



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th November, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Main Hall, Stanmore Primary School

Members Present: Cllr Julie Lacey – Chairman, Cllr Helen Barlass, Cllr Ali Cochrane, Cllr Rhi Dolby, Cllr John Godbold, Cllr Fenella Jarvis, Cllr Jackie Johnston, Cllr Sarah McColl

In attendance: Mrs. Christine Howe (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Invited: Cllr Jan Warwick, (HCC & WCC) Cllrs Laming and Williams (WCC)

Public question time - the public are invited to speak for 3 mins each on a topic relevant to this parish or an item on the agenda – total time allowed for the public session is 15 mins.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

78/21 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Williams, Cllr Warwick.

79/21 Declaration of Interests - To receive Declarations of Interests in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011

Cllr. Cochrane declared an interest in item 93/21.

80/21 Minutes - To approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October, 2021

BFPC agreed the minutes of 11th October, 2021 were a true record of the meeting with the addition, Cllr Cochrane wanted it noted that she exited and entered the room several times during the meeting. All Councillors to be sent draft minutes before publication on the website. Any comments to be made to the Clerk within seven days after which it will be presumed that Councillors have no comment.

81/21 Chairman's report

Maytree Close I had a meeting (27th Oct) with 5 residents of Maytree Close that have garages in the block currently partially blocked off. They'd contacted Jan Warwick as felt they were being left out of meeting's and not being represented. They showed me the issues and expressed their concerns.

While there, a builder arrived to meet with another resident with a garage in the block to quote for repairing the main back wall. After a chat with that resident, and an update, he agreed to keep us and the other residents informed. The residents I met with are now happy they are being kept in the loop.

WCC App I've been successfully using the app more frequently to report fly tipping, blocked drains and overgrown footpaths.

82/21 To receive the monthly report from HCC Member, Cllr Jan Warwick

The report was circulated prior to meeting and is available on the website. Cllr Warwick asked if Council had any questions to email her. Councillors to copy in the Clerk. Chairman to inform Cllr Warwick the potholes had opened up again on the top of the Ridgeway. A discussion took place on potholes.

83/21 To receive the monthly report from WCC Members

The report was circulated to members prior to the meeting and is available on the website. In response to the Chairman's report, Cllr Laming disputed her report and added that he had invited all the owners of May Tree Garages to all meetings. The Chairman had met and talked with the owners who were disgruntled as they had not been invited to all the meetings held by Cllr Laming. The Chairman pointed out that although Cllr Laming agreed to invite her to the next May Tree Garages Meeting, he did not do so.

84/21 Finance

1. To approve the payments for running the parish during October, 2021

Council approved the payments for October, 2021 at £11,002.58

Cllr Cochrane objected to paying £8,000 for the new railings for the playground without getting 3 quotes. Clerk explained the amount included vat and all maintenance and repair work for both playgrounds. 3 quotes were not necessary in this instance as it is repair. (Section 11 Fin.Reg.)

2. To agree the monthly bank statement for October with the bank reconciliation

The Chairman verified the October, 2021 bank statement reconciled at £133,732.

3. To discuss and set the budget and precept for 2022/23

Council set the budget for 2022/23.

Clerk advised there was no need to increase the precept for 2022/23 it could remain at £60,405.

Resolved: Council voted unanimously to keep the precept at the same amount as last year.

Clerk to inform WCC.

CH

85/21 To receive the Clerk's report

1. AVA, (playground maintenance contractors), replaced the bearings on the Rotator, it's now working.
2. BFPC received a refund of £1,570 from WCC as the number of dog bins charged for is more than listed.
3. The Bugle has been submitted to the printers ready for distribution in December. Cllr Dolby found there was too much copy for the magazine and some articles might not make this publication and will be put into the next issue, and has provided TLC with instructions on which articles to be deleted.
4. Installing pooh bags in dispensers might alleviate the BFP problem. Cllr Barlass offered to take this on. Discussion took place discussing the merit of them. Clerk advised to wait until research had been done.
5. The British White cattle are returning to Whiteshute Ridge at the beginning of December.
6. A resident alerted BFPC to a possible misappropriation of WCC land at 119 May Tree Close. Enforcement were notified of the breach on 2nd November. Cllr Laming interrupted the meeting and the Chairman asked for things to be brought up in his WCC report.
7. To prevent wasting time and extra emails being required would Councillors respond to my emails. This will aid decision making at meetings and prevent the need for bringing back the same item to successive meetings.
8. I need a response to my email regarding photos and locations of the benches that Councillors consider require refurbishment so we can obtain a quote from Mr. Nelson. I had hoped to include this in the budget but was unable to because I didn't receive any responses. A Councillor will accompany Mr. Nelson around the parish when he inspects the benches to provide us with a quote. Cllr Cochrane thought we were discussing the benches item, the Chairman explained it was an item further down the Agenda and that this was the Clerk's report.

86/21 To receive reports from members who attended outside meetings

No outside meetings were attended.

87/21 Planning:

Applications: No applications.

Determined: 21/02181 - Permitted 58 Honeysuckle Close, SO22 4QQ – Conservatory.

Cllr Jarvis is to write and complain to WCC about lack of measurements.

88/21 Estate Management

We have not yet had a date for the next Lengthsman visit. He will be asked to cut back around the Meadow Way subway. The suckers around the trees on Central to be removed by the handyman and the path going up Ridgway bank assessed for what needs doing by BFPC handyman.

89/21 Highways and Recreation

Highways

The speed data was sent out to Councillors which showed the average speed as quite good. The battery ran out on Badger Farm Road, it was thought less movements were registered due to atmospheric. The Lengthsman visited the site where the branches needed to be cut back to improve vision recognition for the speed camera. He took pictures and will return next week to complete the job.

Olivers Battery have requested to tie up with BFPC and monitor the speed with their speed cameras on a particular day.

Recreation

The covid aware signs in the playgrounds are getting a little dilapidated now and Council think there is no longer a need for them to be posted there so they will be removed.

A few children took dogs into the playgrounds, nothing else has occurred.

90/21 To approve the locations and the purchase of new benches for the parish

Cllr Cochrane provided a progress report (attached).

It stated; 'rough pricing guide from Clerk awaited' and, 'information to get consent for siting benches' awaited from Clerk. The Clerk **was not** asked for this information.

All councillors to email their suggestions for bench locations to Cllr Cochrane by 15th November labelling them as functional or viewing.

although she will not have time to progress the project for a while. Plastic benches were suggested to reduce maintenance. Cllr Laming was asked to provide a map of Badger Farm which shows who owns which parcels of land. This will enable Council to plot where to place the new benches.

91/21 Receive the report on the wildflower project

The Wildflower report was comprehensive and well received by Council. The Wildflower group had 15 enthusiastic local volunteers who helped at various times. They collected Yellow Rattle seeds from Whiteshute Ridge and scattered them on the wildflower areas. They are parasitic and will eventually reduce the amount of grass so when it grows long it won't be as big a problem as it has been this initial year. At a meeting with WCC the problem with sight lines was discussed so next year the edges will be taken back to improve sight lines. A new type of signage will also be used next year as this year's signs were easily vandalised and heavy duty signs might stop this. Cllr McColl has contacted Oliver's battery, Stanmore and St Peter's schools and they are all keen to be involved in a competition for children to design the new signs. There were 5 questions on the back page of the report and Cllr McColl asked all Cllrs if they would respond to them. Cllr McColl will prepare a one page proposal for next year for the next meeting complete with costings. Chairman to send Cllr McColl, the additional wildflower area which a May Tree resident suggested.

92/21 To discuss sustainability in the parish

A draft sustainability policy had been drawn up by Cllr Cochrane and circulated to Council.

Councillors sent their comments and questions back and the policy will now be finalised.

A sustainability questionnaire report was handed round to Councillors at the meeting for them to look at then send back their comments and/or questions. Some of the content can be included in the Residents' Survey which will be included in the next edition of the Badger Bugle.

Cllr Barlass has obtained some information on suggestions for increasing sustainability and will email it to the rest of BFPC.

93/21 Discuss the venue for Council meetings.

This could not be fully discussed because the Community Centre do not yet know if there will be a room available for the Parish Council to meet in during the beginning of 2022. When the NHS stop needing the use of the Community Centre (CC) for a Covid-19 Vaccination Hub, then the CC will be better placed to know if a room will be available for BFPC to use for its monthly meetings. However the CC did emphasise their need to put their regular (weekly) hirers first.

94/21 To ratify BFPC's Biodiversity Policy

The Biodiversity Policy was discussed by Council who all agreed it was a good idea to have one.

Cllr Dolby proposed and Cllr Lacey seconded the approval and adoption of the policy.

Resolved: to ratify and adopt the Biodiversity Policy. Clerk to put it onto the website.

95/21 Items for inclusion on the Agenda for the 13th December 2021 meeting

1. 2022 Wildflower project proposal.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

Date of next meeting 13th December, 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the back room of St. Faith's Parish Hall, St. Cross Back Street.

Signed by Chairman.....

8th November, 2021