

**BADGERS MOUNT  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

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

at Badgers Mount Memorial Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 from 7.30 pm

Present Cllr J Grint (JG)  
Cllr G Plumb (GP)  
Cllr S Lake (SL)  
Cllr A Dunlop (AD)

Others present: None.

Clerk Geoff Dessent (in attendance)

**Apologies for absence** - Cllr T McCartney (TMC) – and Councillors were united in sending Tracey their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th November were agreed and signed and have been placed on the website.

**2. Declarations of Interests**

There were no interests declared by Councillors.

**3. Public Session**

No members of the public attended.

**4. District and County Councillor Reports**

JG made the following points from his District Councillor perspective:

- The SDC Local Plan has been approved by the SDC cabinet in broad terms and will go out to consultation shortly, closing date 3 February – it was agreed JG and GP would put together a PC response to be finalised at the Council meeting in January and that JG would seek to get an opportunity to speak at the session where the Local plan will be debated.

- The future of Jenkins Necks Wood discussion was deferred until January by SDC

## **5. Finance**

5.1 All the accounts for payment submitted were approved (See annex 1) These have now all been paid.

5.2 Budget for 2019/20: Councillors felt the draft budget as circulated by the Clerk was sensible for 2019/20, though asked for the following changes:

- Add a £500 line for grants to charitable and other good causes
- Include in the Contingency Amount a reference to a need for possible strimming and mowing

Councillors agreed the Budget as set out at Annex 2.

5.3 Councillors agreed the proposed increased precept also as shown in Annex 2.

## **6. Chairman's report**

JG explained he had nothing further to add.

## **7. Environment and Amenities (E and A) Committee**

GP passed round an updated list of the issues and proposed actions. It was agreed that a version of this would be placed on the website:

**Action:** Clerk to draw up a proposed entry for the website for discussion at the Council's meeting in January.

It was also agreed that it would be useful to engage with the business community as well as all the other organisations identified:

**Action:** SL to draw up a list of questions for him to discuss with local businesses by the January meeting. The Clerk agreed to provide some input to this from his experiences in Limpsfield Parish.

## **8. Parish Councillors/Parish Clerk reports**

A number of reports were made and discussed as follows:

### **8-1 Planning Applications/Determinations**

It was agreed:

- Keepers Cottage: GP would draft a comment to seek assurances that the new additional building was auxiliary to the main building on the site.

- As regards an application in neighbouring Halstead Parish, GP will find out what Halstead PC are seeking to do, and reinforce any objection they may make as appropriate, as the proposal did seem to be inappropriate in the green belt.

## **.8.2 Jenkins Neck Woods**

See above – item 4.

## **8.3 PC response to SDC Local Plan**

See item 4 above.

## **8.4 Newsletter**

GP suggested that items on the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan, SDC Local Plan, co-option of a New Councillor, latest on Jenkins Neck wood and other topical issues could form the basis of the next Newsletter planned to out in late January, and the content and approach should be agreed at the next Council meeting in January.

## **8.5 Website Update**

The Clerk reported that he had tightened up the website and was seeking to ensure regular news updates appeared to keep the website up to date and engaging for residents.

## **8.6 Consultations and Reviews (AONB, Libraries)**

The Clerk flagged that he was keen to ensure Councillors did not miss out on the opportunity to respond to such consultations, and would continue to flag these up.

## **8.7 Feedback from Knockholt Christmas Good will Fund**

The Clerk explained that this fund was not a registered charity. Councillors agreed that it would be useful to hear whether Knockholt Parish Council supported this fund, before making a decision.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Knockholt Parish Council.

## **8.2 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk explained that the consultation for SDC to seek agreement to Badgers Mount becoming a designated Neighbourhood Area would go out as planned with the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation in the next week, which should mean the area designation will be agreed by early February.

The Clerk also indicated that shortly after this he would advise setting up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering group to consist of all Councillors and a similar number of volunteers from the community.

The Clerk also advised that he was working with SDC to get a suitable set of words in the latest draft of the SDC Local Plan, which recognised the part which Neighbourhood Plans should play in future planning decisions.

## **9. Items for Future Council meetings**

- January Newsletter
- Response to SDC Local Plan consultation
- Agreement of questions to be put to Local businesses
- Format of the material to be put on the PC website about environment and amenities.

**10.** The meeting closed at 9.30 pm The Parish Council Christmas Lunch (held earlier on 6 December) was deemed a very successful event, and thanks were made to SL for arranging this.

Next meetings:

- Planning meeting 7.30pm December 20<sup>th</sup> (If required)
- Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

All meetings to be held at Badgers Mount Memorial Hall.

**Annex 1 - ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPT 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Receipts - None this month.

<b>Cheque Number if appropriate</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>VAT</b>
000143	390.00	Mr G H Dessent	Clerk's November pay	N/A
000144	97.50	HMRC	Tax due in November	N/A
Online payment	221.00	Badgers Mount Memorial Hall (St Margaret's Church)	Hall Hire for meetings in 2018	N/A

**Note 1:** I have not yet submitted any costs for paper or ink. These have been small to date and absorbed in the Limpsfield Clerk's expenses costs, given your contribution to Limpsfield PC to my annual home office expenses and SLCC membership.

## **ANNEX 2 - DRAFT BUDGET BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL 2019/20**

<b>Area of Expenditure</b>	<b>Estimated Amount £</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Clerk costs	5,850.00	Assuming 9 hours per wk @£12.50 per hour
Lengthsman Costs	200.00	Based on previous years
Liability Insurance	800.00	
KALC/SLCC membership	400.00	
Parish Projects (eg Bus Shelter repairs)	2000.00	Suggested budget
Dog Waste Bins	1000.00	
Refuse Freighter	400.00	
Phone	180.00	
Audit Costs	500.00	
Data Protection	230.00	Assuming retention of GDPR consultants and DP registration
Other admin Costs - Newsletters, posters, AGM, Home office costs website	750.00	
Grants to the Voluntary sectors/others	500.00	
Neighbourhood Plan	17,000.00	Consultants costs, NP coordinator costs, other costs (should be offset by £9,000 Locality Grant, giving a net figure of £8,000)
Contingency	3,000.00	Additional pressures not yet quantified eg Jenkins Neck Wood, other green space management such as strimming/mowing.
TOTAL (Gross incl VAT)	32,810.00	
TOTAL (Net excluding Vat, and allowing for Locality Grant)	22,500.00	This assumes all VAT successfully reclaimed and a successful application for the £9000 to Locality

## **RESERVES POSITION**

<b>Current Balance:</b>	£33,970.58
<b>Projected Balance as at 31 March 2019:</b>	£31,000.00

## **PRECEPT**

Assuming a doubling of the Precept as discussed by Councillors, this would be:

**£27,420.00**

Such a precept would meet the proposed 2019/20 Net Budget and maintain a healthy reserve of around £27,000 even if the Locality Grant of £9,000.00 was not secured. If this grant is secured, then the reserves may allow consideration of a decrease in the precept in 2020/21, depending on other pressures.