

BADINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 6pm Tuesday 8 August 2023

in Badingham Village Hall, Low Street, Badingham IP13 8JT

Members: Cllrs Bowe, Mountain, Sweeney and Welham. Also present the Clerk, and one member of the public.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the member of the public for their attendance.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** No apologies; all present.
3. **Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were no interests declared and no requests for dispensations. Cllrs were reminded of their obligations under the new Code of Conduct. Cllrs Mountain and Bowe reminded to include their home address in their Register of Interests.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting 27 June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters arising from those minutes:** There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
6. **Public Forum:** There were no matters raised in the public forum.
7. **Report from County Councillor:** Report previously circulated for information. Apologies as unable to attend.
8. **Report from District Councillors:** Report previously circulated for information. Apologies as unable to attend. Additional report received and previously circulated from the East Suffolk Council GLI group.
9. **Governance and Statutory Business:**
 - a) Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR were amended, approved, and signed accordingly.
 - b) Still one o/s BPC generic email address- Cllr Sweeney to assist with setting this up. One mobile still o/s for the urgent only Whats App group.
 - c) O/s Planning PowerPoint from Training Module 5

10. Planning:

- a) There were no planning applications to consider.
- b) The following planning determinations were received:
DC/23/1141/FUL Re-consultation: Construction of a 2-storey rear extension @ Dunclimbing, Mill Road
DC/23/1933/FUL: Erection of a replacement equine shelter @ Howard's Field, Old Rectory Road
DC/23/2208/FUL: Retrospective application for Change of Use of existing farm buildings to a combination of commercial uses under Class E, B2 & B8 @ Wood Farm, New Road
DC/22/2757/FUL: Conversion of redundant outbuilding to form single residential dwelling @ Walnut Tree Farm, Laxfield Road
All the above applications were approved by East Suffolk Council.
- c) Any other planning matters for information only – ESPA newsletter sent to all.

Action: *Agenda point for each meeting as to how we can protect the integrity of the village; to ask planning what we can do to influence planning decisions*

11. Accounts:

- a) The list of payments for approval totalling £2609.17 (previously circulated) was unanimously approved and signed by 2 Councillors.
- b) Receipts to note: VAT refund £372.74 of which £40.33 will be transferred to the Village Hall account.
- c) The bank reconciliation dated 31 July 2023 (previously circulated) was approved and signed by the Chair.
- d) The financial report of Budget vs. Actual was noted as per the circulated spreadsheet.
- e) Update on Barclays and internet banking: Chair confirmed he has expedited with Barclays. Items should be posted to the Clerk for distribution. Clerk detailed the ongoing problems with Barclays and inefficiency of their online system. It was unanimously agreed to move all the accounts, including the Village Hall accounts, to Unity Trust Bank with immediate effect. Small cost factor of £18 per quarter for current accounts but agreed time will be saved and therefore worth switching. **Action:** *Clerk to implement asap*
- f) Clerk to check when the BT contract is up for renewal for the next meeting.

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- 12. Speeding:** Clerk gave more detail re the 20s Plenty Campaign. It was unanimously agreed not to officially support the movement at this time. Other speeding / vehicle issues brought to light as follows:
- Parking outside the pub – Action: Cllr Sweeney to discuss with the new owners on how this can be improved.
 - School buses – 17 children get picked up on the corner of Low Street and Mill Road. A school bus stop sign needs installing at this point. Large buses cannot access the bottom end of Low Street near the café so children have to come up to this point. Children are dropped off on the left-hand side of the road and have to cross a very busy road which regularly experiences speeding cars coming down the hill. There are also too many children for the small shelter outside the VH. Sometimes the school bus parks outside the pub which is not the official stop. School buses are contracted to stop at specific points on their route so this needs investigating. **Action:** Clerk to enquire with SCC re bus route and stops. To also enquire if funding for school signage with SCC or alternatively enquire with our District Councillors for funds
- 13. Community Partnership Information:** Clerk distributed information flyer in this regard. Cllr Bowe will check if he can attend the event on 4 November in Saxmundham. Information handed over to Cllr Bowe for this event.
- 14. Update on the Village Hall:** To be covered at the VH AGM immediately following this meeting.
- Up to date valuation received by the Chair at £380K - £400K. **Action:** Clerk to amend asset register
- 15. Pocket Park (PP) and Open Spaces:** Cllr Welham reported the following issues:
- Two trees on our land on the A1120 opposite the pub - one is dead, the other has a split side branch so needs cutting back. Another tree on Low Street, before the Mill Road turning, also requires work. Quote received £1845 & vat for all 3 trees.
- Action:** Cllr Sweeney to see if she can get the Low Street tree work done for free or a reduced price. Cllr Welham to obtain revised Q for the 2 trees on the A1120. If Q received is less than £1500 (approx. £100 leeway) then Cllr Welham can give the go ahead for the work to be done. Decision unanimously approved.
- The hedge also needs trimming around Pocket Park. Hedge at VH also needs trimming back.
- Actions:** Cllr Welham to instigate all hedge work, grass cuts and maintenance around the pond as required. Cllr Sweeney to discuss the possibility of a monetary contribution from the new landlords for the grass cutting opposite the pub, tree trimming contribution and parking control
- We have agreement to move the Village Bench on the A1120 but need to agree a new site before moving it.
- 16. Strategic Plan:** Risk assessment distributed for all PC assets in the village. It details what could go wrong and the risk factor. To be maintained annually. The Notice Board on Mill Road is in danger of collapsing – **Action:** Cllr Bowe to access it and decide on what action to be taken asap. Clerk to update the strategic plan accordingly
- 17. D-Day 80-year Anniversary 6 June 2024:** It was unanimously agreed to allow the VH to be used f.o.c. for an event to commemorate this event. It should be a social event between the VH, BCC and PCC. The PC is too small to contribute to this with only 4 Councillors. We may possibly plant more tree in the gaps on Low Street as a way of marking the event.
- 18. Correspondence received:** ESC have set up their own in-house waste management and street services company and replaced Norse whose contract expired on 30 June. The new company started work on 1 July.
- 19. Motion under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960:** Acknowledged the Clerk had handed in her resignation several weeks ago. Received 3 enquiries to date about the vacancy. Cllr Sweeney to arrange potential interviews with Cllr Bowe once applications considered. Organisational skills, knowledge and experience are the 3 key factors required. Clerk to amend closing date to 25 August with SALC.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26 September at the usual time of 7pm.

Caroline Emeny - Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Badingham Parish Council