 20th Century Women of Bury St Edmunds with Catherine Buchanan. She was an excellent speaker who was not only informative but also very amusing. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

I should like to thank the committee and all our members for their support during the past twelve months and also to all our hostesses at our meetings who provided us with delicious cakes and biscuits. Our membership has stayed steady and although we have lost some members we have had new ladies join us. We always extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us. Do come along and see what we are all about.

Midge Hawkins
President