

**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

“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

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

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 brought 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.

- 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.

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**