

**BADGERS MOUNT
PARISH
COUNCIL**

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DRAFT MINUTES of a MEETING of BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL

at Badgers Mount Memorial Hall on 7th June 2018 from 7.30 pm

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

Also, present: 3 members of the public

Clerk Geoff Dessent (in attendance)

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the planning meeting held on 17 May were signed.

3. Declarations of Interests

There were no interests declared by Councillors.

4. Public Session

A number of issues were raised:

- A progress report about the Beecholt site was requested, and JG reported that the clerk had been in touch with SDC, who had made a further visit to the site and were confident that waste was not being brought in and that there were no outstanding asbestos risks now present.
- Concerns about ticks in the local area. TM explained that there was publicity material available to help raise awareness of the risks.

Action TM and Clerk to acquire publicity material and ensure this was available to residents

- Concerns that Badgers Mount Parish has not received any CIL.

Action: double check that there was no CIL outstanding for the parish (GP has since looked into this and confirmed that no CIL is currently owing to the Parish)

5. District and County Councillor Reports

JG made the following points from his District Councillor perspective:

- There are to be a further 300 houses proposed on the Fort Halstead site, taking the total up to 750 houses (on the existing site)
- Sevenoaks draft Local Plan going out for consultation in July – likely to cover the period up to 2035
- Recent Broke Hill meeting was well attended (over 100 people present)
- Concerns over the operators of Oak Tree Farm, as regards waste recycling which has resulted in mess on the road,

Action: Clerk to check SDC are aware and are taking appropriate action

There also some concerns about neighbouring areas and parking, inappropriate use of land.

Action: GP and TM to look into this and produce a clear map of where these issues are for a future discussion.

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

6. Finance

All the accounts for payment submitted were approved. These have now all been paid.

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7. Chairman's report

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

8. Verge cutting/Footpath clearance

There was a significant discussion about the concerns of the lack of verge cutting and footpath clearing. GP explained that KCC would offer £1700 (per year) to the Parish Council if they would take on the task

Action: Clerk to get 3 quotes for the work based on a previous specification to be provided. This may be best considered for 2019/20

There were also more pressing concerns about the state of the verges and footpaths in the Parish, which residents felt KCC were not dealing with.

Action: A new Environment and Amenities sub-committee will be formed including GP, TM and AD, who may wish to co-opt volunteers to look at the immediate issues and explore the options of engaging a contractor, pressing KCC or working with volunteers to get some action on this urgently.

9. Parish Councillors/Parish Clerk reports

A number of reports were made and discussed as follows:

9.1 Planning Applications/Determinations

There were no new planning applications and GP reported on some recent determinations.

9.2 Recommendations from Internal Auditor/progress on Audit

Councillors welcomed the internal auditors report and agreed that the Clerk should implement all the various recommendations, noting that some of these recommendations were already in hand. Councillors also agreed with following the good practice to allow the clerk to authorise up to £1,000 in case of a need for urgent expenditure.

9.3 Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The clerk reported that the third-party organisation was now acting as Data Protection Officer for the Council, and that having carried out an assessment of the Council's activities with the Clerk, felt that there were only a few areas which needed attention to be fully compliant with the GDPR. These included ensuring that all personal data was only retained for the period it was actually needed, and updating the Council's privacy policy (which the Clerk had in hand.)

9.4 Draft Complaints Procedure 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. (The internal; auditor had recommended this be done)

9.5 Website and Publicity

The clerk explained that owing to the more immediate pressures concerning the annual Audit and compliance with the new Data Protection regulations, he had not yet had the time, to upgrade and improve the website, and was still having some issues with the uploading features on the website, but agreed to prioritise this work, going forward and report back.

TM and GP provided some immediate ideas for additional information for the website which would help residents understand how to find out about who to contact for various local services.

All felt that the parish council should be doing more to publicise its activities to the local community, and there would be a further discussion about this at the next meeting.

9.6 Neighbourhood Plan

There was a closed item around Neighbourhood Planning. Once the Council has come to a firm view on their preferred way forward on this, this will be discussed more widely to take on board residents' views.

10. Parish Council Projects

All felt a major focus on publicity and communications was important

11. Items for Future Council meetings

See item 10 above. This will be a future item

Geoff Dessent
Clerk of Badgers Mount Parish Council

13^h June 2018