

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 Cusum 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. Benson

Chairman

15/7/1911

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 and 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 sworn 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 of 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 there 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.

57251

R. C. Anderson

Chairman

Minutes of Begbroke Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 5th February 1952. at which some forty residents of the village were present.

The Chairman, Mr. R. W. Clouston, opened the Meeting by reading the Agenda which had been previously posted for fourteen days. There were to decide upon the formation of a Parish Council, to consider the question of Street lighting & to consider the cost thereof in relation to a rate.

The Chairman read the Minutes of the last Meeting which were approved.

It was explained that the Meeting had been brought forward a little to give time for an election in May if it were decided to form a Parish Council thus falling in line with other Electorates.

In recalling the arguments in favour of a Parish Council as enumerated at previous Meetings, the Chairman reminded the Meeting that the population of Begbroke was numbered over 300. This being so a new point emerged namely that the Local Government Act of 1933 requires that parishes with a population of over 300 must have a Parish Council. A discussion took place upon the likelihood of the village actually being forced to carry out this provision & it was again mentioned that the County Council could if necessary elect someone to act for the village.

The Rev H. A. McCann, the Rural District Councillor, expressed the opinion that a Parish Council would carry more weight & would possess the machinery to carry into effect the views of the village with greater success than through the somewhat ponderous means of a

Parish Meeting. He mentioned that it was not absolutely necessary to have a paid Clerk as he was sure that an experienced Clerk at a small fee would be a great help in carrying out the affairs of the Council.

The question of cost was discussed & it was estimated by the E.D.C. that a penny rate would raise £7. 10/- or thereabouts. If an average rateable value of a house in Begbroke is £20, a 2^d rate would mean no more than 3/4 a penny which it was agreed was small in relation to the probable advantage, although some criticism of a rate of any kind was voiced. It was however proposed by Mr Townsend and seconded by D. Herot.

That application be made to the County Council for permission to form a Parish Council for the Parish of Begbroke.

This was passed with one vote against.

Passing to the question of Street lighting, Mr Price and other speakers felt it very desirable that the two stops on both sides of the main road should be lighted.

The extension of a lighting scheme to other parts of the village was discussed but it was thought, on account of more information, that it would be found desirable to limit the scheme to the two stops. It was appreciated that it would be necessary for a rate to be levied to cover annual costs and it was proposed by Mr Smart and seconded by Mr Lunn.

That Steps be taken to investigate a scheme of lighting for the village, and passed unanimously. Mr Herbert Reid raised the question of providing a concrete path from the west side bus stop on the main road across the roads to the east side.

Thus was agreed to be a matter of importance and Mr McCann was asked to see if anything could be done through the R.D.C.

Mr Hunt stated that the state of sewage in part of Baybrook Lane very badly needed attention.

Father Prior asked whether a School Sign might not be erected but Mrs Suffolk said there had been a ruling that it was rather too far between the School entrance & the main road.

It was suggested however that these & other similar matters of village importance would benefit by the work of a Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed, it being left that the Chairman should call another Meeting when progress had been made with the matters discussed & resolved.

R. C. Cresson

22/7/52

Chairman.

Begbroke Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall
Begbroke on 22nd. July, 1952.

The Chairman, Mr. Clarkson, opened the meeting by stating that a Parish Council for Begbroke had now been formed, but suggested that he himself should remain in the Chair for the purpose of dealing with the minutes of the previous meeting, and the business in hand, and would then hand over the proceedings to the Parish Council. This agreed by all present, which included 5 members of the village.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th. February, 1952 were then read and approved.

STREET

LIGHTING:

The main business of the evening was over the question of Street Lighting in the village. It appeared that two schemes were under consideration - (i) that the bus-stops on both sides of the main Oxford - Woodstock Road should be lighted or (ii) that the lighting should be extended to the whole of the village.

Estimates had been obtained from the Southern Electricity Board for both these schemes, and the Chairman read out the full details as to what work and costs would be involved, and also what effect it would have upon the rates of the village.

This led to a very lengthy discussion, and eventually the Chairman asked for a vote by show of hands on the two individual schemes, to determine which one should be proceeded with. This resulted in a unanimous decision by all present to proceed with the scheme for lighting the bus-stops only, as it was felt that the

other scheme would throw too big a financial burden upon the village. It was, therefore,

RESOLVED that further enquiries should be made into the matter, so that the scheme could be adopted at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

PARISH
COUNCIL
TAKES
OVER:

That concluded the business in hand, and the Chairman suggested that it was now a suitable moment for the newly-elected Chairman of the Parish Council (Mr. E. M. Mace) to take over the Chair. This Mr. Mace did, and he announced that at a meeting held just prior to the Parish meeting, the following appointments were made in connection with the Parish Council :-

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. C. P. Watkins proposed that Mr. E. M. Mace be appointed Chairman of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr. J. Silman.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Mr. J. A. Read proposed that Mr. C. R. Quainton be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr. C. P. Watkins.

CLERK:

Mr. E. M. Mace proposed that Mr. A. Nokes, of 28, Merton Way, Yarrington be appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council at a salary of £10 per annum, as from the 22nd July, 1952.

All the above appointments were unanimously agreed and approved, by the other members.

Mr. Mace then made his opening speech,

during which he thanked the Electors of Begbroke Village for voting the other members of the Parish Council and himself into office. He concluded by expressing, on behalf of the people of Begbroke, his appreciation and thanks to Mr. R. W. Clarkson for the great service which he has given to the village during his term of office as Chairman to the Parish meeting. The Rev. J. F. A. McEann then associated himself with these remarks.

Mr. Clarkson responded by thanking Mr. Mace for his words, and wished the Parish Council every success in their new venture.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

James Mace

14. 10. 52.

CHAIRMAN.

Begbroke Parish Meeting, 70
held in the Village Hall,
Begbroke on 14th October, 1952.

PRESENT

Mr. E. M. Mace (in the Chair).
Mr. G. R. Quainton.
Mr. G. A. Read.
Mr. J. Silman.
Mr. G. P. Watkins.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on
22nd July, 1952 were read and approved.

STREET
LIGHTING:

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining
that the main business of the evening was concerned
with the adoption of the Lighting and Watching Act,
1833, and the fixing of the maximum amount of
money to be raised for the purposes of the Act during
the year. He then gave a brief outline of the
two schemes of lighting proposed, and the costs
involved (these facts had already been given in
detail at the previous meeting).

After a further discussion on the matter, it
was decided to proceed with the scheme for lighting
the two 'bus-stops only, and Mr. Townsend
proposed, therefore, that the Lighting and Watching
Act, 1833 be adopted in connection with this scheme.
This proposal was seconded by Mr. R. M. Hunt,
and the Chairman then asked the Local Government
Electors present for a vote by show of hands.
14 voted in favour of the proposal, and 3 voted
against.

The Chairman then stated that the next
step was to fix the amount of money to be raised
for the purposes of the Act during the year. The

total cost of the proposed scheme was £72, and maintenance charges on the two lamps amounted to £4.18s.0d. per annum. It was therefore proposed by Mrs. Winch that the Parish Council be authorised to raise the sum of £80 for the ensuing year. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Townsend, and the Local Government Electors present voted as follows - 14 in favour, and 3 against.

The meeting then had to determine the method to be used in raising the money for the scheme. The Chairman suggested several alternative ways of doing this, and eventually Mr. G. Read proposed that the Parish Council take out a loan for the necessary amount, to be re-paid over a period of five years. This proposal was seconded by Mr. C. P. Watkins, and the Local Government Electors present voted as follows - 12 in favour, and 5 against.

That then settled the question of street lighting for the present, and it only remained for the Parish Council to obtain permission from the Ministry of Transport before putting the scheme into operation. Taking into consideration all the afore-mentioned facts, it was, therefore

RESOLVED that the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833 be adopted with respect to lighting the two 'bus-stops on the main Oxford-Woodstock Road; that the Parish Council be authorised to raise the sum of £80 for the purposes of the Act for the ensuing year, by taking out a loan - to be re-paid over a period of five years; and that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Ministry of Transport requesting their permission to carry out the scheme.

CELEBRATIONS:

The Chairman raised the question of Coronation celebrations in Begbroke, and asked if anyone present had any suggestions to make on the matter. A proposal made by Mr. Watkins, and seconded by Mr. Townsend, that the Parish Council should form the nucleus of a special Committee was put to the meeting, but received little support.

An amendment proposed by Rev. J. A. McBann, and seconded by Mr. J. Read, that a special meeting of the village people be arranged to appoint a Committee to deal with this matter - entirely apart from the Parish Council - was put to the meeting, and received a vote of 11 in favour and 6 against. It was, therefore,

RESOLVED that the question of Coronation celebrations be dealt with by a special meeting of the village people, apart from the Parish Council.

SIGN-POSTS:

Mr. Watkins reported that the Begbroke sign-post was pointing in the wrong direction, and that the Fernhill Road sign was missing. Rev. J. A. McBann stated that the Begbroke sign-post had already been attended to, and that he would look into the question of the Fernhill Road sign.

EMPTYING OF
CESS-PITS:

Mr. Sweeting asked if the Parish Council would write to the District Council complaining of the nuisance caused by person or persons emptying their cess-pits in an improper manner. The Clerk, however, explained to Mr. Sweeting that a personal letter of complaint should be sent to the District Council, and the matter would then receive prompt attention.

BUS-SHELTER:

The possibility of providing a bus-shelter in the village was discussed, and it was further suggested that this could form part of the Coronation celebrations. Rev. J. F. A. McCann pointed out, however, that the money needed for this purpose would have to be raised by voluntary contributions, and not by the Parish Council. No further action was taken on the matter.

CONDITIONOF HEDGES:

The Chairman drew attention to the condition of the hedges owned by Mr. Skinner, on the corner of Fernhill Road, and Mrs. Cooper, bordering on Begbroke Lane. It was agreed that these hedges needed trimming, and Mr. E. M. Mace, therefore, stated that he would approach the persons concerned with a request for this work to be carried out.

ELECTRIC -LIGHT POLES:

The electric-light poles situated on the footpath by the road leading into Old Begbroke village, (along the boundary wall of The Priory), were considered to be a source of danger to persons using the footpath at night. After discussing the matter, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to send a suitable letter to the Southern Electricity Board, requesting that these poles be painted white to a height of approximately six feet from the ground.

VILLAGE HALLMANAGEMENTCOMMITTEE:

A letter had been received from Mrs. Winch, requesting the Parish Council to appoint a member to serve on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Following a proposal by Mr. E. M. Mace that Mr. J. Read should be nominated, Mr. Read thanked the Chairman and other members, but stated that he considered it only fair to give someone else the opportunity of being appointed.

Mr. Read went on to propose that Mr. J. Lilman be appointed, Mr. Watkins seconded this proposal and the other members were in agreement.

It was, therefore,

RESOLVED That Mr. J. Lilman be appointed accordingly.

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

3/7/53.

Wm. Mace

CHAIRMAN.