

**MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY 17th MAY 2007**

7 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair.

Also in attendance were Parish Councillors Mrs Karen Alexander, Mr Peter Banks, Mr James Justice; Parish Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster and PCSO Norman Bareham.

**1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from County Councillor Robin Brown and District Councillor Tony Scott.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs Sue Wilson queried her question to District Councillor Tony Scott. Her recollection was that when mentioning “the Water Board” she had been talking about “the British Waterways Board”.

It was proposed by Dennis Wilson, seconded by Peter Banks and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting, accepting the change made regarding Mrs Wilson’s comment.

**3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The Chairman read out a statement prepared by Mr Robin Brown – County Councillor, Braunston Division:

“Once again I have great pleasure in presenting my Annual report of the activities that I have undertaken as your County Councillor plus an overview of the County Council’s achievements in the last twelve months.

Personally this last year has been like that of taking a roller coaster ride, many high’s but also many lows. From May 2006 my time was dominated by the need to extend my knowledge of the Customer Service strategy for which as Cabinet Member I had taken over responsibility. The new budget that the Council had approved required major reductions in spending and refocusing of services to become more efficient. The main area for that change was the acceptance that an Integrated Change Programme was taken on board by the Council, for that to be successful the appointment of specialists to assist that process was necessary. That process and the resulting plan to cut out duplication, increase productivity and look for more innovative ways to deliver services became the main focus of my time at the Council. Sadly in August I became the subject of a virulent campaign from the Northampton press about my past business career which eventually caused me to stand down as a Cabinet member. Further I was reported to the Standards Board of England for failing to disclose all my interests. Suffice to say that the failure to declare a directorship of a company in liquidation was contrary to the rules. The Standards Board in November ruled that there was no case for action to be taken and the matter was closed.

In January the Leader of the Council Cllr Jim Harker appointed me to take over as Chairman of the Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee a role that requires me to spend time not only looking at how the County provides services in this area but also our partners in the PCT (Health) and Voluntary Sector. The new ways of helping

the vulnerable and elderly are of concern and I will be vigilant in checking that the services provided do meet the needs of the service user.

I have endeavoured to attend many Parish Council meetings albeit there are ten villages plus the Northern part of Daventry within the ward, which does mean I miss attending a number of times. I find that the issues of Highways and Policing are still the major concern and the need for the County to recognise the needs of the rural areas is to my mind not a high enough priority.

My views on local tax levels are well known and I am proud that the Council has for the last two years of this Administration ensured their tax increase is less than inflation. I do not agree that Parish Precepts (Which are uncapped by the Government) should be used to fund the Police; the Police Authority is required to provide adequate policing from their own precept. I do however recognise that the funding level in Northamptonshire is below the average and that is why I agree with the specific payment by the County Council of £500,000 for extra PCSO's. That money is raised across the whole County and is a much fairer way to help the Police. The County Council during the year completed a reform of the Youth Services and today the Service is delivering more and providing a broader base for our Youth than ever before. The need to provide the service via external providers has given a much needed boost to the third sector and will continue to do so. A major development of the Northampton Schools via PFI was successfully concluded and will lead the way to improving standards across the whole of the County. The priorities for the Council are firmly embedded in giving better service at the best value. Often this will mean reorganisation but by creating a "One" Council mentality it should be possible to improve service whilst reducing direct cost.

May I say that I am as enthusiastic as ever, the opportunity of working with the Parishes is to me one of the best ways to understand local concerns and when the additional money for County Councillors via the "Empowering of Councillors" becomes available I shall have great pleasure in working with you to identify projects that could benefit by "pump priming" funds.

The contract that the County has with Atkins for the Highway maintenance is currently being re-tendered and a new contract will be in place for 2008. A contract organised in such way as to be linked more to outcomes and customer satisfaction than pure cost per kilometre of tarmac. Sadly the lack of maintenance that our road network has been subjected to means that without substantial investment by Central Government it will be many years before all of the problems are resolved.

Finally I look forward to hearing from you during the year as well as meeting with you at your Parish Councils. I look forward to the County Council Services continuing to show improvements whilst costing no more than inflation.

**Robin Brown**

**County Councillor – Braunston Ward**

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#### **4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The Chairman read out a statement prepared by Councillor Scott, District Councillor

” Good evening, this is my eighth annual report as your District Councillor regarding the events that have taken place during the last twelve months at Daventry District Council.

My first comment has to be that I have been successful in being re-elected District Councillor for the Badby Ward for the third time and I would like to thank those who supported me and voted for me at the elections two weeks ago. For the 126 people who voted for my opponent I would like to express my disappointment at not having gained your confidence over the last eight years and if there any specific issues you wish to raise please speak to me at any time.

This year has been mostly dominated by three important matters, which will affect us all.

Several years ago Central Government tried to introduce Unitary Authorities across the Country. It was felt that many people did not understand the existing three-tier system and which authority was responsible for a particular service. They wanted to see County and District Councils merge to create one large authority. Many authorities opposed the proposal as being unwieldy, undemocratic and very costly. The sceptics were right. Those that did change to Unitary Authorities have failed to deliver and have cost the Taxpayer a great deal of money. The Government tried to introduce Regional Assemblies but after their resounding defeat in a referendum in the North East they decided to abandon this idea for the time being.

Last November the Government again decided they wanted to change the face of local Government and again raise the spectre of Unitary Authorities. Northamptonshire was chosen as a trial Authority or Guinea Pig. Each Local Authority in the County were told to submit there chosen preference by January 21<sup>st</sup> 2007 (three months) in the way Local Government should be re-structured in their area. Status quo, as we were told, was not an option! With the exception of Northampton Borough Council all the Authorities in the County, including the County Council, agreed that an enhanced three-tier system would be the preferred option and rejected any suggestion that we should become part of any Unitary Authority. This means that, in the view of Authorities in Northamptonshire, local government should continue to represent its residents at County, District and Parish level but it was agreed that we should improve cooperation between authorities avoiding, where possible, duplication. It was strongly felt that this system will continue to give democratic representation and value for money. We expect Central Government to make an announcement in July this year.

The second important event was a referendum being held with Council tenants to decide whether they should stay with the Council or transfer to another Social Landlord, i.e. Housing Association. Over the last three years Central Government has reduced Local Authority housing subsidy which last year effected Daventry particularly badly as we were one of the few authorities already in negative subsidy. It also introduced a rent formula, which meant that Council house rents would, by 2010, merge with Housing Association rents. This has meant a year on year average rent increase of 7.7% and in the next two years this is likely to increase to a figure in the region of 10%. This increase partially offsets the reduction in subsidy but does not provide sufficient funding for any improvements and would result in a reduction in non-essential repairs. Tenants voted by more than three to one to transfer to a Housing Association by the end of this year. This provides the necessary capital for improvements and guarantees rent increases at a more realistic level of 1% above inflation. This we believe will be for the benefit of the tenants but is a backward step,

in my view, for local government and may cause difficulties in finding affordable rented accommodation in the future.

Finally the Town Centre Vision. Daventry has been an expanding town since the early 70's. Housing estates have sprung up all around the town but with very little expansion or improvement in the infrastructure and retail facilities in the town. The Council took the decision to join the West Northamptonshire Development Cooperation, which would attract money from Central Government and guarantee the provision of the infrastructure needed, improve and expand the town centre and safeguard the integrity of our villages. It was felt that Central Government would impose its will to have more housing and industrial development in Northamptonshire and Daventry was a blank canvass in which to dump housing without consultation. We were determined to have some say in where this should happen and at what pace instead of it being imposed upon us. It was felt important to protect the integrity of our villages by avoiding piecemeal development spoiling the character of villages and our countryside. We are seeing the building of a new hospital in Daventry, there will be a further 6,200 homes provided in Daventry itself by 2021 and this number is capped. The Town Centre Vision will provide the opportunity to prevent Daventry stagnating and becoming a satellite location for commuters. We will attract investment for now and the future and make Daventry a vibrant place to live. There is still time to have your say and comment on the proposals being made.

I continue to be a Member of the District Planning Committee and Chairman of Staverton CEV Primary School on which I will be presenting a report later.

With the Chairman's permission I will try and answer any questions from the floor and if I do not know the answer I will endeavour to get a reply to that person as soon as possible. It remains for me to say that I will be standing for re-election on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May and I hope I can count on the support from local people for your local and loyal candidate. ME!

Tony Scott

Councillor Daventry District Council"

Following this report, the Chairman thanked District Councillor Scott for all his help in achieving the 40mph speed limit and speed warning signs on the A361.

## **5. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months:

- a. The new cemetery extension has been completed and landscaped. The old cemetery is now full and all future burials will take place in the new part. A new kissing gate is expected shortly at the top of the new footpath, kindly donated by John Warr in memory of his brother, Andy.
- b. Village hall improvements have been completed. The Parish Council has provided assistance towards the funding to the tune of £6,000.
- c. Following much campaigning, 40mph traffic speed limits and traffic warning signs are now in place.
- d. The football posts at the playing field have been replaced with the help of a grant from the Football Foundation.
- e. The village greens are in good condition with on-going maintenance programmes in place. More tree work is to be done over the next year. There have been a number of problems regarding the playing field but these will hopefully be overcome in the near future.

- f. The audited accounts for 2006/2007 show a surplus of £1,400, mainly due to higher income than budgeted. The precept for 2007/2008 has been held at £14,000.

The Chairman presented major issues for the future:

- g. Following a structural engineer's report, parts of the churchyard wall are showing deterioration and need rebuilding. The Parish Council is in the process of getting quotes for the work but is expecting the work to be in excess of £10,000. As the report does not warrant immediate action, the Parish Council plans to build up a reserve but will review the position when preparing the 2008/2009 budget. It will continue to monitor the situation regarding the condition of the wall.
- h. Following recent problems within the village, the Parish Council aims to keep the village free from vandalism.
- i. The Chairman expressed the view that the biggest threat the Parish Council faces in the future will come from the possibility of major housing development on the outskirts of the village boundary, through private development schemes. As the area remains the target for Central Government redevelopment, we cannot be complacent that the only development plans will be restricted just to the North-East of Daventry. Most Badby residents would like to preserve the village within its current size and unique natural beauty..

## **6. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **BADBY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

We have about 110 members who support the committee of thirteen.

Annual events are the quiche and wine evening in February, the spring plant sale in May, a garden lunch in June, a coach outing in July, the Annual Show in September and a themed AGM in October. Last year it was pumpkins, this year badgers.

A new venture this year is to hold an open gardens afternoon in Badby on June 10 to raise money for the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Ambulance charity. We would be very pleased to have one or two more volunteers to open their gardens – it does not have to be an especially large garden!

Geoff Pullin

Chairman

### **BADBY FAYRE 2006**

The two-yearly fayre took place last September to raise money for St Mary's Church building. At least two hundred people were involved in setting it up and running it. It seems to have been a happy community event again and raised £4,400.

Any new ideas and volunteers for 2008 will be most welcome!

Geoff Pullin

Chairman

### **BELLRINGING**

The bells are rung about 100 times a year.

On average 6-7 people ring for all church services except the 8am ones. This includes about 2 weddings and one funeral a year.

On practice nights we usually have around 13 people including several regularly from nearby villages. Three youngsters from the village started to learn to ring last September.

The village school children rang handbells at Christmas and recently we had the Brownie troop to visit the tower.  
The bells are in good condition. Two new ropes last year cost £310.  
We are always pleased to see anyone on Wednesday evenings from 6.45pm to see what goes on. We miss the far more curious visitors who used to stay at the youth hostel!  
Geoff Pullin  
Tower Captain

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Read Dr C Cripps

“Neighbourhood Watch is still active in the village and our membership continues to rise. However, we would still like to see more people joining as the wider the membership becomes the more rapidly can information and warnings of scams or crimes be circulated. Members have no commitment to attend meetings, although they are welcome to do so, and we have no subscriptions. Information and warnings are relayed by the Police directly to members by email and we link members without computers to those that have to pass on information by telephone.

We are fortunate to live in a part of the county which is relatively quiet from the point of view of crime but this is no consolation to anyone who is a victim. It is up to us all to do our bit to make the village as unpopular as possible to the criminal fraternity and especially to give support and help to our more vulnerable neighbours. This is what NHW is all about.

Last year at the time of this meeting there had just been a very nasty burglary in the village. Since then there have been two unsuccessful attempts to break into buildings and various incidents of damage to vehicles and property. There were also the curious incidents of the wheelie bins and nameplates which appeared in the night. At our recent meeting it became apparent that some minor incidents were not being reported to the Police. Norman Bareham, our PCSO, is very keen that this should be rectified. He makes the point that while he cannot, of course, correct every nuisance that occurs he can try and has powers to help him. What is certain is that he can do nothing if he is not informed. He has been in post for a year now but unfortunately had a prolonged period off work following an injury on duty last year. He will be a great asset as our ‘Village Bobby’ albeit with fifteen other villages as his patch. I hope he will be able to introduce himself to the meeting this evening.

Finally it has been noted that our signs in some cases are past their sell-by dates and are badly faded. We intend to replace these and will ask to resite some to give a better display. We hope the council will support us in this.”

## **THE POLICE**

PCSO Bareham introduced himself and explained the new initiative of Safer Community Team policing. He listed the statistics for crime in the village over the last 12 months and was alarmed at the amount which had taken place. PCSO stated that Neighbourhood Watch is an important link with the Police Force and thanked them for their help. He added that communication is a huge part of policing and encouraged everyone to help.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Bareham for his report.

## **7. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS**

- a. There has been a spate of incidents where dogs have been running off lead chasing sheep. This is of concern and dog walkers were asked to ensure that their dogs do not become a nuisance.
- b. Following on from that discussion, PCSO Bareham gave the name of the new Dog Warden in Daventry (Clare Preddy).
- c. A Councillor asked whether any action had been taken following the fatal accident involving a motorcyclist and a coach in 2006. It was believed that the coach company had been prosecuted.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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## **MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2008**

5 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair.

Also in attendance were Parish Councillors Mrs Karen Alexander, Mr Gary Bell, Mrs Sheila Gillings, Mr Steve Robson and Mr Mike Warburton; Parish Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster; PCSO Norman Bareham; County Councillor Robin Brown and District Councillor Tony Scott.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from Parish Councillor Peter Banks.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by K Alexander, seconded by M Warburton and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

Due to the need for various members to attend other Annual Parish Meetings and absences from the meeting at the time, the running order of the agenda was changed accordingly.

### **4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

I was very pleased to be re-elected to Daventry District Council as representative for the Badby Ward for the third term last May.

Following my election victory I was also pleased to be elected, by my peers, to be Vice-Chairman of the Council leading to the Chairmanship for 2008-2009. This will involve a very busy schedule of meetings and ceremonies representing the Council as a whole but more importantly representing, in a very positive way, the image of Daventry. In view of the forthcoming commitments I have resigned my position, as Chairman of Staverton School Governors but remain a LEA Governor and Member of DDC Planning Committee.

Daventry has been my adopted home for the last thirty-two years, twenty-eight of them living in Staverton. I have seen many changes and the expansion of Daventry from a market town to what it is today. This growth is expected to continue until the population of Daventry has doubled by the year 2021. With this expansion we expect to see businesses and retail outlets to flourish bringing further prosperity to our region. The alternative would be to allow Daventry to stagnate, to become a commuter town for larger cities and to die during the daytime leaving children and parents no leisure facilities or reasonable retail outlets.

The Town Centre Vision and the proposed Marina are still part of an ongoing consultation document, which sets out ideas and a vision for the future. The Council

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primarily wishes to protect its villages and guide expansion of the district in the town. By increasing the population we attract retail outlets, leisure facilities, better transport and more importantly better educational facilities. The Council have been heavily criticised for suggesting a new marina along Eastern Way but retail outlets have welcomed this exciting proposal and the Education Authorities are seriously considering a University for IT on a site overlooking the facility. The Council have pledged financial support for this but we expect funding to be met by Government, the Education Authorities and businesses.

Unfortunately this year saw a massive reduction in the Government Grant requiring the Council to make efficiency savings of £1.3million in 2008/9. This has resulted in a Council Tax increase of 4.3% or 9p per week on an average band D property. No matter how undesirable this increase is Daventry is still in the lowest 25% of Council Tax levels throughout the Country.

The Council transferred its housing stock to a newly formed Housing Association and this is now attracting massive investment for improvements to the stock for the benefit of its tenants.

Locally in Badby, Newnham and Staverton the greatest disappointment has been the closure of the Post Offices. Despite my collection of signatures for a petition, written representations from many residents of the area and Local M.P. Tim Boswell and prospective candidate for the next election Chris Heaton-Harris, the closures went ahead on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. At the eleventh hour I arranged a meeting with the Post Office Management, in Staverton village hall with representatives from the Parish Councils and the Over 50's representative, Richard Bird. Everyone made very solid arguments and despite the fact that a lot of the information and statistics were wrong it was clear that the only measure taken into consideration by the Post Office was that there was another Post office within three miles, Daventry. We explained the difficulties already and the proposed expansion of the town but they were still determined to close the village Post Offices and reduce the Town Centre counters from seven to five. The Post Mistress, Jenny Fell at Hellidon, who wanted to retire, courageously offered the closure of Hellidon instead of Staverton. But this was rejected. The situation was a tragic farce!

Representation was submitted to the House of Commons Select Committee but it was outside their remit to stop the closures. They did heavily criticise the consultation process as being "opaque and a complete sham" and recommended changes for the next round but this was not sufficient to help us. The closures took place at the end of March much to the sorrow of the residents and the shame of this Government. If anyone, through the Chair, would like to raise any point I will try and answer but if I can't or the explanation would be too complicated or lengthy then I will write to you at a later date with, I hope a more comprehensive reply.

Tony Scott

Councillor Daventry District Council

Q. What is the timescale for the marina in Daventry?

A. The DDC are still looking at the finance and design needs. Consultation ends in September 2008 and then a review of the situation will take place. The DDC

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are getting very encouraging reactions from businesses already within the town.

Q. What is happening regarding the garages on Pound Lane?

A. When they were part of the Council housing section, they were due to be demolished. TS would now look into the matter and report back to the Parish Council. MR reported that the DDC had previously advised that ownership and, therefore, responsibility was under review. The PC has tried to verify but to no avail so far.

### **5. REPORT BY POLICE**

PCSO Norman Bareham reported that Safer Community Teams have been formed. There have been increased in reported crime due to the fact that some crime went unreported before the advent of the SCT. There is a change of both Sargeant and Inspector and an overall scaling down. PCSO NB has been working in a completely different area for the last few weeks.

Crime figures are:

<b>Crime committed</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>This year</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Violent crime	2	0	Including domestic
Robbery	1	0	
Burglary of dwelling	4	5	3 distraction in Neneside Close.
Burglary	3	13	Sheds mainly in one night
Theft from vehicle	1	13	Team operating before Christmas
Theft of vehicle	1	2	
Vehicular interference	0	1	
Vehicular damage	0	1	
Theft	4	1	Park Close
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35 recorded in Badby</b>

Q. Because of the movement of officers, is police attendance in Badby now less regular?

A. Resources are moved to the busy areas but PCSO NB stated that he believes resources have to be left where they are – to be sure that someone is “looking after the shop”. PCSO NB commented that although he is working outside of the area at the moment, he has also been visiting his normal beat during his own time, making sure that his face is seen.

### **6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months:

a. The unaudited figures for 2007-2008 were reported at the last Parish Council meeting. They show expenditure of £18,218 and income of £2,238, compared with budgeted expenditure of £17,680 this means a surplus of expenditure of £538. This figure does include budgeted payment of £2,000 to the Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council has received a bill for @£900 for election costs but this will be paid over the next three years.

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- b. Projects have taken place over the last 12 months dealing with the trees, greens and the cemetery. In summer last year, the Community Service helped to clear the stream at Brookside Lane and also the hedging around the Village Hall.
- c. The goal posts are now completely installed at the Playing Field and the Parish Council made an £800 donation to Badby Cricket Club to help with the costs of the new cricket pavilion.
- d. Looking ahead, there are planned maintenance projects involving the trees, greens, cemetery and churchyard wall.
- e. It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Parish Councillor James Justice at the end of 2007. M Richards reported that the Parish Council has lost one of its main supporters.

### **3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The last twelve months have been very interesting on two counts firstly my personal involvement as Lead Security Member and Chairman of the Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee, secondly the introduction of the Empowerment Funds that each County Councillor has to use in their wards to improve community cohesion and create a local involvement for all councillors.

The Scrutiny function within the County Council is the way that the non-executive elected members can become involved in fully understanding various aspects of the services provided; their effectiveness and the way they are changing through funding difficulties. My own role allows me to be involved on a very regular basis (three days per week) and I have led the full review of the Scrutiny function that will change the way the scrutiny process works providing greater flexibility as well as a more efficient use of resource.

The County Council along with other Councils in Northamptonshire has continued to be penalised by Central Government in that the comprehensive spending review settlement was yet again less than the real cost of inflation in local government plus did not include for the significant growth in population of the County since 2001. As the Central Government funding accounts for up to 70% of the budget spent this puts severe pressure on the Council Tax Rate set by the County.

The re-organisation of the Services and the Employees currently underway has started to produce the savings required to keep the rate of increase of the local tax to the level of inflation as measured by RPI whilst continuing to provide for the extra support give to the Police (as last year). The Highways Contract has now been awarded to a new consortium and Atkins hand over from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. I look forward to that change producing improvements in service.

Finally I look forward to 2008 being a successful year with improving services and no increases in Council Tax above inflation. During the next twelve months I look forward to working with the Parish Council and ensuring a suitable project is available for me to invest some of this years' empowerment money.

**Robin Brown**

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## **County Councillor – Braunston Ward**

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## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Over the last year there has been an increase in crimes in the Villages in our area Our PCSO Norman Bareham has continued to keep us informed of all the incidents that he and his colleagues have been involved in and this, compared with previous lack of information, has made the changes more noticeable and more worrying. However, there is a real increase in the crime statistics although Badby has fared better than some of our neighbours.

The crime figures for Badby rose from 16 last year to 35. The statistics tend to exaggerate the number of individual crimes as the same incident can be recorded more than once under different headings. The theft of a car by stealing the keys from the house is recorded both as theft from a dwelling and as theft of a vehicle. Similarly Theft from a car by breaking a window is counted under vehicle damage and theft from a vehicle. Even allowing for this and that most of the incidents took place in connected raids on two or three days the increases are of concern. In the past there were easier pickings for thieves in the Town but changes in policing there has made them look further afield.

What can we do about this? In the first place we need to be alert. In the Village we know each other and the usual vehicles that are about. A person or vehicle that does not seem right should be reported to the Police with as much detail as possible—a licence number, of course, being a great help. If the person has good reason to be there, no harm is done but your little bit of information can add to others to complete a picture. It was just such a small piece of information which led to the uncovering of major crime in the villages just south of us.

What else? The advice to make ourselves less vulnerable to crime is boringly the same. It has to be because we fail to take it!

Make sure your house is secure not only when you are out but also when working in the garden or garage.

Do not leave car keys on view.

Lock your car even if you are only going to leave it for a short time.

Do not leave anything in your car [it may be worthless to you but think of the hassle of window repairs or worse]

Do not buy anything from cold callers.

Do not let anyone into your home until you have proved their identity

Make outbuildings secure. This can be impossible and it may be best to store expensive tools or mowers elsewhere.

## **D R A F T**

Beware the telephone or letter scam. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is not true no matter how persuasive the caller.  
Consider joining Neighbourhood watch!

We are looking into a property marking scheme called Smartwater which has proved successful elsewhere. For the moment- watch this space.

Dr C Cripps

### **9. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS**

- a. D Wilson reported that the Badby website is now updated on a more regular basis. The minutes and agendas for the Parish Council are shown. There are three Community organisations which have yet to provide information for the website. These are the WI, Brownies and Village Hall. D Wilson also mentioned that there is a spot for showing future village events.
- b. D Wilson is looking for old photographs of Badby to load onto the Badby website. It was agreed that a notice also be put into the Parish Council newsletter.
- c. D Wilson requested that the unaudited Annual Accounts of the Parish Council be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that this be done in 2009.
- d. Due to the fact that the Annual Parish Meetings for Badby, Newnham and Hellidon had all fallen on the same night, causing some inconvenience for PCSO Bareham, County Councillor Brown and District Councillor Scott, it was agreed that the date for next year's meeting be set now. Therefore, the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, to coincide again with the normal Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

DATE

**MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2009**

7 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair.

Also in attendance were Parish Councillors Mrs Karen Alexander, Mr Peter Banks, Mrs Sheila Gillings, Mrs Sally Halson, Mr Steve Robson and Mr Mike Warburton; Parish Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster and PCSO Sarah Gray.

**1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from County Councillor Robin Brown and District Councillor Tony Scott.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by D Wilson, seconded by M Warburton and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

**3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

In the absence of County Councillor Robin Brown, Mike Richards read out his report.

This report marks the final year of the current administrations period in control of the County Council, elections for a new term take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The last twelve months have been both frustrating yet in some ways very rewarding. The frustration continues to be caused by the exceedingly slow way that change is enacted within the Council. The rewards are that there is evidence of a different culture and attitude from the Council and a greater commitment to put the needs of the customers, us the residents, first.

There is now a new team of executives managing the Council resources with a clear remit to be improving services whilst reducing cost. Increasing access to services and making extra efforts to understand the needs and requirements of service users. Too often a “one size” fits all approach has been the accepted way, in future the needs of the individual, the local community, as well as the County as a whole, must be considered.

In Badby the village has suffered by a lack of investment in the Highways and the fact is the extreme weather earlier this year only exacerbated the problem. There is no easy answer albeit the new Highways Partnership that replaced the Atkins Contractors have made many improvements not least the fact they are consulting locally and working in the rural areas better than the previous contractor. The Parish Council is to my mind an important sounding board of local opinion and I have continued to make myself available whenever practical, I look forward to your Chairman advising me of the priorities you wish to pursue that I may continue to support you and get your voice heard.

The Empowering Councillors funding scheme has allowed me to work closely with all the Parishes and I expect that scheme to be available in the coming year. Other major issues I have been involved in this year are about scrutinising the County's policies as Lead Scrutiny member for the County this has provided me with a broad understanding of the way the Council works hence my frustration about things taking so long to be effective!

Finally, in my opinion, it is important that the cost to us all is minimised and that the Council Tax is maintained at as low a rate as possible, in Northamptonshire we have the lowest County Council Band D Tax rate in the Country and I will always work for that to be the case.

**Robin Brown**  
**County Councillor**

#### **4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

In the absence of District Councillor Tony Scott, Sharon Foster read out his report.

This year has been an incredibly busy year as I was appointed Chairman of the Council for twelve months from May 2008. This has involved me in over seventy civic events representing the District Council and raising funds for my three chosen charities, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Nurses. Over the year I have hardly had a free weekend and together with the work involved for the Council at meetings during the week, my wife and I have cycled around Silverstone racing circuit, walked eight miles both in the pouring rain and a gale for charity, as well as attending Daventry Youth Orchestra evening where I heard the best jazz improvisation I have ever heard, and the average age is only fourteen years. It has been extremely busy but an interesting and enjoyable one.

The main event of the year for the District Council has been the loss of £8 million in the Icelandic Banks. As many of you may know the Council is funded in three separate ways; from Government grants, which get less each year; from Council Tax, which is capped at 4.5 percent; and from investing its capital reserves to provide interest for revenue funding. Over the last four years, the Council along with 23 other authorities including the Government's own Audit Commission, several hospitals, Police Authorities and other Local Authorities invested over £197 million in the Icelandic Banking System. Six days before the collapse of the banks the Council were still being advised that the banks were still a safe investment. To be honest if we had been told something was wrong a decision would have to be made whether to withdraw the funding and pay a penalty for doing so, probably causing an early collapse of the bank and the advise may have just been a rumour. Some of the error however was due to miss-management by the Council staff, as they did not strictly follow guidelines and this has been dealt with by disciplinary action and further changes in the process of investments for the future.

Half of the investment was in Icelandic banks based in England, whose assets were frozen at the break of the crisis and half in Iceland itself. The Council are therefore optimistic that at least half, if not all the investments will be returned in due course and have joined a consortium to lobby its return by the Icelandic Government. I am sorry for the short report but as you can see from above the majority of my time has been spent flying the flag for Daventry.

If they are any questions please let the Parish Clerk have the details and I will try and respond as soon as possible.

**Tony Scott**  
**District Councillor**

**5. REPORT BY POLICE**

PCSO Sarah Gray had been called away from the meeting. In her absence, Mike Richards read out her report.

PCSO Sarah Gray reported  
 Crime figures are:

<b>Crime committed</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>This year</b>
Burglary of dwelling	5	0
Burglary	13	2
Theft from vehicle	13	4
Theft of vehicle	2	3
Vehicular interference	1	0
Criminal damage	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>

As an area overall, the crime has decreased and this has reflected in Badby's figures.

Across the whole of our SCT, crime is on the up, so let's not become complacent and leave our doors open or valuables in our cars for all to see.

“Smart water” is a property-marking kit available at a reduced cost from your NHW. In areas where Smart Water has been used, there has been a significant drop in crime. Signage can go up and stickers for your doors and windows come with the kit.

Surgery dates – I have met some young people of the village and all are welcome for a chat or an opportunity to discuss worries or concerns. Next date - 8<sup>th</sup> June 6-7pm.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or anyone on the Daventry Rural South Team if you are worried or concerned about events going on in your area.

Our telephone number has changed from 0845 3700 700 to 03000 111 222. However, you can contact us on both numbers.

Community Panel Meetings are held every three months for the Staverton Beat, residents from all the villages are welcome to attend and voice their concerns. The dates are available on the Police website, in the local press and posters.

Get in touch.

[Sarah.gray@northants.police.uk](mailto:Sarah.gray@northants.police.uk)

[SCTDaventryRuralSouth@northants.police.uk](mailto:SCTDaventryRuralSouth@northants.police.uk)

PCSO Sarah Gray

## **6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months:

- a) Over the past 12 months, it was noted that the churchyard wall has had repairs made to it. The Parish Council had put aside £7,000 for these repairs but the cost of repairs was only £2,000 and the Parish Council had been received £1,500 of Empowerment Funding from NCC towards the work. A new pathway has been laid in the cemetery with the help of the Community Service team. The shed in the cemetery has been cleaned up and re-roofed and there is a new memorial bench. The garages in Pound Lane have been demolished and the decision now has to be made as to whether to do anything with the area.
- b) The budget for the financial year 2008-2009 was set at £22,630 of expenditure but actual expenditure came in at £18,324. At the end of the financial year, the Parish Council had £13,300 in its bank accounts.
- c) Present issues being considered by the Parish Council are repairs and maintenance of the village hall, the state of the car tracks in the playing field, the pathway in the cemetery and the motocross at Arbury Hill. These will be reported on during the monthly Parish Council meetings.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Read by SW who presented the Chairman's apologies that he was unable to attend. Badby NHW continues to thrive and our numbers steadily grow. However, we still would like to increase our membership further. The more members, the more pairs of eyes, the greater chance that anything at all suspicious will be seen and noted.

The Police rely on information in crime detection and prevention. Of course anyone can report suspicious activity but NHW makes this slightly easier and we can also collect information on the little things that are not thought big enough in themselves to justify a call to the Police. One person's small detail may mean nothing by itself but can be of great use when added to the information from others.

The Badby group holds two meetings each year but members do not need to attend unless they wish and there is no subscription fee.

Information from the Police is sent to members almost daily by email and those without computers are linked to a telephone cascade whereby urgent messages can be quickly passed on, including to others who are not themselves members of the group. Any suspicious events can be reported by members to the Police on the special NHW contact number and there is a feed-back on the outcome. But there is no suggestion at any time that members should confront crime themselves.

During the past year we have arranged and supplied several members with 'SmartWater' kits to mark household possessions. These identify marked items to their owner. The marking is almost invisible except under UV light and is very difficult to remove.

The system has been shown to be a deterrent to crime and, because of this, SmartWater has been issued free by the Police to residents in areas of high risk. We in Badby do not fall into this category, but the firm offers a good discount for kits bought through a NHW scheme and this is an additional benefit of membership. The ideal would be for everyone in the Village to be a member and we would be grateful for any publicity the Parish Council can give to help to achieve this aim.

C. M. Cripps Chairman 702735

S. Wilson Secretary 300659

## **9. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS**

- a) B Markham raised the matter of the bus service provided to the village and his concerns that the service is inadequate. He noted that he is part of the parking consultation team in Daventry and they have been considering the need for better public transport from the outlying villages. Tim Cantwell, Corporate Strategy Manager at DDC, is heading the consultation committee. M Richards advised that the Parish Council had been in contact with Geoff Amos Coaches and had reported to the Parish Council that no changes in the timetable or route could be accommodated. The Clerk had already been in contact with Major Markham and had followed that up with Mr J Ellerby, Principal Bus & Rail Officer at NCC. The Parish Council is currently awaiting response from Mr Ellerby. It was agreed that the Parish Council will continue to pursue this matter through the relevant channels.
- b) D Wilson raised the matter of moves for a reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 50mph throughout Northamptonshire and his hopes that the Parish Council would give this matter its support. M Richards reported that he had spoken to the press and raised concerns that policing and enforcement also needs to be taken into consideration. S Wilson remarked that the matter affects everyone in the villages and the matter needs support. She believes that the limits need to be in place and then speed cameras can follow.
- c) D Wilson remarked that the Chairman had mentioned earlier a request for money from the Village Hall Management Committee. He felt disappointed that no-one from the VHMC was present at the meeting to make a report to the Parish. K Alexander and P Banks noted that the AGM will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June and members of the public are welcome to attend that meeting and speak.
- d) S Wilson commented that she was pleased to see so many people in the village over the Bluebell weekend.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

DATE

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## **MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 17TH MAY 2010**

9 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair.

Also in attendance were Parish Councillors Mrs Karen Alexander, Mr Peter Banks, Mr Mike Warburton, District Councillor Tony Scott, County Councillor Robin Brown, and the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from County Councillor Robin Brown although he was able to arrive late at the meeting.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was noted that the report from Neighbourhood Watch had been omitted from the minutes. These will be added. Also, Sue Wilson requested the change of “cars” to “people” on item 9d. It was proposed by K Alexander, seconded by M Warburton and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, incorporating the above changes, should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

### **3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

In the absence of County Councillor Robin Brown, Mike Richards read out his report.

Following a successful election in June I was invited by the Leader of the Administration to become the Cabinet member for Health & Adult Social Services (HASS). Currently this means I am involved at least four days each week. The HASS budget is the largest directly controlled by the County (Education budget now passported to Schools direct)

The County Council has and is facing a very difficult time with funding being forecast to reduce by up to 15%, we are continuing to review and reshape the way services are delivered, the fact that we all want “Good Services” at “lowest cost” to us individually makes for very difficult decisions and of setting the right priorities. More on Highways less on Social Services or less spent on Admin and more on Education may be what some people would want. The reality is that as only 25% of the County Councils budget is raised from the local Council Tax (our aim continues to be that we raise local tax by no more than inflation) therefore Central Government control the vast majority of the Services we deliver. In consequence the impact of our Administration has been very slow to emerge. However the focus is firmly on being a smaller and more enabling Council, recognising that the most vulnerable in the County continue to be a priority. Let’s not forget we have a rapidly ageing population that need more services albeit the growth in the County may help in the short term eventually we must look at different ways to deliver services.

This will take the form of more partnership working NHS/PCT with the County Council; Districts & Boroughs combining services; many public bodies sharing

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“backroom” functions (NCC now linked to Cambridge County Council for IT, HR, Payroll admin and back office finance).

Further use will be made of the “Third Sector” voluntary & charity organisations plus the commissioning of services that specialists can deliver at better value than the Council. (Retirement Homes, Waste Disposal, Home Help services plus many others)

Further I am pleased to confirm that the Empowerment Funding for County Councillors will be available in this next year and I am looking at helping Youth projects in particular albeit should you have a specific issue that will help your local community then I would be very happy to be of assistance.

Finally I will close this report not knowing or forecasting the outcome of the General Election however whatever its result you can be assured I will continue to work with the Parish Council of Badby to the best of my ability.

**Robin Brown**

**County Councillor**

### **4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

I do not want this report to be seen as a Party Political broadcast and therefore I will concentrate on the events that effect DDC and in particular the Badby Ward which I represent.

Following my previous twelve months as Chairman of the Council, the last twelve months has been equally busy and not all of it negative.

As most of you know, Daventry Council were unfortunate enough to put £8million into Icelandic Banking. I do not want to open the debate on why this was necessary but, needless to say, with the collapse of their system, the chances that DDC would lose the whole amount of money invested was great and the consequences dire. However, we never say due and at the moment the council are extremely confident that we will recover at least 80% of the money invested. Whilst this is moderately good news, it does mean the Council has lost £1.5 million of the initial investment and at least two years' interest. The Council therefore has been proactive in protecting its services and ensuring the taxpayer gets value for money. Discussions and negotiations are already taking place with South Northants and Kettering Councils to enable job sharing to take place in such things as legal services and refuse collection and this is hoped to expand into other services.

The current administration are pledged to protect our villages and community and to this end we oppose any expansion of our villages except through natural growth. We have agreed to the expansion of Daventry but opposed the commercial expansion proposed on three sites around the town. We were delighted that the Public Enquiry supported our views and agreed to the development of Monksmoor and rejected two other proposals which would see the development of a further 9,150 dwellings. We have supported and encouraged Parish councils to carry out a Village Design Statement. This will help planning decisions and in protecting important open spaces and views.

In line with the Council's pledge on Council Tax, the Council has again increased the Council Tax by the rate of inflation at 2.4%. This is a £120.57p levy on a Band D property, an annual increase of £2.83p or 5p per week. Again, the Council is within the lowest quartile of every Local Authority in the country and the lowest in the County.

Along with the proposed development of housing in Daventry, there is a determination at the Council that Daventry will not be allowed to stagnate. We have

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seen the redevelopment of the Working Men's site along Welton Road, providing a much improved and appreciated facility as well as modern retail outlets. We can see the current development of the iCon scheme which will provide University standard of education in IT and building efficiency as well as a large communal facility with a concert hall and tea rooms for the general public to enjoy. We will continue with the development of the waterfront site along Eastern Way, including the old pitch and putt site, the outdoor swimming pool site and Brook Street. Plans are well in advance to see the redevelopment of the library site and Primrose Hill, with further shops and a new modern up-to-date library.

To me, this is all very exciting and at times exhausting but I hope the public appreciate the effort and dedication of its elected Members and Officers to do as always the best we can for the public and to enhance and protect the lives of those we serve.

**Tony Scott**  
**District Councillor**

District Councillor Scott then invited questions.

Q1. What is your policy on wind farms?

A1. District Councillor Scott was not able to state his policy as he is a member of the Planning Committee. He did say that two applications for wind farms have been received by DDC and both were refused. However, every application has to be taken on its own merits. He did believe that a national plan is needed to see how many wind farms are needed and how many. When asked whether this was being pursued by DDC with the Government, District Councillor Scott noted that there are 34 required for Northamptonshire but did not understand why this number is so high when Northamptonshire is statistically one of the least windy areas.

Q2. The Conservative manifesto makes mention of helping councils to freeze Council tax for the next two years. District Councillor Scott was asked whether this is something that DDC will be taking up with the new government.

A2. It was noted that the budgets for this financial year have already been set and so it remains to be seen next year.

A member of the public then directed the same question to the Parish Council to which the Chairman reiterated the above.

Q3. It is understood by members of the public that local farmers have been approached with regards to wind farms and the question was asked as to whether there is a way of finding out about such applications.

A3. It was noted that the Parish Council would be approached for its views in the usual way. Also, the DDC website shows all planning applications.

Q4. Have Parish Council rights' been taken away by the banning of attendance at planning site visits?

A4. It was noted that Parish Councils can carry out their own site visits although they have to be with the consent of the land owner. The reason for no longer allowing attendance at site visits is a question of health and safety. At this point, the matter of the Parish Councillors being covered by Parish Council

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insurance was raised but the decision has already been made and cannot be revisited for another 6 months. It was agreed by many present that a way around the matter would be to train Parish Councillors on health and safety issues.

Q5. A resident gave a brief history of the scrambling activities on Arbury Hill regarding noise levels and the loss of data collected by DDC. The patience of residents is running low and the question was asked as to what the next step should be.

A5. Although District Councillor Scott is not involved in the case, he is aware that a quirk of the law allows for a specified number of meetings per year to take place without planning permissions. He was not able to comment about noise levels.

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council has written a letter of complaint to the Managing Director of DDC regarding the conduct of various DDC employees over the last few years as well as the loss of evidence showing the noise levels are unacceptable. A new employee has now been appointed and he will be calling a meeting to discuss the matter further. Copies of correspondence will be forwarded to District Councillor Scott in order that he can follow up the matter.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Scott.

### **5. REPORT BY POLICE**

Despite an invitation, no representative of the police attended the meeting.

### **6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months:

a) Accounts

The end of year accounts showed a surplus of £5,800 but this money is already committed to works in the cemetery and tree works which are due to take place. The works in the cemetery have now been completed but the account not settled as yet. The removal of one the horse chestnuts on The Green is still under arrangement. A planning application has been submitted but no contractor has yet been appointed. The current plan is to carry out half of the tree work this financial year and the second half in the financial year 2010/2011. With the receipt of a grant from NCC of £2,500 for the works to the cemetery, it is understood that the surplus will be bought down to zero.

b) Trees

As mentioned above, one horse chestnut is to be removed, with other minor works to take place following inspection.

c) Cemetery

The cemetery work has now been completed. It was agreed that the new pathway is a huge improvement and there is now a new tap by the shed.

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- d) **Playing Field**  
The Parish Council is still considering the matter of the access and vehicle track at the playing field and how to resolve the matter.
- e) **Village Hall**  
The Management Committee has been busy raising funds for the floor works which are needed. Quotations for the work are being sought.
- f) **Newsletter**  
Thanks went to the Clerk for the excellent production of the Parish newsletter which keeps villagers informed and is an excellent communication tool for Community groups.

### **7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

#### **a. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Badby NHW continues to grow steadily and we now have nearly 50 households in our group. The idea of course would be for everyone to be a member and we would be grateful for any publicity the Parish Council can give to help us achieve this aim.

The group holds two meetings each year. Members do not need to attend unless they wish and there is no subscription.

NHW allows the police to issue warnings or concerns directly to members, about for instance distraction burglaries and lately advice on car theft. For their part, members can help the community by watching out generally for each other or specifically for suspicious activities and passing on information accordingly.

Information and requests are sent by email from the Police on a regular basis and members without computers are informed by means of our telephone cascade.

During this year, we have again arranged and supplied 'SmartWater' kits to members at considerable discount. By marking household possessions with SmartWater, the items can be identified with the owner. The marking is only seen under UV light and is very difficult to remove.

You may have read recently that the lead on the roof of the church at Barby had been marked and this had helped identify those involved in its removal. After many years of hard work, Colin Cripps has recently retired as our Chairman. He is now acting as co-ordinator and attends the community panel and local NHW group meetings.

Sue Wilson has also finally managed to retire as co-ordinator and secretary. Our thanks to both. Vivian Harries is now the secretary and I am now the Chairman.

The Staverton Beat Community Panel has speeding as its priority. It has a 'Speed Profile' for the A361 in Byfield and another is to be carried out where the A361 goes through Badby. These profiles are done by an automatic recording device checking all vehicles over a week. The vehicles are not identified but if the survey shows a level of speeding, the speed van will make visits to the area. The local team also carry out hand-held speed checks in the Beat area. These have been in Byfield and Woodford Halse so far but Badby may get its turn in the future.

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Denis Wilson

## **9. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS**

- a) It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting used to be well attended - both by members of the public and Community organisations. One reason for the non-attendance by Community organisations could well be the publication of the twice yearly Parish newsletter to which some of the same organisations contribute.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**  
**DATE**

**MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2011**

3 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair. Also in attendance were County Councillor Robin Brown, Parish Councillor Mrs Karen Alexander and the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster.

**1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from District Councillor Tony Scott.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by D Wilson, seconded by S Wilson and agreed that the minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

**4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk read out the report.

Most of you will know that the Council, along with 203 other Local Authorities, Police Authorities and Charities invested in Icelandic Banks. Daventry Council, with the approval of the Government Audit Commission invested £8 million. Following the worldwide banking crash in 2008 the Council looked set to lose all of its investment.

The Council through the Local Government Association applied to be a priority creditor and the Icelandic Government granted this. However the Banks appealed and the hearings were held earlier this month. The good news is the Courts have ruled in the Council's favour and we anticipate the banks will repay 85% of the money invested.

The Council are still intending to expand the population of Daventry whilst continuing to protect our villages. Last year we announced a growth of population to 40,000 by 2020 and a natural growth in our villages, over the same period by 1,000. This is still the intention of the Council as is our commitment to improve and invest in Daventry Town. Following on from the replacement of the Working Men's Club and the development of the site providing a new Hal fords, B&Q etc. the Council in partnership with Northampton University has developed the new iCon building which will provide training and skills in building technological and innovation as well as a state of the art Concert Theatre. We are continuing with our vision for the future with further sales of building land to redevelop the library area and Eastern Way.

Unfortunately, due to Government cut back in our grant this year, which wasn't totally unexpected, the Council have been working hard towards cutting back on our spending whilst protecting front line services. We are sharing the refuse collection service with Northampton Borough forming a partnership that is cost effective and one of the cheapest and efficient collection services in the Country. We are currently looking at what savings can be made by sharing other services such as legal and financial. We have reduced our Management Team from three directors to an Executive Director and Deputy. And currently the whole staffing of the Council

Offices is under review with a goal of saving a further £1 million or 15% of the revenue budget.

I am pleased that we have been able to freeze Council tax this year and look forward to being re-elected on May 5<sup>th</sup> to continue to represent the Badby Ward and the District of Daventry.

Many Thanks

**Tony Scott, District Councillor**

### **5. REPORT BY POLICE**

No representative of the police attended the meeting.

### **6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months:

a) Accounts

MR reported that the unaudited figures for the last financial year show a £400 under budget spend overall. Income was above expectation.

Although there seems to be a lot of cash in the account, we need to be mindful of tree works which need to be carried out.

For the current financial year, there is a planned expenditure of £19,450. The precept has been raised by £1,000 to £14,000 in order to not deplete the reserves too much and safeguard against further expected tree work expenditure.

b) General

MR reported that the cemetery pathwork has been completed. There had been a recent incident in the cemetery and the Parish Council will be carrying out health and safety checks on all headstones.

A further tree inspection will be carried out on all village trees in the autumn.

The playing field is an area of concern with regards to security and access.

The Parish Council has 4 vacancies at the moment. As the quorum stands at 3 members, the low attendance may become an issue. An article will be put into the newsletter with the hope for support from villagers.

### **3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Attached.

Q1. Is NCC aware of recent requests for bus subsidy from Geoff Amos Coaches?

A1. Geoff Amos is aware that Parish Council's are not subject to precept capping and are looking for further funding. Figures show very low bus usage on certain village routes.

Q2. Does the Empowerment Funding continue into 2011/2012?

A2. Yes. This year £7,000 will be available. Bids should include an engaging community element. SW noted that when considering capital grant, Parish Councils need to consider ongoing maintenance issues.

Re wind farms, it was noted that there are currently scoping requests gone in for 13 turbines in the area. In making comments, Parish Councils are restricted in their objections as they cannot argue the viability of the turbines. They are literally restricted to objections on grounds of environmental issues. It was noted that a number of people, including MP Chris Heaton-Harris are actively lobbying against the number of wind turbines.

MR thanked RB for his attendance.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **a. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Last year continued to be a quiet year – the main local crimes being thefts of two landrovers – taken whilst their owners had jumped out to shut or open gates and also thefts which we think were at Staverton Hotel.

Badby NHW continues to have nearly 50 households in our group.

We have held two meetings during the year where we normally have police representation which is very informative.

The police issue warnings or concerns directly to members by email, for instance about distraction burglaries and lately advice on car key theft. For their part, members can help the community by watching out generally for each other or specifically for suspicious activities and passing on information accordingly.

Members without computers are informed by means of our telephone cascade. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Vivian Harries our secretary on 704521.

Colin or myself attend the Staverton Community Panel Meeting, normally held in the Crosstrees Public House in Byfield. If anyone has any issues that they would like us to raise, please contact Colin Cripps or myself.

The Staverton Beat Community Panel has speeding as its priority- the A361 at Badby and Cherwelton – the B4037 at Newnham and the Boddington road at Byfield.

The Safer Community Team will book 15 1 hour slots for enforcement cameras at these locations so beware!

Denis Wilson

## **9. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS**

- a) It was noted that the Allotment Association has paid £79 rent per annum for the last 20 years. The Parish Council was asked to look into whether it should be increased.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.53pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 14TH MAY 2012**

17 parishioners attended the meeting, with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Mike Richards, in the chair. Also in attendance were Parish Councillors Alexander, Cooper, Halson, Piner, Witcomb and Walton, and the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Sharon Foster.

**1. APOLOGIES**

These were received from District Councillor Tony Scott, County Councillor Robin Brown, Denis and Denis Wilson.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Karen Alexander, seconded by Sue Wilson and agreed that the minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting should be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

**3. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk read out the report.

This year has seen The County Council continue to invest into the future of Northamptonshire and build on the many successes that have brought us a record of achievement which is now being recognised nationally.

This February we published for the first time a four year financial plan which sets out how we will continue to streamline how the Council conducts its business. In addition to this, we also took advantage of the Government's offer to freeze council tax in 2012/13, thereby retaining the lowest county council tax in the Country.

At the heart of our budget is considerable investment for the vulnerable across our County. It sees an extra £27.5m being invested into caring for older people and providing services for young adults, this includes an extra £6m into services for the County's looked after children. We will also maintain our current levels of funding for boosting prosperity and economic growth to help the County recover from the current economic downturn.

We continue to work with our parliamentary colleagues to lobby central government to ensure that Northamptonshire receives a more equitable funding settlement. In addition to this, we have also managed to attract extra investment into the county to allow us to roll out superfast broadband across the county. We are aiming for 90 per cent of the county to have superfast broadband speeds by the end of 2015 with 100 per cent coverage by the end of 2017. This scheme will help to deliver to rural communities the massive benefits and opportunities that fast broadband connections can bring.

The County Council's excellent Empowering Councillors scheme will continue to give Members the ability to invest in their communities and support local groups and organisations. Over the previous two years, I have been able to provide funding towards improving the local playing field, which will make a real difference to the village. This scheme can make a real difference to villages such as Badby, and I look forward to receiving future bids for community led projects that I can support.

This has been a year of challenges and achievements and I will continue to work closely with parish colleagues to ensure that one of Northamptonshire's most precious assets, our rural villages are protected and are able to flourish for generations to come.

**Robin Brown, County Councillor**

#### **4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk read out the report.

Tonight I have read the report I presented to you the same time last year. Very little has changed other than the fact that the money we will receive from the Icelandic Banks could be as high as 97% of the £8 million original investment. Changes to the local authority spending have gone ahead with front line services being protected. The icon building is now up and running and it is hoped to see further developments in Daventry including a new library and University for the future.

Last year there appeared the real prospect of the Leisure Centre closing due to financial difficulties but this was seen as being unacceptable to a Town trying so hard to prosper and therefore the Council stepped in and gave the support needed to keep it going.

When the Council transferred its housing stock to Daventry District Housing, a mistake in the documentation committed the Council to pay £2.4 million in pension subscriptions for staff that were transferred. Although this was against what had been agreed, the Social landlord refused to accept responsibility. After a long legal battle the Council have been exonerated and DDH have had to accept responsibility and repay the Council all legal fees.

Unfortunately I will no longer stand as a Conservative Councillor. Having been a man made Global Warming sceptic for many years the Government's blind determination to destroy our countryside with Wind Farms was a step too far. By its own admission and statistics that are available, Wind Farms are expensive and inefficient and in such a low wind area such as the midlands, they are a complete waste of time and money. Despite this the Government have provided £400 million to speculators to get as many Wind Farms built as possible and as quickly as possible.

In November 2010 the District Council wrote to the Secretary of State explaining that we had a problem with the number of applications received and

the extra cost in terms of time and money this was causing the Local Authority and asked if they could be phased in as part of a national programme. This suggestion was rejected. We wrote to the Secretary of State again asking if we could take into account the efficiency of the Wind Farms in determining the planning application. We were told that this was irrelevant. We asked if, like other parts of Europe, Scotland and Northern Ireland, could we have a minimum distance from domestic dwellings and a wind turbine. We were told no. Chris Heaton-Harris M.P. tabled a ten minute bill asking if property owners could be compensated for loss of value due to the close proximity to Wind Farms. The Government would not afford any time for the bill to be debated. A petition signed by over 100 M.P.'s asking the Government to reduce the subsidy and promotion of on shore Wind Farms was ignored.

Last month the District Council wrote to the Secretary of State asking for a review of the Planning Inspectorate having seen three planning application decisions for Wind Farms being overturned by the Inspector on the instructions of the Government. The response has been to look at it in the future.

Matters are due to get worse with the scrapping of most of the Planning Policy Guidelines and replacing them with clear instructions to approve development "unless there are compelling reasons to object". This will cost the Tax payers hundreds of thousands of pounds in planning appeals to protect our villages and countryside.

I will be standing for election on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May as an Independent candidate. Regretfully no other member of the Planning Committee felt inclined to do the same.

I would like to thank Badby Parish Council and its residents for their support over the last twelve years and if I am elected I am still only a 'phone call away if any of you require help or assistance in any District Council business.

**Tony Scott, District Councillor**

Sue Wilson added the following:

I would like to say a few words about our immediate past District Councillor Tony Scott by way of recognition and thanks for all his hard work on our behalf over the last 12 years. Just to select 3 things.

First, he put a great deal of time and effort into improving highway safety on the A361, especially after a series of fatal accidents. He helped achieve the new speed limits, new signage and the regrading of the bend between the Newnham – Staverton crossroads and the bypass.

Second, he supported this Council and those most affected in bringing the noise nuisance from the motocross events on Arbury Hill under control.

And, thirdly, he could always be relied upon to do his utmost to protect our wonderful unspoilt countryside from inappropriate development, and especially from wind farms.

When he took over from our previous District Councillor, I can well remember telling him that he had a hard act to follow in Lady Dent.

I find I can now say precisely the same thing to his successors, our new District Councillors. You have a hard act to follow in Tony Scott, and I wish you every success.

## **5. REPORT BY POLICE**

No representative of the police attended the meeting.

## **6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reviewed the past 12 months. Following last year's election, the Parish Council had five Councillors. However, since then four new members have been co-opted and we now have a far better representation of the village.

The trees on The Green are an ongoing issue and regular reports and inspections have taken place. The latest report, carried out earlier this month, shows that the work carried out to the trees in September was good and the trees show no sign of further damage. The recommendation was to continue to monitor the trees.

Health and safety inspections have been carried out in the cemetery following an accident with some headstones being laid down as a consequence. Regular inspections will continue to make sure that they remain safe.

The unaudited accounts for year 2011/2012 show the Parish Council coming in under budget by @£4,000. However, this underspend has already been earmarked for works to the trees on The Green as well as all the other trees in the village. Income shows £2,100 which was bolstered by the receipt of a £1,500 grant from NCC.

A member of the public asked a question regarding the tree on Pinfold Green which was removed a few weeks ago. The Chairman reported that the tree had been the responsibility of NCC and a report had been carried out on all three trees some months ago. However, when the work was due to be carried out, one of the trees had deteriorated considerably and so, on health and safety grounds, NCC had taken the decision to remove the tree. It was noted that there is a national problem with disease in horse chestnut trees.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **a. BADBY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Report attached.

### **b. WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Report attached.

### **c. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Report read out by Sue Wilson.

Badby Neighbourhood Watch held its last meeting at the end of March. This gave us the opportunity to meet two of our local PCSOs, Matt Atkins and Les Conopo who came in the absence of Carl Barton. Matt gave us an update on crimes which had happened since our last meeting in October.

These included 1 Theft from a motor vehicle and three lots of criminal damage to motor vehicles. There had also been a theft from a farm building; criminal damage to a gate; and some builder's materials were stolen from a property in the village

It is of course a pity that there has been this much crime but we are in fact very fortunate to live in such a quiet and relatively trouble free place as Badby.

We normally attend The Staverton Beat Community Panel where we meet others from surrounding parishes and our PCSOs to discuss relevant topics and set policing priorities.

At the moment, the priority is speeding on the A361... so be warned.

The next meeting will be held at The Cross Tree in Byfield on the 12<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30. Any parishioner is welcome to come and perhaps the PC might consider sending a representative.

Our membership remains stable but we are always looking for new members – it costs nothing, includes reduced cost for Smartwater kits and you receive crime information by email. Please contact me or Viv Harris on 704521 if you would like to join us.

Denis Wilson

### **d. BADBY WEBSITE**

Report read out by Sue Wilson

I / Denis thought that this would be a good time to give an update on the Parish Council's website [www.badby.org.uk](http://www.badby.org.uk) . This has been operating in its present form since 2008.

The number of hits or visitors to the site is constantly recorded and appears to be growing.

Last autumn we were getting around 800 hits a month. In the last 90 days however we have had well over 3k (3285 including 1088 in April alone). The favourite page in April (200+ hits) was the History of the Woods, and over the Bluebell Sunday weekend alone there were more than 90 visitors. Village and Local Events (132) , In and Around Badby (121), Parish Council (95) and Local Services (71) also attract interest in that order.

This all goes to show how much attention the site is actually receiving.

Perhaps some local societies could use the Events page more and local businesses could use The Local Services page to a greater extent. It will cost them absolutely nothing as it is all for free.

Interestingly I have been contacted over the last 6 months by several people trying to trace their ancestors and in particular one from Germany and two from America tracing their family from a person named Roote who lived in Badby in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. A family descendant actually visited Badby last month and another is planning to come later this year.

This web site serves as a showcase for the Parish. The more information about us the better so I would particularly ask that village groups let me have up to date material about their activities and events. Perhaps PClrs could help please by prodding their any friends involved in groups to do so.

e. **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Our first event of this year was the Wine and Cheese evening at Newnham Village Hall in February, at which our speaker was Hilary Mensah on Sandpits and Floating Gardens: Growing Food in Bangladesh. This was an excellent presentation enjoyed by all who attended. The excellent spread of home cooked food was, as always, very well received.

Our next event was the Spring Plant Sale in Badby Village Hall on Sunday 13 May, there were stalls from local nurseries as well as donated plants, a sale of second-hand gardening books and homemade cakes and refreshments.

Other events for the year include an evening visit to Johnnie Amos' garden in Flore on Thursday 21 June, a coach trip being jointly organised with Boddington Garden Club to Ashwood Nurseries in Staffordshire on July 15<sup>th</sup>, our annual Show on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a further joint coach trip to RHS Gardens at Wisley on September 16<sup>th</sup>, our AGM and Quiz Night on October 19<sup>th</sup> and finally the Christmas Crafts Evening on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to join the Society or would like any further information on any of our events, please contact Zelda or Pete Shapter on 01327 872118 or [zelda@peteshapter.co.uk](mailto:zelda@peteshapter.co.uk)

Zelda Shapter

f. **BADBY CRICKET CLUB**

No report.

David MacIntyre

g. **MOUNTAIN BIKE AREA**

A member of the public asked whether it would be possible to work with the Parish Council to do repair and maintenance work to the BMX track at the playing field. It was agreed that further discussion needs to take place.

h. **BADBY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

Pauline Hartshorn asked for it to be reported that all the allotments are currently taken and there is a waiting. Ian Bromwich, as secretary to the Allotment Society, will always add names to it.

i. **BADBY JUBILEE COMMITTEE**

Report attached.

j. **BADBY & DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY**

Report attached.

The Chairman thanked all those who had sent in reports and noted that it was encouraging to see so much participation in the village.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS**

- a) Zelda Shapter reported that a resident of Neneside Close would like to make a sign for the village. She had bought along an example. It was agreed that it would be put on the agenda for the June meeting of the Parish Council as well as an article put into the June newsletter.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

# BADBY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Registered Charity No: 304158

## Report to Badby Annual Parish Meeting, 14 May 2012

It has been an eventful year for both the Village Hall and the Management Committee. The Village Hall has a new floor and the committee a new Secretary but no longer has a Chairman.

In January, the committee appointed John Collins as its Secretary when Ian Bromwich stood down from the role. John has already shown that he is well up to the task and a welcome addition to the Management Committee. Unfortunately, the following month our Chairman, David Pearce, retired for personal reasons. Ian and David were not what I would term a natural pairing, but over the last 10 years and more have been a driving force for development of the Village Hall. It is thanks to them, with support from the other committee members, that Badby now has a Village Hall of which to be proud.

Thanks to a number of successful fund raising events organised by the Village Hall Management Committee, some generous personal donations and grants from Daventry and District Housing, Northamptonshire Community Foundation and Daventry District Council, the main hall floor was replaced last August and a few sections of modular staging purchased.

Use of the hall continues to increase and we now have a popular “Zumba” class each Tuesday evening. However, day to day running costs have also increased and the committee found it necessary to put up hire prices at the start of last winter.

Looking ahead, the committee is planning redecoration of the main hall later this summer (a joint venture with the Cummins Community Support team) and are progressing a subsidence claim for the 1974 extension with our insurers.

The Village Hall Management Committee’s Annual General Meeting is being held on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm when the committee will present their report and accounts for the 2011/12. At present we have several vacancies on the Management Committee for representatives from regular Hall user groups and need to appoint a new Chairman – its your Village Hall come and get involved.

**Dick Earley**

Treasurer: Richard Earley, Hope House, Main Street, Badby, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 3AN

Tel: 01327 700544, email: r.earley47@btinternet.com

## **Badby Jubilee Committee**

The committee was formed in February this year, and features broad representation from different groups and individuals in Badby. We felt that this was important to make sure that we give the Village the best celebration possible, especially for the benefit of our children.

The programme for the day will start with a shared lunchtime picnic for all villagers. The Windmill Inn has offered to run a bar on the Green and we hope to have an ice-cream van in attendance. A marquee will be provided in the event of inclement weather, and Main Street will be closed to through traffic.

There will be a Bouncy Castle provided free to all children aged 11 and under. A Tug-of-War will be held between The Windmill and The Maltsters (best of three men's and women's teams), also three-legged and egg & spoon races. There will be a children's fancy dress parade – with judging in 3 different categories – and a children's tea party on the Green for which all Badby village children under 11 have been invited. We will also have musicians playing at times during the day, and film footage of the 1953 Coronation will be screened at various times in the Village Hall.

Daventry District Council has graciously provided a grant of £275.00 which is to be used to purchase Jubilee tableware, some food for the children's tea party and bunting, the Bouncy Castle and prizes for the various races we have planned. It will also fund printed programmes for the day which will be delivered shortly to every household in the Village.

When you receive your programme, you will note that the proceedings start at 12 midday, finishing with a Family Barn Dance from 6 pm, with a fish- or sausage-and-chips supper for which there is a charge of £8.00 per adult, £4.00 for children. Please see *The Link* for further details.

*Sarah Hartland-Swann  
Badby Jubilee Committee  
May 2012*

# Badby & District Film Society

Statement for Badby Parish Council Annual Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 21012

Badby & District Film Society started life in January 2008, and has a Management Committee of 9 drawn from Badby and its 8 closest villages. Over the last 4½ years, we have shown 86 different films and now have nearly 300 members. Our film screenings – usually two each month – are held in Badby Village Hall, and we are probably its biggest user.

Our aim is to show good films in a friendly environment. Our evenings start with half-an-hour of socialising fuelled by some excellent home-made light refreshments. Many members like to bring a bottle of wine or a can of beer to enjoy before or during the film screening. Our big screen (5 metres across the diagonal), state-of-the-art HD digital projector and Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound system, together with our comfortable theatre-style seating, ensure an enjoyable experience hard to match outside the commercial cinemas. In addition, every film is preceded by a 5-minute illustrated talk.

Our shows are limited to members and their guests. Membership of the Society is open to anyone over 16 and resident in Badby or its surrounding villages, or by invitation of an existing member. Just £9 buys life membership of the Society plus a free first screening. Standard ticket prices are £5 for members or £7 for guests (including light refreshments and tea or coffee).

We have also built up a collection of more than 140 DVDs available for loan to members for just a £10 refundable deposit.

Each year we put on a short film festival. Previous film festivals have been themed on French films, Shakespeare films and (in 2011) films about modern jazz. Each festival has included a 3-course dinner for our members.

We have also organised a couple of projects to engage young people from our local rural communities. In 2010 we launched a film-making project for 16 local children between the ages of 8 and 15 to put on a performance of Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was then filmed. We received £3,500 of grant aid for this project, thanks to the generous support of Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF), Daventry District Council (DDC) and others. This year we're about to launch another project for local young people to teach themselves about film-making, using an on-line training course on a specially-created website. NCF, DDC and others have helped fund the creation of the website by a local media skills organisation, Threshold Studios. The project is budgeted at £3,500, and includes some funding from the Film Society itself. The short films made by participants are to be screened at a special event later this year. The Film Society's screen and projection equipment are regularly used by other village organisations for fund-raising events to support the restoration of Badby Church or Badby Village Hall. Events that combine a film and a meal tend to be especially popular. In addition, other local organisations – such as Badby & Fawsley WI, Badby Photo Club and the Knightley Parishes – have hired the equipment and a projectionist to screen films for their own events. All in all, the cinema set-up in this Village Hall has proved to be a well-used and muchappreciated amenity.

Jocelyn Hartland-Swann, Secretary, B&DFS

