

**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 November 2019 from 7.30 pm

Present Cllr J Grint (JG) Chair
Cllr T McCartney (TMC)
Cllr S Lake (SL)

Others present: Roger King (RK)

Clerk Geoff Dessent (in attendance)

Apologies for absence - Cllr Plumb and Cllr Dunlop

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd October, the planning meeting held on 17th October and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 17th October 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

RK raised a number of points:

- concerns about construction traffic as regards the planning applications to enlarge the Telecomms mast (which the chair explained would be discussed under item 8.1)
- concerns about SDC not notifying the Parish Council (and the Residents association) about planning applications and related matters which directly affect the Parish – it was agreed that this was a general concern and that a list of all such failures to notify should be compiled in order to press SDC to improve the situation. As Cllr Plumb leads on planning, he would be asked to compile this list on his return.
- keen to understand why the gas structure near the bypass roundabout has been allowed without suitable screening
- keen that Kent Highways were alerted about the continuing problem on mud on the roads caused by vehicles using Oak Tree Farm

- felt that it was a shame that there were no Remembrance Day poppies on lampposts as were seen in many other neighbouring localities – it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this for November 2020, and make enquiries during the summer of next year

4. District and County Councillor Reports

No County Councillor present.

JG reported

- SDC were very disappointed with the Local Plan Inspectors decision to seek to withdraw the plan, due to a concern about the duty to cooperate with other local areas and were aiming to challenge almost all the negative points made
- It was agreed by Cllrs that they should write a letter to SDC in support of their action to challenge the Inspectors comments and that this letter should be copied to the Inspector and all Parish Councils in the District. The Chairman read out a draft which was agreed. It was also agreed this should be put on the website.

Action Clerk to send the letter as drafted (Action completed)

- Stephen Whitehead has been recruited on a temporary basis to strengthen planning enforcement work in the area. This was very welcome and it was agreed that like Knockholt Parish Council Badgers Mount Parish Council should write to SDC to seek that Mr Whitehead's role is continued.

Action Clerk to draft a suitable letter for Councillors to agree to send to SDC

5. Finance

5.1 Approval of accounts for payment

These were agreed and the payments were made by the clerk on 8th November (see annex 1).

5.2 Budget and Precept for 2020/21

This was discussed and the broad position of maintaining the precept at the current level agreed. Cllr Lake noted that this had been the original intention last year, following the commitment to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs also felt that the Admin provision should be increased from £750 to £1000 to allow inter alia for the cost of a projector which would be a valuable future resource. As a consequence, it was agreed that the contingency amount would be reduced to compensate for this from £5,000 to £4,750.

The chair felt that as both Cllr Plumb and Cllr Dunlop were not present the formal sign off for the budget and precept should be agreed with a full complement of Councillors at the December meeting.

5.3 Approval of Bank Reconciliation for Main Parish Bank Account the end of October

This was approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk/RFO.

6. Chairman's report

JG explained he had nothing further to add beyond what would be covered in other items on the agenda.

7. Environment and Amenities (E and A) Committee

Cllr McCartney reported that the key issues which have been under discussion in the Environmental and Amenities Committee are being fed into the topic group discussions for the Neighbourhood Plan, as the best way of taking things forward.

8 Parish Councillors/Parish Clerk reports

A number of reports were made and discussed as follows:

8-1 Planning Applications/Determinations – Planning Committee (Cllr Plumb)

(1) 19/05000/HYB - DSTL Fort Halstead, Crow Drive, Halstead Redevelopment (Comments are requested by 16th November but the case officer Claire Shearing has agreed any comments will be considered when she does her report, and so the timing should allow due consideration.)

Cllr Plumb has already produced a number of concerns about this application namely that:

- There has not been a proper understanding of all the traffic congestion implications
- That the density was very high and not appropriate for the area
- That the issue of public transport should be properly addressed
- That the site represented overdevelopment near the AONB

In addition to these well-made points was the further concern about whether the assumption of the proposed commercial development within what is essentially a separate new village were credible with the economic framework going forward (eg with failing highstreets)

(2) 19/02901/FUL - Telecoms mast NE of Haresfield, Badgers Road – Telecoms upgrade (comments due by 18 November)

Cllrs recognised that this application would almost certainly be granted given the strong Government pressure to improve communication links. However, it was agreed that the construction traffic should be in keeping with the access road, and that in particular any damage caused by the Construction traffic should be made good.

(3) 19/02943 - Martindale, Christies Avenue, Badgers Mount - Single storey side extension (comments due by 13 November) The neighbours each side do not have any concerns about the proposal.

It was agreed NO OBJECTION. Cllrs noted that the neighbours have also not objected.

It was agreed Cllr Plumb would be asked to finalise these two objections (1) and (2) and for them to be submitted to SDC after the next planning meeting on 21 November, assuming time allowed for this.

8.2 Next Newsletters

It was agreed that the combined Newsletter had been a great success and that this approach should be repeated, with the aim of having a next combined newsletter in February 2020. It was felt a quarterly Newsletter would be appropriate. The Chair Thanked Cllr McCartney for her work on the first combined newsletter.

8.3 Installation of Arrows for Defibrillator assigns

Cllr Plumb is taking this action forward.

8.4 Flower beds for village signs

Cllr McCartney is still awaiting a quote she has requested, to put to Councillors.

8.5 Jet washing for Badgers Mount local signs

Cllr McCartney has not yet identified a suitable contractor. Cllr Lake agreed to pass on the details of a contractor who looked to be able to provide the required services.

8.6 Website

It was agreed that the new Neighbourhood Plan page on the website was very well done and Cllrs asked that the website support contractor Spectulise be thanked for their efforts.

8.7 Neighbourhood Plan update

The Clerk reported that despite the setbacks of the Sevenoaks Local Plan, and in particular the Inspectors misgivings about the Chelsfield depot site, the consultants have identified an alternative way forward – a community right to build order – which could be taken forward alongside the Neighbourhood Plan.

9. Items for Future Council meetings

None suggested.

10. Next meetings:

- 9th Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 21st November (7.30pm) /following any planning issues.
- Full Council meeting on 5th December 2019

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

All meetings to be held at Badgers Mount Memorial Hall.



Geoff Dessent

Clerk of Badgers Mount Parish Council 12th November 2019

Annex 1 - ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPT 3rd October 2019

Receipts – None.

Main Parish Account

Cheque Number appropriate	if	Gross Amount (£)	Payee	Description	VAT
000169		793.91	Mr G H Dessent	Clerk's September pay plus NP Coordinators pay for September	N/A
000170		290.76 + 33.36 = 324.12	HMRC (with correction for Sept underpayment)	NI and Tax due in September	N/A
EP		97.20	SDC	Refuse Freighter (October)	16.20
EP		180.00	Satswana	Annual GDPR support for 2019-20	30.00
EP		102.55	Reimbursement to Cllr Plumb	Production of the Autumn Newsletter	0.00

Neighbourhood Plan Account - No payments