

Minutes of Begbroke Parish Meeting held on
Thursday, April 26th, at The Parish Hall, Begbroke.

Mr Lammontony opened the Meeting, & explained the reason that it had been called, & also asked for nominations for the Chair, saying that it was not his desire to offer himself for re-election.

Chairman. The proposition of Mr Sweeting, seconded by Mr Richards, that Mr Benson be elected Chairman was passed unanimously.

Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting held on May 13th 1946 were read and confirmed.

Survey of Rights of Way. Mr. Lammontony explained that there was an obligation upon the Parish to carry out a survey of the Rights-of-Way in the Parish, in accordance with the Parks & Open Spaces Act. He explained that help in carrying out this survey could be obtained from the Oxford Footpaths etc Preservation Society. It was proposed by the Rev. H. W. Cunn and seconded by Mr Freeman, that a Committee to go into the whole matter should be elected, such Committee to consist of the Chairman and three others, with power to co-opt additional members if they found it necessary. The following were duly proposed and seconded, and elected to form the Committee, together with the Chairman:— Mr. G. T. Lammontony, Mr Jones & Mr Hunt.

Formation of a Parish Council. The Meeting informally considered the question of a Parish Council

for Begbroke, and it was finally agreed that in
the near future a Parish Meeting should be called
to discuss the matter.

R. C. Cresson

Chairman

15/7/1881

Minutes of Begbroke Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday, 15th July 1957 at the Village Hall, Begbroke

The Chairman, Mr. R.W. Anderson, opened the Meeting at which eight members of the village were present by reading the Minutes of the last Meeting, ~~previously~~ held on the 26th April 1957. These were confirmed

Survey of Rights of Way. The Chairman announced that the Committee set up to carry out a survey of the Rights of Way in the Parish had fully considered & marked all the Rights of Way & made notes thereof. The Committee had Co-opted Mr. W. Wines, a resident of Longstanding who had known the public paths since boyhood. The official forms had been filled in & particulars of each Right of Way entered thereon were read to the Meeting who approved.

The forms & marked maps were then forwarded to the County Council.

Proposed formation of a Parish Council. Due notice having been given the Chairman introduced on a few words the question of formation of such a Council & informed the Meeting that Mr. H.W. Wood of the Association of Parish Councils had kindly consented to attend the Meeting to provide such information as may be desired or invited to do so. The Meeting thereupon invited Mr Wood to address them. Mr Wood explained that he was not there to persuade the Meeting one way or the other but merely to give such guidance as he could. He explained that the Association of Parish Councils existed to answer questions on matters of difficulty arising in the minds of Parish Councils - with which word they had an Hon. Solicitor to assist, - the issuing of booklets regarding procedure etc & generally to help in the running of Parish

Councils. He explained that a Parish Council was free to decide whether or not to join the Association. ^{The subscription to which is 10/- a year.} He then went on to explain the duties & powers of a Parish Council.

There were, he said, few things a Parish Council could do which a Parish Meeting could not. For example a Parish Meeting can raise a Rate up to 8^d in the £. on the Rateable Value of property for Parish needs but a Parish Council could raise 1/6.

The advantages, he considered, were that the Council is an elected body which meets more regularly.

Any Parishioner or Ratepayer can attend meetings but the Council consists of say 5 elected Parishioners.

They are obliged to meet at least once a year in the month of April.

There must be an appointed Clerk who is responsible for summoning the Meetings, keeping the Minutes, keeping the accounts & documents & finding a Justice of the Peace to be examined out by the district Auditor. He may be honorary or paid a small sum say £5. a year.

The Parish Council has no other officers except Chairman.

A Parish Meeting can operate Acts of Parliament Adoptive Acts covering such items as street lighting allotments, Swimming baths etc but there is no machinery for it whereas the Parish Council would have a paid clerk to carry out the duties.

The Powers of a Parish Council are not so powerful as the County Council or Rural District Council but it is the only bit of local Government where Parishioners & ratepayers can pass Resolutions to register desires to put village matters right. The public have not this right in any other body. The powers are not great but ^{they} provide an outlet for grievances & consultations.

Among other things a Council can be a Trustee for Parish Churches, playing fields etc. They are a safeguard against Clashes because of their elected nature.

Their important functions is to send points of view to larger bodies ^{upon} say, water supply, sewage schemes, siting of houses & the R.D.C. has a statutory obligation to consult the Parish Councils on such matters.

Finance. Money would be required firstly to pay the Clerk & if other projects needed money - say improvement to footpaths, - an estimate would be made at the Annual Meeting & say a 2^d Rate to produce about £30. would be agreed & a precept issued to the R.D.C. who would collect it & credit the Council's Banking Ac with the sums. This is limited to 4^d on the Council's initiative but may be increased to 8^d at a special Parish Meeting. If a rate is required to operate an Adoptive Act it is extra.

Mr Wood explained that if a Parish Meeting passed a Resolution to form a Parish Council, a copy should be sent to the Clerk of the County Council, County Hall. Oxford who would decide when send papers on to the R.D.C. who ^{would} forward to the village forms for election & instructions.

After some discussion it was decided that individuals attending the Meeting would talk over the matter with their friends with a view to calling another Meeting in the Autumn, the present Meeting being too small to warrant the passing of a Resolution. Early in October was suggested as being a suitable time.

Mr Wood was cordially thanked for his help & it was hoped he may be able to be present at the next Meeting.

The Meeting was then declared closed

18/9/51

R. Wood Chairman.

Minutes of Begbroke Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday the 18th September 1957

The Chairman opened the Meeting at which fifteen village residents were present by reading the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 10th July. These were confirmed.

Proposed Formation of Parish Council. The Chairman read the Agenda which had been previously placed before the residents by poster ^{by} the distribution of the notice calling the Meeting to every house in Begbroke. One notice having been given it was therefore within the province of that Meeting to pass a Resolution on the Subject, there being no regulations as to a quorum. He introduced Mr L.W. Wood, of the Association of Parish Councils, who had come to the previous Meeting & had kindly consented to attend the present one to be of assistance in placing the pros & cons of the matter of invited to do so. He was not there, he said, to persuade one way or the other. He was invited to address the Meeting & the same information was given as is contained in the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th July.

Questions as to the possibility of finding a Clerk were raised & Mr Wood promised to keep on finding someone versed in the duties if necessary.

It was agreed that a Parish Council would require a small rate, possibly 2^d in the pound to start the Council off. Questions as to a Sunday Rule or Hour Limit & the lighting of the Village were touched upon. Mr Wood felt the former would be a different matter but it should be possible with

or without a Parish Council to do something about the letter.
After a useful discussion it was felt that the Meeting was
too poorly attended to decide the matter, therefore
Mr. H. Robinson proposed and Mr. Sweeting seconded that

"The matter of Formation of a Parish Council be brought up again at the next Annual Parish Meeting as it was considered the present Meeting was not representative enough. That the present system of a Parish Meeting be continued until then but that membership of the Oxfordshire Association of Parish Councils be applied for."

This was passed unanimously.

As there are no funds to pay the subscription to the Association, Mr Sweeting kindly offered to pay the first ten shillings & the Chairman undertook to apply for Membership.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Wood for his assistance
the Meeting was then declared Closed.

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R. C. Anderson

Chairman