

MINUTES OF BADBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2014

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

1. APOLOGIES

These were received from District Councillor Liz Griffin, County Councillor Robin Brown, Parish Councillor Andy Witcomb and PCSO Jane Coaley.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The addition of Parish Councillor J Collins was made to the attendance list of the draft minutes and then it was proposed by Denis Wilson, seconded by Karen Alexander that the minutes of the 2013 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 County Councillor Brown's report.

It gives me great pleasure to provide my first Annual Report following my election as your County Councillor for the Woodford and Weedon division.

After the election in May, I was re-appointed to the Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Wellbeing with specific responsibility to lead the Integration of Care Services with the NHS.

Furthermore as Chairman of the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board I continue to promote the benefits of healthy living via a personal commitment to significantly reduce my own weight and can report a 54lb weight loss in seven months. The benefits being that I no longer need to certain NHS medicines and my BMI is now near to average rather than much too high.

As a village that I previously represented, as member for the Braunston division, I am aware of the ongoing areas of concern and rest assured I am always available to assist should you need extra help with any services that NCC may be failing to deliver.

The council activities I have focussed on this year are:-

Highways Maintenance Initiative: Our Northamptonshire Highways Maintenance Initiative (NHMI) has been hailed as a success, gained national recognition for its approach and over fifteen authorities have adopted the same approach. Pothole related claims against the Council have seen a significant decrease and the amount of 'right first time' permanent repairs have improved dramatically by over 50% (from 45% to 97%).

In addition, in the first two years of this initiative efficiency savings of £126k through reduced fuel usage were reinvested into the Service and on average, over a 30% increase in preventative road treatments were carried out. NHMI has proven that the 'right first time' and preventative approach makes good use of resources directed at highway maintenance.

March 2014 saw Northamptonshire County Council being allocated an extra £1.5 million from a national pot of £140 million to repair our roads and partly due to the persistent efforts and campaign of Northampton North MP, Michael Ellis, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a further £200 million fund for local authorities to bid from. The County Council will be bidding strongly from this fund. New Generation Superfast Broadband: At the beginning of February, Culture, Media and Sport Minister, Ed Vaisey came to Towcester to officially launch our County's New Generation Superfast Broadband Project.

We are the first in the Country to begin works on this type of project. Families and businesses in and around Towcester can now avail of broadband speeds of up to 30mbs. This development represents a key technological and infrastructural foundation for the future economical wellbeing of our County where 90% of our County, especially rural areas, will feel the benefits of this exciting infrastructural programme by the end of next year. We have already secured £300,000 from Broadband Delivery UK in support of superfast broadband deployment in the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone and the indicative allocation of £3.4 million from the BDU Superfast Extension programme from 2015.

Libraries: The County Council launched a new free Wi-Fi service across all 36 libraries. As well as libraries, it is also available at Brixworth Country Park and the Records Office in Northampton. Getting our libraries connected is particularly useful during our Job Clubs, Enterprise Hubs events and other careers and business start-up activities.

Library Enterprise Hubs: In April 2012, in association with Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, we launched a number of enterprise hubs in our libraries to help people who were thinking about taking the plunge and setting up their own business.

Since then we have helped over 700 new entrepreneurs on their way to starting a business. Over 70 are already up and officially trading. That almost works out to more than one new business launched from our libraries every two weeks.

In the same period, we've helped 10,000 people with advice, organised 3,400 activities under our Families & Futures programme, reaching out and engaging with 84,000 children and young people. 600 volunteers have contributed more than 23,000 hours of their time and 20 people have found paid jobs, directly as a result of volunteering in libraries.

Our Economy: Economic recovery has really taken hold both nationally and regionally.

Northamptonshire businesses continued to show confidence in increasing both turnover and profitability in the last 12 months, with strong performances from those in the service sector. The survey shows 98% (up from 95% in the previous quarter) of respondents expect turnover to improve or stay the same over the next 12 months. 74% (up from 62%) expect profitability to improve over the same period. Within the service sector, 95% of respondents expect turnover to improve or remain the same in 2014 and 90% expect profitability to improve or remain the same (a respective one point and three point improvement on the last quarter).

Youth unemployment (18-24 year olds) has reduced from 7.2%, (Jan 2013) to 4.9%, (Jan 2014).

Experian, the business and credit reference agency, undertook a significant piece of research and concluded that Northampton is the best place in the country to start up a new business or to do business with.

Empowering Councillors Scheme: Our Empowering Councillors scheme is as popular as ever.

Countywide we have funded well over 2000 community projects to the tune of over £2million.

In my division I made sure my money has made a positive difference by funding various worthwhile initiatives such as:-

£500 for replacement of the fencing surrounding cemetery

£400 for the redevelopment of Badby Village Garden

In the coming year I have already agreed to give:

£700.00 to Farthingstone

£500.00 to Hellidon

£750 to Staverton

£750 Newnham

£1000 to Byfield

Funds will be available following the AGM in May and I look forward to hearing from you should you wish to request monies from the fund.

2014/15 will continue to be difficult in terms of funding and I look forward to NCC continuing to have an innovative approach to service delivery with the aim of keeping our taxes as low as possible.

Robin Brown, County Councillor

4. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Jo Gilford

Firstly, I would like to thank you for inviting me to Badby AGM. This has been my second year as your representative during which most of my time as your District Councillor has been taken up with planning applications in the now larger area of the new Woodford Ward and the District as a whole. I have listened to residents and put forward the opinions and comments of local residents. As with everything we have won some and lost some. In the ward we as your councillors have spent a lot of time defending wind turbine and large scale speculative housing applications. Two major successes have been dismissal at appeal for unwanted housing at Byfield and Staverton and a wind turbine at Catesby/Badby.

The new local plan called the Joint Core Strategy should be in place this year and following this a community infrastructure levy will make developers pay for the much needed infrastructure such as roads, schools etc.

I am also a member of the Corporate Governance Committee which deals with the changes to the audit system and constitution under the new coalition government. I am on the Police Commissioners Board and scrutinise the Police Commissioners activities. This is though my first year as the Resources Portfolio Holder. In this role it is my responsibility to make sure that DDC residents have access to services and that as a Council we are adequately resourced.

DDC will have a balanced budget this year and we are in a good financial position generally. Unlike some councils who are having to cut their services. We have created new income streams to the council by way of the 45 new homes which have been built and all rented out with a second phase planned under the guise of a Company called The Daventry Estate Company. The new solar panels on the roof of the offices are earning the FIT payments better than expected. In connection with DDC there have been a lot of projects started and finished this year such as the university UTC project is now completed and opened last September.

We are on course with the 50 million pound project to provide shops, cinema and supermarket petrol station with planning applications now approved.

The aforementioned projects and others all go towards having the money to maintain existing services and keep the council tax one of the lowest in the country.

A new special needs school is being planned to compliment the new University technical college in the centre of the town and a new primary school will be built sooner than expected due to an input of funds from the Council and will be open early next year.

To help with communication and transparency we are looking into webcasting for council meetings and an extra copy of the Daventry Calling will be available to every household

Over the next two years the conservation team will be revising all of the protected areas of our district I have also attended most of the Parish Council meetings, helping when the needs arises with any issues.

I have enjoyed being your elected representative immensely during the year. There are many other aspects of work at DDC which are too numerous to discuss in a short report but should any of you have any queries or would like me to take up an issue you have with DDC please contact me.

A question was then asked and answered regarding the cost of the office of the Police Commissioner.

Jo Gilford Tel: 01327 872156 Email: jmgilford@daventrydc.gov.uk

5. REPORT BY POLICE

The Clerk reported on behalf of PCSO Coaley that there had been 10 incidents in the village. These consisted of 4 theft from motor vehicle, 3 other burglary, 1 criminal damage and 2 theft. The next Community Panel Meeting is due to take place at The Cross Trees Pub in Byfield at Wednesday 21st May.

6. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN INCLUDING UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

Parish Council Chairman Mike Richards reported the main issues having been dealt with over the last 12 months as:

- a. Tree works. The chestnut trees on The Green continue to be monitored and a decision will be taken at the appropriate time regarding their removal. An overspend on budget had occurred because of extra costs incurred regarding trees in the cemetery.
- b. Japanese knotweed. An infestation at the back of the village hall had been dealt with and considerable expense.
- c. Greens. All but one are now registered with Land Registry. Working parties have addressed various damage caused by vehicles.
- d. Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors are part of a working group of residents putting together recommendations for a Neighbourhood Plan. The process may take some 18 months to complete.

With regards to budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2014, there had been an overspend of approximately £6k due to the tree works and Japanese knotweed treatment. A 5 year financial plan had been drawn up showing a need to build up a balance to deal with ongoing tree works. It is envisaged that the precept will rise over the next few years to accommodate this.

Over the next 12 months, trees will be monitored and reinspected.

A question was asked regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and whether the Parish Council was aware of the financial implications. It was noted that the Parish Council needs to recognise the potential threat and is in the process of drawing up a planning policy document for completion in the next few months although it is recognised that this will have no statutory authority.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

a. BELLRINGING

On practice nights we average about eleven and get good mutual support from surrounding villages. During the past year we have rung the bells for about 40 services and three funerals, one wedding and one christening. With holidays and illnesses taking their toll on availability, we are looking for anyone who would like to have a try and perhaps take up this fascinating traditional English social, physical and mental exercise. Initial training sessions from 6.45pm on most Wednesdays are open to anyone, age 10 years old to 70+ years young to come along to the tower.

A practice night team came 4th in the whole diocese in a competition for rhythmical ringing held at Crick in April.

We had an extended BH outing last weekend, when 14 of us stayed at Leyland and visited south Cumbria so far as Barrow-in-Furness on Saturday; Liverpool Cathedral and both towers in Leyland on Sunday; and 5 towers in Cheshire and one in Staffordshire on Monday as we rang our way home.

Last year we trained 13 Year Six children from Badby School in ringing tower bells on Tuesday afternoons. They made good progress despite the very short rope-time each had. This year we have begun with the 17 children in Year Six. We hope we shall find one or two who want to carry on out of school hours!

b. BADBY FAYRE 2014

Sunday September 7 will be Fayre Day. It runs every two years to raise money for the church building and to provide a nice community activity. We close The Green to traffic to make it safer. The Moulton 77 Band is booked as are the children's amusements and ice cream van. I am pleased to say that I have more volunteers than usual at this stage to run stalls and activities but am still looking for more. Any ideas, and especially volunteers to put them into action, are very welcome – see me afterwards or at any time soon.

c. **VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT**

Please send news of future events, their results and personal celebrations as early as possible to me, Geoff Pullin (at gcsspullin@yahoo.com or on 01327 871806 or at 25 The Glebe).

My deadlines are:

Daventry Express: Sunday evening for the following Thursday's edition

The Link: 19th of the previous month

Badbyvillage website: Anytime

d. **BADBY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

We currently have over 70 members so far this year, and 7 Committee Members.

Our programme of events for 2014 started with our Wine and Quiche Evening, our speaker Michael Brown, a historical gardener, giving his talk on Death in the Garden, which was very informative, amusing and a bit gruesome! The buffet was again all homemade by Committee members. The event was very well supported which was brilliant, and we hope to use Michael's services again, as he has a vast repertoire of material.

Our Annual Plant Sale, was held yesterday! There were plant stalls from local nurseries and donated plants from Society members and refreshments and homemade cakes. The event was well attended and we hope to see many of the young plants bearing fruit at the Annual Show!

Our next event is a coach trip to the Hampton Court Flower Show on Sunday 13th July, tickets are available at a cost of £45 for Society members and £50 for non-members, we know its World Cup Final day, but we should be back in plenty of time for the 8pm kick off.....

Other events on our programme are the Annual Show in September and the AGM in November.

Completing our programme for the year is our Christmas Crafts Evening in December.

In addition to our events programme, we have recently started holding a monthly Pub Meet on the third Thursday in the month, in the back room of The Maltsters. All are welcome, it's a very informal chat session.

If you would like to join the Society or would like any further information on any of our events, please contact Zelda Shapter on 01327 872118 or zelda@peteshapter.co.uk or contact any member of the Committee. All our events are advertised in the Link each month, on the Badby Village website and on Facebook.

e. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

We now have a new PCSO Jane Coaley who has moved from Woodford Halse to the Staverton Ward. Our thanks go to our previous PCSO, Carl Barton.

We have had a quiet year, the last significant crime being a burglary in The Glebe. Between 7th and 10th March, there was a forced entry whilst the owners were away on holiday. Some items were taken. Community Panel – the next meeting is on Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 6.00pm at The Cross Trees Public House, Byfield when you can meet our PCSOs and discuss policing priorities. These currently are speeding on the A361 and on the road from Byfield to Woodford.

NHW signs will be checked and new ones erected in the next month or two.

If anyone would like a Smart Water kit, these may be supplied for about £25.

We hold 2 meetings a year, one in April and another in October which are normally short and give us the opportunity of meeting our PCSO.

We would welcome new members and are looking for younger Chair – any volunteers please?

Denis Wilson

Chairman

f. **BADBY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

It has been another eventful year for both the Village Hall and the Management Committee.

Ian Bromwich has become chairman of the management committee, Catrina Signey has taken on hall bookings in addition to her work as caretaker and Monique Shortt has joined the committee. Sadly, John Collins is standing down as secretary when he moves away from Badby later this month, his contribution to the whole village will be missed and the committee thank him for all his work over the past three years.

Regular hall use continues to increase, there are still some times available during the day, but evening bookings are becoming congested.

As with all buildings, the fabric and fittings of the village hall need to be maintained, and the committee work hard organising fund raising events. During the last year, the main hall ceiling has had a coat of paint, crumbling brickwork has been repaired/repointed, remedial work for the subsidence claim has been completed and the courtyard now has 5 splendid planters. The committee thank St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Badby & Fawsley WI, Badby & District Film Society, Badby Art Group and Badby & District Horticultural Society for each sponsoring a flower planter.

Plans for the new year include painting the external woodwork, tidying the boundary with the village green and installing new front doors.

The Village Hall Management Committee's Annual General Meeting will be held in June when the committee will present their report and accounts for the year ended April 2014.

Dick Earley

g. **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Badby and Fawsley Women's Institute is part of the Northamptonshire Federation and was first formed in 1918. Our membership continues to increase with some of our members travelling from as far as East and West Haddon, Preston Capes, Watford and Daventry. We are a very welcoming and fun loving group who meet at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of each month in Badby Village Hall.

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Each year we enter a team in the Northamptonshire skittles league with practise sessions at the Red Lion in Hellidon. Players also meet for lunch on the 3rd Thursday of the month at various pubs around the county, non-playing members are always welcome.

This year, our WI drama group reached the finals of the NFWI Challenge Trophy. The group write, produce and perform their own plays and are always on the lookout for new talent.

During the year we started walking and theatre groups. Theatre visits have included the Moscow Ballet Company and Fiddler on the Roof, with The Full Monty booked for November. Our inaugural walk to Charwelton was enjoyed by members, menfolk and dogs.

Kate Earley

President Badby and Fawsley WI

7. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS

- a) A member of the public enquired whether it would be possible to have a new dog waste bin at the parking by the entrance to Fawsley Woods. It was noted that this is private land but the Parish Council would take up the matter by asking the landowners and also Daventry District Council with regards to collection of the waste.
- b) A member of the public voiced concerns about the growing number of signs within the village and along the A361. It was noted that NCC will be conducting a review.
- c) Updates were requested on developments at Wetherdays and Tall Trees. It was noted that there has been no activity at Wetherdays. There has been building activity at Tall Trees and this would be monitored.

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