**BADINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 7.30pm**

**at Badingham Village Hall**

Reports from District & County Councillors, Police and Enterprise Badingham, and questions from members of public: -

2 members of Public

**1 PRESENT APOLOGIES**

Cllr S Frost - Chair

Cllr L McQuade- Vice Chair

Cllr R Welham

Cllr S Osborne

Cllr T Barber

Mrs Sue Piggott – Clerk

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Welham – Village Hall Committee

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING – Approve & Sign**

Council approved and signed the Minutes for 6.10.16 & 19.10.16

**4 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING**

The Clerk sent in the response of support for Planning Application DC/16833/LBC. The Clerk contacted SCDC to gain more information with regards to the Side Garden to Longlea House new build.

The Clerk has included a piece in the Echo to request suggestions for the need and position of more dog poo bins

The Clerk has gained extensive advice and information with regards to the Village Hall Management crisis with regards to the Parish Council becoming involved in its management and securing its future-the detail will be under Agenda Item – Village Hall.

The Clerk arranged a Planning meeting to formulate a response for Side Garden to Longlea House new build, and submitted a response of support with conditions in accordance with the Council’s decision.

**5 FINANCE**

**5.1** The Financial Statement was agreed

**5.2** Council members were presented with the projections for the coming year by the Clerk and that the funds held were now very depleted, attention was necessary to build the Community Projects Reserve back to a viable amount. The Precept has been frozen for the past years and members considered that it would now have to be increased, the figure for year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 of £9,500 was agreed. The Clerk was requested to put forward a piece into the Echo magazine explaining the circumstance for this increase. **SP**

**6** **POCKET PARK**

Cllr Barber reported that he had put up the new replacement signs on the Park gates. Cllr Welham will be continuing with the clearance work around the pond with a group of volunteers. **RW**

**7 PLANNING**

Any applications/determination results - None

**8 HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk has been contacted by SCC Highways offering to attend a site meeting with Council members to follow up from the petition that had been organised by Mill Rd residents and to discuss all other issues in the Parish. Council members agreed to arrange the meeting for which Cllr Frost and Cllr Barber and the Clerk were available on Friday 25th November. It was agreed that the points to cover with SCC Highways were: Speeding in Mill Road, the new development and its highway access in Mill Rd, Pub car parking on the Low Rd junction and the hedging obstructing sight-age when exiting the junction, Signage on the Stone bend, Signage opposite the Low Rd junction, Speeding on Carrs Hill and Lorries mounting the banks, Tree safety over the highway from Bench site. **SP**

**9 VILLAGE HALL**

The Clerk reported that she had sought advice from LCPAS and CAS with regard to the options that the Parish Council could consider to address the management of the Village Hall should the committee not be viable. It was confirmed that the Deed of Covenant shows that the Parish Council owns the Village Hall and that they could take on management by either continuing it as a Charity or under their statutory role. The advice has been complicated by the advice given by Robert Horne who has now left Community Action Suffolk and is working for the charity Groundworks to support Community projects in the SCDC area. The advice Robert Horne has given to the two remaining trustee representatives for the PlaySchool and in a telephone call to the Clerk, is that the Village Hall is not the asset of the Parish Council, and that it is owned by the management committee. Council members considered the challenge by Robert Horne with regards to ownership of the hall, it was agreed that it was imperative a definitive legal position was sought, it was agreed that a Solcitor with the correct expertise was appointed. The Chair and the Clerk will seek a prospective appointment which must be then be formally agreed by members. The Clerk was asked to draft an instruction letter to outline the points that are required by an appointment and to send this letter to members for clearance.

**10 SET DATE FOR 2017 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING/EVENT**

**11 BENCH SITE –TREE SAFETY - Deferred**

**12 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

The footpath running from behind the Church to Mill Road has a notice displayed, it has been reported by walkers that blackthorn hedging is now planted along the line of the path, as it grows and matures this will obstruct the footpath. The Clerk was asked to report and request details of the notice.

**SP**

**13 EMERGENCY PLAN**

Cllr Barber will research costs of items of supplies needed to cope with emergency events through the winter, ie grit, snow shovels, walkie talkies, approaching local landowners for tractor plough clearance standby**. TB**

**14 CORRESPONDENCE –** None

**15 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

* + Date and event details for Annual Parish Meeting 2017

**16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7th December 2016 – TBC

Meeting closed 9.35pm

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Chair Date