

**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 5th 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