

**BADGERS MOUNT  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

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**DRAFT MINUTES of a MEETING of BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL**

at Badgers Mount Memorial Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 from 7.30 pm

Present Cllr J Grint (JG)  
Cllr G Plumb (GP)  
Cllr T McCartney (TMC)  
Cllr A Dunlop (AD)

Also, present: 5 members of the public

Clerk Geoff Dessent (in attendance)

**Election of Chairman**

1. To elect a chair of the PC – Gordon Plumb proposed and Alistair Dunlop seconded that John Grint be elected as chair for the PC for the year ahead 2018-19. On a vote, this was agreed.

**Election of Vice Chairman/Chairman of Planning Committee**

2. To elect a vice chair and chair of the Planning Committee. John Grint proposed, and Tracy McCartney seconded, that Gordon Plumb be appointed Vice Chair and Chair of the planning committee. On a vote, this was agreed.

**Apologies for absence**

3. None.

**Declarations of Interests**

4. There were no interests declared by Councillors.

**Public Session**

5. Roger King raised a concern that the agenda for the May Council meeting was not posted on the website. The clerk was surprised as this had been done and agreed to speak to the website providers to ensure any “glitches” were ironed out.
6. Roger King was also concerned that his email to JG may not have reached him as he has not yet had a response/. JG agreed to action this asap.

## **District and County Councillors Reports**

7. JG made the following points from his District Councillor perspective:

- District Council (DC) looking at some long term (50 year) investments for future financial security, but no decisions have been made at this time.
- A small group will look at the investment options at DC level and report back, and this group will be nominated by the DC, and the result of these deliberations will be promulgated in due course.

8. No County Councillor present, so no report on issues at the County level.

## **Allocation of Councillors to specific lead responsibilities**

9. All Councillors would be involved on the Planning committee, and Councillors wanted to reflect further on lead Councillor responsibilities for other aspects of the Councils work, such as publicity, where it was felt the Clerk should have a leading role and the website could be improved in particular, rights of way, council assets, highway matters and other key topics.

## **Finance**

10. Councillors agreed all the items listed for expenditure other than the request from West Kent Mediation, where they requested further information both to understand how this service dovetailed with others offering such services (eg Age UK) and the reach of this service into the Badgers Mount Parish Area.

**Action:** Clerk to seek further information.

11. Choice of Internal Auditor – see Parish Clerks Report below.

## **Chairman's report**

12. JG had nothing further to add to his previous comments from his District Councillor perspective.

## **Parish Councillors/Parish Clerk reports**

13. A number of reports were made and discussed as follows:

### **(1) Planning Applications/Determinations**

See minutes of the Planning committee meeting.

### **(2) Recommendation of Internal Auditor/Sign-off of Bank reconciliations**

Councillors were content with the Clerk recommendation to use PJ Consultants as their internal auditor for 2017-18, and asked that the Clerk to put this in hand, Councillors also agreed the Bank reconciliations for the year.

**(3) Recommendation for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

The Clerk recommended that, although news is awaited about whether Government will require Parish and Town Councils to appoint a Data Protection Officer (who should be independent), nonetheless the advice from the Kent Local Association is that it is good practice is to appoint one. The clerk recommended that Satswana be engaged to look after GDPR compliance for the council in the coming year at a cost of £150 + VAT, drawing to Councillors attention that Satswana offered support in the case of managing any data breach, which was a very valuable additional service.

**(4) Draft Publication Scheme for BM Parish Council**

The Clerk presented this having previously circulated it. Councillors agreed this, and it has now been placed on the Parish Council's website.

**Future Items**

14. Councillors were keen that the Clerk worked with them to develop a calendar of events going forward to improve the quality of communication to residents, and to also explore how social media could be used to achieve greater reach to younger residents who may more readily engage through this means.
15. Road sign cleaning and removal of extraneous vegetation were further issues which needed to be addressed, in discussion with the Badgers Mount residents' group as appropriate.

Open Meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

16. There was a short closed session discussion between Councillors about the case to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan. Further discussions will take place and then the Council will give its latest View for discussion in a future public session.

Geoff Dessent  
Clerk of Badgers Mount Parish Council

17<sup>th</sup> May 2018