

BADINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7pm Tuesday 31 October 2023

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

Members: Cllrs Bowe, Mountain, Sweeney and Welham. Also present the current Clerk, the new clerk, one member of the public and District Cllr Langdon-Morris for most of the meeting.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
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.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting 26 September were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Outstanding Matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere:** Pub parking and trees (minute items 12a and 15 dd 8/8/23) – Cllr Sweeney has approached the pub's HO and is still chasing for a response. **Action:** *Cllr Sweeney to continue to chase*
6. **Public Forum:** Complaint received re the grass verges and wildflowers on Low Street. Parishioner to attend the December meeting with more information. Article to be included in the next Echo to seek broader opinion before any decisions are made. **Action:** *Clerk to include in the Echo*
7. **Report from County Councillor:** Report previously circulated with apologies for non-attendance.
8. **Report from District Councillors and Leader of ESC:** Reports previously circulated.
9. **Governance and Statutory Business:** It was resolved not to respond to the survey re bus network improvements or the Sustrans transport engagement.

10. Planning:

a) The following planning applications were discussed:

DC/23/3924/FUL: Construction of a dwelling and attached garage @ Plot adjacent to Longlea House, Mill Rd. The PC resolved to strenuously object to this application.

DC/23/3682/ROC and DC/23/3614/ROC: Removal of condition 4 of E/9157/1 and E/9157 respectively - Removal of agricultural occupancy restriction @ 1 Twin Oak Drive. The PC resolved not to object but to lodge a comment regarding the increase in flooding in this area of the village exacerbated by more housing.

DC/23/3768/FUL: Construction of a 2-storey rear extension @ Dunclimbing, Mill Road. The PC resolved to repeat their earlier comments about the design and materials being used in this construction.

b) No planning determinations received to note.

DC/23/3565/AME: Non material amendment being minor amendment to 1st floor plans and elevations of plot 1 of DC/22/0854/VOC @ 1 Mill Haven, Mill Road

c) Query received re ditch at new development on Mill Road DC/20/4106/FUL & DC/22/0854/ROC refers. The PC resolved to lodge a complaint with DC Enforcement about the filled in ditch.

Action: *Clerk to check what the original application approved in this regard before lodging complaint*

d) No other planning matters for information

e) How can we protect the integrity of the village – responses from Councillors. Cllr Sweeney presented a document incorporating various points in this regard. The Chair thanked her for her efforts. She will enhance the document before sharing with Councillor. To discuss further at the next meeting.

Action: *Clerk to investigate where the previous Village Plans are*

11. Accounts:

a) Payments totalling £7645.50 (previously circulated) was unanimously approved and signed by 2 Councillors. Payments totalling £1474.46 for the V Hall approved and signed. Additional Kindlewood invoice presented for £ 546.00 approved for immediate payment.

b) Cheque received for £1.15 re UK Power Networks Lea Mill Road agreement. Clerk confirmed the ESC £1K grant towards the new boiler in the VH is still outstanding. **Action:** *Clerk to send info to D.Cllr Langdon-Morris to expedite*

c) The bank reconciliation as at 24 October 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 with virements deferred until nearer the financial year end. The Clerk stressed concern re the overspend on the VH outside area and how this will be paid for, CIL monies being the only available solution.

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- e) Update on internet banking and Unity Trust Bank switch: All accounts up and running. Note not all Cllrs have yet logged on to internet banking for both PC and VH accounts. **Action:** Cllrs Bowe and Welham to do asap
- f) To review renewal of Microsoft annual subscription vs one-off purchase. **Action:** Cllr Sweeney to obtain a one-off licence and confirm details to Clerk

12. To receive Village Hall update and approve any decisions if required: Cllrs Bowe and Sweeney attended the last VH meeting. Concern raised re the lack of financial governance. The PC resolved that Cllr Sweeney will take over the VH accounts asap to free up the new clerk due to time constraints. It was agreed a basic business plan was required from the VH to forecast how they see the next 12 months, timescales for the completion of the whole outside area etc to be included. Help may be required with this. Cllr Sweeney will assist with basic financial procedures incl. proof of receipts for events. **Action:** Cllr Sweeney to attend all VH meetings. Clerk to draw up some basic financial protocols for the VH to follow

13. Pocket Park and Open Green Spaces: Rospa reports previously circulated re Pocket Park and the pond. No high risk red alerts raised. All hedges now cut. **Action:** Cllr Welham to replace missing bolt on the Multiplay as identified on report page 5.

Cllr Bowe received a call about flooding close to a house on New Lea, coming from a blocked culvert which he cleared out. Resident stated that the ditch leading to this is the PC's responsibility. **Action:** Cllrs Bowe and Welham to investigate further

14. School Transport update – County Cllr Burroughes has acknowledged the concerns raised and is expediting on our behalf. Still no actual response from School Transport or SCC direct.

15. County Broadband update – requisite number of sign-ups achieved so this will go ahead with free broadband at the VH once the service is up and running. Could take up to 18 months to complete.

16. Storm Babet and flooding information- Cllr Langdon-Morris said about 70 houses flooded in Framlingham. He confirmed help is available to anyone who has experienced flooding recently and, in the future, if they are not insured. Any flooding issues with roads etc should be reported on the Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool. The Environmental Agency's flood risk map for the Framlingham Ward shows the recent flooding was a 1/1000 year event. A government survey issued by ESC to assess how many Badingham residents were affected needs getting out to residents asap. They need to know how many houses across the ward have been impacted to work out how to distribute flood relief funding. **Action:** Cllr Sweeney to put on FB, Cllr Bowe's partner to put on Next Door. Note Clerk has put on our website: badingham.org.uk/home/village_news - read under Storm Babet
Cllr Sweeney agreed to be the main contact in the event of any village emergencies.

17. Strategic Plan: Removal of Mill Road notice board still o/s. **Action:** Cllr Bowe to do

18. Correspondence received – Clerk confirmed all circulated as appropriate.

19. Motion under the Public Bodies : The new clerk welcomed. She will work alongside the current clerk with training as and when timetables allow. Clerk raised budget concerns as a consequence – will review virements near the financial year end to allow for extra staff costs.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 December at the usual time of 7pm.

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