



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th April 2014

PRESENT:

John Godbold (Chair)
Fenella Jarvis
Dean Upton
Heather Nicholson
Will Hawthorne
Chrissie Sanders
Julie Lacey

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Macpherson (Clerk)
Cllr Phil Bailey (HCC)
Vivienne Brooks
3 members of the public

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Lynda Banister (WCC)
Cllr Brian Laming (WCC)

53. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Assembly Meeting held on 8th April 2013 were **AGREED** and signed as an accurate record.

54. Parish Council – Chairman's Report

The following is the text of the Chairman's report read to the meeting by **JG**:

"Thank you all for coming to our annual meeting 2014. This year has been fairly uneventful and a year were we have tried to consolidate our financial position (but more of that later). Having lost two councillors last year we were in a precarious position and desperately needed new personnel; fortunately Julie was recruited and she has now found her feet and is a great asset. We still have one vacancy and possibly one person who is showing interest in joining us.

Martin has guided us through our budgeting and the audit produced only praise from the auditor. This year along with many other Parishes we decided to increase our precept above the rate of inflation, this was partly due to the lack of return on our investments and the increasing cost of maintaining Whiteshute Ridge. We also have to replace some of our play equipment in the medium term for which we will be looking for grant aid.

Last year I referred to the improvement in WCC contractors. I think I spoke too soon. The general appearance of the estate seems to be declining and the service provided by Biffa is appalling. It seems that once the contract is let then there is no supervision or quality control; the contractors just seem to do what they want. The long awaited repair of the pot holes in Meadow Way is a farce with the contractor's just spraying tar over the holes and not repairing them, again there seems to be no supervision from HCC.

The project to fence Whiteshute Ridge and to have cattle up there has slowed down due to changes in the grant system and a key person at WCC leaving. We still hope to go ahead with this project once the grant situation becomes clearer.

Again this year there has not been any contentious planning issues on our patch although there was a scare up at Oliver's Battery which seems to have gone quiet for now. In fact the level of planning applications seems to be lower than last year.

We seem to have reached an optimum level for salt and dog bins so there has been little movement in this area much to Martins relief.

The saddest news this year came nearly six months ago when Martin told me he intended to leave this May. I have relied on Martin in so many ways since I took on the chairmanship. I for one will be very sorry to see him go. I know that the general feeling of all councillors is one of sorrow at his leaving, but wishing him good luck in his new venture.

On the bright side we have employed a new, very experienced clerk to fill the void. Vivien Brookes is our new Clerk and RFO and I will introduce her at the next meeting.

It is also with regret that we will soon be losing our Vice Chairman Will Hawthorn who again has been a great help to me over the last few years. Will is leaving us to return to his roots up't north.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors both parish and district for their work on behalf of the Badger Farm community.”

55. Presentation of Parish Council Finances for 2013/2014

The Parish Clerk reported that the accounts for the year 2013/2014 had been prepared but not yet reviewed by the Internal Auditor. He went on to outline that:

- a) During 2013/2014 the Parish Council received a total income of £29,001. This was made up of a Precept from the City Council of £28,975 and £26 from Interest on Investments.
- b) Expenditure amounted to £26,250. This consisted of:
 - (i) Clerk's Salary, PAYE & NIC £ 6,346
 - (ii) Administration £ 3,896
 - (iii) Litter £ 3,573
 - (iv) Open Space £ 0
 - (v) Play Equipment £ 943
 - (vi) Whiteshute Ridge £ 8,505
 - (vii) Donations £ 1,200
 - (viii) Capital Projects £ 1,787
- c) Donations had been made to Winchester CAB (£600), BF & OB RCA (£400), Victim Support (£100) and Oliver's Battery Primary School (£100).
- d) The surplus for the year was therefore £ 2,751.
- e) Taking into account the previous year's brought forward figures this resulted in a final overall balance of £10,000 with a further £14,500 held in reserve for the lease

of Whiteshute Ridge, £18,076 for future capital projects and £2,631 in the Pension Fund making a grand total of £45,207.

56. Question Time

A member of the public asked what the Council intended to do about replacing the play equipment on the Davis Kickabout.

Councillors responded by explaining that:

- a) The Council was aware of the problem.
- b) Currently the Council had about £18K available for a new project. This was insufficient to buy new equipment.
- c) We had increased the precept demand this year in order to build up this fund.
- d) We would be seeking grant support from WCC and HCC to supplement our own savings.
- e) We expect to be able to buy new equipment in about three years time.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 1955.

Signed

Date