



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10th February at 7.30pm in the Bushfield Room, Badger Farm Community Centre.

Members Present: Cllr. John Godbold
Cllr. Helen Barlass
Cllr. Alison Cochrane
Cllr. Rhian Dolby
Cllr. Fenella Jarvis
Cllr. Alex Skinner

By invitation: Cllr. Warwick (H.C.C. and W.C.C.) Cllrs. Laming and Brophy (W.C.C.)

Public session - A Parish Council meeting is not a public meeting, but a meeting that is held in public. All members of the public have a statutory right to attend council meetings as observers. As part of our commitment to community engagement, we set aside time at the beginning of each meeting to hold a public forum called 'Public session'. This gives members of the public the opportunity to ask questions about agenda items or issues relating to the parish. After the public session the public are welcome to remain for the rest of the meeting or to leave the meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

15/25 To receive apologies for absence

All Councillors present.

16/25 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

17/25 To approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January, 2025

Minutes were approved and adopted as a true record of the meeting of Badger Farm Parish Council (B.F.P.C.) and signed by the Chairman.

To be uploaded to the website.

RD

18/25 Chairman's report

HCC has applied for and was granted a place on the fast track to devolution.

HCC, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight are all pushing ahead with this. The county council elections for May 2025 have been cancelled because of the work to set up the new mayoral authority (devolution) and the re-organisation of local government that is happening alongside it. Options for BFPC appear to be, join the Winchester City in a new authority or combining with other neighbouring parishes (Olivers Battery, Compton etc.). The status quo does not appear to be an option for Badger Farm Parish Council. Concern

was expressed about what would happen to staff employed by each parish in either of these eventualities. Shadow elections for the new authorities are pencilled in for May 2026. The Chairman missed the meeting on devolution and local government re-organisation held by Cllr Todd, but Cllr Dolby attended and fed back the key points.

Cllrs Godbold, Barlass, Dolby and Jarvis attended the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) event hosted by Hursley Parish Council on 14 January 2025. It was an interesting evening and BFPC wish to thank Cllr Killeen at Hursley Parish Council for hosting the event.

Clerk to send vote of thanks to the Chairman of Hursley P.C.

CH

As a result of the meeting with the PCC, the Chairman was sent an up to date set of crime figures for Badger Farm, these were circulated to Clerk and Councillors. There are some worrying figures, especially around sexual violence. Councillors wish to have these figures examined more closely and explanations sought from the PCC.

Clerk to request a report from the PCC.

CH

19/25 To receive report from H.C.C. Member Cllr. Jan Warwick

Apologies were received from Cllr. Warwick.

The Clerk did not receive the report from HCC in time to circulate it for the meeting.

It was received from Cllr Warwick and circulated to Councillors following the meeting.

20/25 To receive report from W.C.C. Members Cllrs. Warwick, Brophy and Laming

The report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Laming was asked about changes to the pay and display parking machines. Cllr Laming confirmed only the Middlebrook Street carpark machine will be changing. Cllr Laming was pressing for more EV charging points in town.

21/25 To receive Clerk's report

1. Regarding the Lark Hill Rise Village Green application, unfortunately, WCC are right that use of the land by the community has been 'by right' rather than 'as of right' and that this excludes our application for a village green. Nevertheless, it is still protected from development as it is dedicated open space. To overturn this WCC would have to identify another area of similar size to substitute Lark Hill Rise were they to wish to develop it. This is not possible as there is no other comparable area of land on the estate which can be substituted. I will of course keep writing to the owners of the land, Davis Estates Ltd., requesting they be kind enough to sell or donate the land to BFPC. I would envisage offering the owner £10,000 for this area of land, were it to come up for sale as it is classed as amenity land.

The Chairman commented it was a shame the village green application for Davis kickabout area failed because use of the land was 'as of right' not 'by right'.

The Auctioneer who handled the auction of the plot of land had informed Cllr Laming the money had been received from the purchaser; however, Clerk reported it had not been sold, Davis Estates Ltd., retained ownership of the land. There was no change in ownership recorded by the Land Registry. It was pointed out that Davis Estates Ltd., being the registered owners they would be liable for any potential claims.

2. G.W. Shelter Solutions mended the roof of the bus shelter by the subway on Meadow Way. They have also provided a quotation for re-connection of the bus shelter lights in 3 of the shelters; Ridgeway, opposite St. Annes, Ridgeway, opposite Elder Close and Meadow Way, the subway. This will increase the safety of people waiting for or alighting the bus. The quote is £3,153.58 plus 20% vat (total, £3,784.30). There is also the option to install Solar powered lighting to the bus shelter on Meadow Way after Barley Down and mains to

The shelter on Meadow Way opposite May Tree Close. The total cost for lighting all shelters would be £11,999.94 inc. VAT (£1,998.49) which we could claim back.

Councillors discussed lighting in the bus shelters and unanimously rejected the idea of solar panels due to the number of overhanging trees on Badger Farm.

Lighting is an important safety concern, especially given the recent crime figures received from the PCC. Three of the five bus shelters already have power to them as they have the bus time arrival screens. Council requested that clerk explore with HCC the option of getting power to the rest of the shelters or look at other alternatives to solar power.

3. The disease resistant Elm trees were collected from Hampshire Forest Partnership on 22nd January by the contractor Mr. Andrew Giles has appointed to plant the trees.
4. The company contracted to supply the rainbow bench increased their prices on 3rd Feb and, although we paid on 3rd February, they are insisting we pay the increased amount, another £124.97 which totals £692.39.

22/25 Finance

1. To approve payments for Parish expenses for January 2025

Council approved the payments for January 2025 which totalled £2,760.47

2. To agree January 2025 bank reconciliation

The Chairman verified the bank statements reconciled at £148,954.11

23/25 To receive reports from Members

Cllr Dolby reported on progress with the new website. It was suggested that a list be drawn up of amendments needed and for Clerk to arrange for Digi Toolbox to do the work as there are still budgeted funds available. The Chairman suggested Cllr Dolby receive training to enable her to carry out all future changes.

Clerk to investigate training opportunities for Cllr Dolby.

CH

24/25 To consider planning applications received from Winchester City Council

24/02624 – 6 Harvest Close, SO22 4DW – retrospective application for single storey rear extension.

Comment: Council accept the decision of the planning officer.

Clerk to inform W.C.C.

CH

25/25 To discuss Badger Farm Estates Management

The new saplings have been planted, Council are dismayed to note some of them have already been vandalised.

A visit from the Lengthsman is due on 17th February. Cllrs were asked to send any jobs to Cllr Barlass and the Clerk.

A hedge which is overhanging a path on Honeysuckle Close was discussed and felt to be the responsibility of the owner. Cllr Jarvis reported an issue at the junction of Swift Close and Ashbarn Crescent. Cllr Barlass will add to the list.

26/25 Highways

Residents in Broad Chalke Down have received a letter informing them the road is being dug up for gas mains work week commencing 17th February for two weeks. Council hope it will be dealt with swiftly unlike the other gas mains work recently undertaken.

27/25 Playgrounds – Refurbishment of Elder Close Playground

Before extending the footprint of the toddler play area at Central and spending any money on the project, permission from WCC needs to be obtained. Cllr Laming will make enquiries of WCC.

28/25 Items for the March 2025 Agenda

1. To discuss the application for a grant of £1,235 to Winchester Basics Bank (WBB) to repair the floor in the community centre.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked those who participated in the meeting and closed it at 8.30 p.m.