



BADGER FARM Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting 13th May, 2019, held at the Bushfield Room, Badger Farm Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.

The Chairman gave her welcome address.

Welcome everyone. I would like to thank all the councillors for their hard work in looking after the parish. A lot of sterling work has been done over the last year by our team of parish councillors who do the role as volunteers and give of their time so freely. Some of the work we do is about keeping the place ticking over and our efforts sometimes go unseen by the residents. I would like to stress though that your unwavering commitment towards the job of keeping things running smoothly is one of the many things that makes Badger Farm such a good place to live. Sometimes it's the little things which make a difference, noticing the bins haven't been emptied, or that the brambles need cutting back, or overgrown hedges are making life difficult for some of the residents. They sound innocuous but together they add up to make a big difference to the quality of life for the parishioners. I would like to thank Cllr Julie Lacey for time she spends co-ordinating the work of the lengthsmen to keep our parish looking neat and tidy. Local residents and councillors took part again in March this year in the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Lots of rubbish was collected, including 100 aluminium cans that were sent for recycling.

One thing which affects most residents is speeding traffic. This issue is now being looked at by the parish council following appeals for action from local residents. Cllr Harvey Skinner, who holds our transport portfolio, is now investigating the practicalities and benefits of different speed monitoring devices. The other main transport related issue we face is parking on Badger Farm. This problem is becoming ever more difficult to manage with people who are unwilling to pay for the 'park and ride' scheme parking their cars on the roads at Badger Farm causing obstructions and safety issues. Council held a meeting to enable the residents to put their views forward to Mr. Neville Crisp, Transport Officer for W.C.C. The meeting was well attended and, as a result, Mr. Crisp is now drawing up plans for a full formal consultation on parking restriction proposals with the residents of Badger Farm Parish.

We are very pleased to report that a public-spirited parishioner has started a 'Chat-tea' café in the Community Centre in Badger Farm which aims to combat loneliness and social isolation amongst our older residents. Badger Farm Parish Council were very happy to award a grant towards this worthwhile venture. It has been very successful so far and we wish them continued and increasing success in the future.

We have negotiated money from Winchester City Council as compensation for the picnic bench Badger Farm Parish Council bought for Whiteshute Ridge. WCC agreed to fund a like for like bench. Installation costs were partially covered by a generous grant from HCC Cllr Jan Warwick. The new bench has been installed at Central Play Area and is being well used. After a lot of thought and planning, our two playgrounds also have lovely new signs.

I would like to thank Cllr Fenella Jarvis, Cllr John Godbold and Cllr John Parsons on their work so far in forming a Planning Committee. They have produced a flow-chart which aims to ensure that all planning consultations we are asked to comment on are treated equitably. Several councillors benefitted from a planning training session given by WCC which has given us a good insight in how to use the planning policies to comment effectively. A finalised flow chart, terms of reference and other information relating to planning will soon be found on a special planning section of our website.

I would like to thank WCC Cllr Brian Laming for all his hard work and dogged determination he showed getting an EDMO order on 46 Harrow Down. Local residents living near the property have been desperate for a long time to have something done about this neglected house.

Thanks to go to WCC Cllr Jan Warwick for arranging a meeting with Winchester City Council officers to start investigating ways forward on maintenance of communal areas in the parish. This issue will not be resolved easily, but we are committed to seeing what can be achieved.

We have eventually moved in to the 21st century and now use internet banking. This is working really efficiently. Our recent auditor's report showed that we have good financial controls in place.

On the administrative side of things, councillors have been busy throughout the year putting new policies into place to ensure that we are fully compliant with legislation.. Now this work is finished, I would like Badger Farm Parish Council to formulate a three year forward plan for the parish. This will involve reaching out to the public to find out what their views are. A residents' questionnaire would be ideal so we can determine what facilities the parishioners would like to see in their parish.

Finally, I would like to thank our clerk for all her hard work and dedication over the past year. We may not always like being told how things should be, but I know we would be stuck without you.

The coming year is going to be exciting and we are all looking forward to engaging more with the parishioners and delivering their wishes.

There were no questions from the floor so the meeting closed and was followed immediately by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Signed:

Dated: 13th May, 2019.