

Montclare, Orpington Bypass, Badgers Mount TN14 7AG

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Annual Parish meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Badgers Mount Parish Council held at the Badgers Mount Memorial Hall on Monday 19th of May 2022 at 7:30 pm

The meeting was attended by 17 members of the public. Five members of the Parish Council together with the Clerk were also present

Cllr John Grint, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided

Welcome Note:

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. He introduced the Councillors for the benefit of new Parishioners and thanked them for their work over the last year. He also introduced the new Clerk to the residents of the Parish

Chairman's Report:

Cllr Grint read out his detailed Annual Report to the meeting. Highlights from the Report were as follows:

1. Finances
 - a. Precept was £27,000 for the year 2021-22 will reduce to £17,000 for the coming year (because of Neighbourhood Plan funding has been secured)
 - b. Staff Costs – reduced to £1000 due to the demise of the previous Clerk
 - c. Surplus will be added to the reserves. The current Bank balance is £66000. £27,000 has been earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan
 - d. The last two years have been challenging as a result of Covid, however, the Parish is recovering & returning to normal
2. Sub-committees & their role was mentioned
 - a. Planning- a committee that reviews & comments on Planning applications within the Parish but also comments on peripheral areas that may affect the Parish
 - b. Amenities
 - c. Neighbourhood Plan
3. This year the focus would be to review the way forward for the following –
 - a. Unadopted roads
 - b. Issues with Kent Highways – a meeting has already taken place with Kent Highways on April 27, 2022
4. Next year in May Elections 2023 will be held. Sevenoaks District Council will set out and inform residents of the Election process along with dates. The Chairman encouraged more people to stand in the Elections for the position of Councillors.

Open Forum:

The Forum was then opened to the public for questions and comments

- a. A member of the public raised his concern over the speed of vehicles on Highland & Badgers Road. Several building works are taking place there hence several large trucks as well as Supermarket vehicles ply the roads and seldom heed the 20 miles per hour speed limit there. He suggested 'Give Way' signs in three locations also stating that it is a single road. Another member suggested that signs were required on Milton Avenue as well. The Chairman assured that the Parish Council would investigate it and come up with its recommendations
- b. A member of the public raised his concern that as a result of the temporary hold on Neighbourhood Plan would the goal posts have moved, and all the previous work done on it would be wasted. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee Chairman responded that all the previous work would form the basis for all future recommendations
- c. A member expressed concern that a part of the Woods had signs of 'Private Land' being put up. – It was explained that those part of the Woods were privately owned and therefore the signs were the prerogative of the owner.
- d. Another concern was that FM Conway had installed barbed wire fences around their site instead of plain wire. It was confirmed that the MoD erected the barbed wire at the time of the IRA troubles in the 1970s as part of a higher security alert. It was only before that time that plain wire fences were present.
- e. In response to the focus on un-adopted roads, a resident mentioned that Roger King (an ex-resident) knew some members of the Salt family and had some papers related to the un-adopted roads. The Chairman notified him that the Papers were now in possession of the Parish Council & assured him that the Council were looking at reassessing the situation and come up with viable solutions
- f. A resident raised a question regarding the recent activity on the Land north of Hunters Retreat – the two brick pillars being erected there. Cllr Grint explained that that part of the land belonged to Kent Highways. The Parish Council had informed KCC, and the matter was now with the KCC Enforcement team.
- g. The Secretary of BMRA informed the gathering that he had been in touch with Harold Govier's nephew regarding the donation of a wooden bench, which had to be stalled because of Covid. He mentioned that he would be taking it forward in due course.

Efficient & cost-effective Communication:

The Clerk reminded the attendees to sign up for email communication from the Parish Council either by filling in the sign-up slip provided with the Spring newsletter or through the website. This would allow the Parish Council to communicate regularly and cost-effectively on important local matters.

New Planters:

The Clerk also informed the attendees that the Parish Council had secured new Planters from SDC to be placed at the entrance gates of the village as well as the Millennium sign. The Parish Council was trying to secure plants and compost from Polhill garden centre before the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The proceedings ended with the Chairman raising a toast to Her Majesty the Queen to start off the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Commemoration certificates were awarded to 9 residents who had

lived or been associated with the village for 70+ years. A short Jubilee Quiz was enjoyed by the attendees before light refreshments were served. The Annual Parish meeting closed at 9:30 pm.