

BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, Memorial Hall, Badgers Mount, 7.30 pm, 19 April 2018.

PRESENT: Chair Mr. John Grint (JG) – (Acting Chair)
Parish Cllrs Mr. G Plumb (GP), Ms T McCartney (TM), Mr A Dunlop (AD)
District Cllrs Note JG is also a District Councillor
County Cllrs Nick Chard (NC)

In attendance: Clerk Mr. G Dessent

Apologies: None.

Local Residents: A number of Local residents attended, plus speakers (see annex)

1. INTRODUCTION

JG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - Cllr John Grint

JG explained that over the past year:

- The Council had regularly scrutinized planning applications in the Parish
- He had taken over as acting chair, owing to Roy Blamey's retirement, following sterling work as chair for which JG was very grateful
- Pleased to report the appointment of Geoff Dessent as the new Clerk (from April 2018)
- Very aware of some significant planning proposals both in and nearby the Parish over the coming year (eg Broke Hill)

JG also added the following points from his District Councillor's perspective

- Sevenoaks DC has been astute in balancing its budget and has been named best Council in the Country (under the CiPFA awards scheme)
- Sevenoaks DC has raised its game as regards Public Health, an increasingly key area
- Sevenoaks DC is progressing the Local Plan, which is due out for consultation in the Summer this year

3. KENT POLICE - Amy Hardy

Amy Hardy (AH) from Kent Police made the following points:

- Two Police Officers now cover the Badgers Mount area, giving support in depth, but the overall area they both cover is a little larger
- Please to report Crime in the Parish is low,

- Looking at work to reduce speeding in the Parish which might include some suggested Speedwatch schemes – details to follow

Question: JG felt it seemed more difficult to report non-urgent crime, as not all residents could do this online. AH reminded the meeting that as well as online access the 101 number can be used for this purpose.

4. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL- Cllr Nick Chard

Nick Chard (NC) made the following points:

- He had received many concerns about the 402 Bus Service withdrawal and hoped that the new 431 Service went some way to meet these concerns
- Planning – significant planning issues in the local area
- Roads – budget restrictions make it difficult to deal with all the “Pot-Hole” and other issues but Kent CC is doing its best
- Grants for community projects – such grants are available, and Kent CC is keen to work in collaboration with others in the community sharing costs and resources where possible.

Question: Who is responsible for Air quality? How would this impact on the Broke Hill planning application for 800 – 1000 new homes?

Answer: NC responded that the District Council monitored Air quality but that Kent CC were responsible for responding to any concerns – as regards Broke Hill NC felt that usually there were bigger issues than air quality as regards such significant developments, but that he would keep this in mind. And noted the concerns in general about the proposed Broke Hill development (about which he had had 25 letters) which although outside the Parish was adjoining and therefore would impact the Parish

Question: Concerns raised about outstanding agreed actions as regards pavement improvements and pedestrian crossings upgrades in the Parish.

Answer: NC asked for the full details of this to be sent to him so that he could follow up.

5. AGE UK

Age UK made the following points:

- Local Age UK group, independent of National body and is based in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge
- Collect older people from the Parish to attend day centres
- Provide a range of services including, practical help at home (shopping, gardening etc.), befriending to combat loneliness and isolation, as well as advice on benefits, finance and other issues which older people face, through their advocacy work. All of this is supported by leaflets and help to access online materials and service

6. HALSTEAD GREEN BELT FUTURE – Helen Brown

The Halstead Green Belt Future group made the following points:

- Concerned about the proposed Broke Hill development and its impact on the local area
- Has held an open meeting and planning another (24 May) to try and get as many residents involved as possible to ensure Sevenoaks District Council understand the strength of feeling about the Broke Hill proposed development (in Halstead Parish)

Question: Are you seeking more support for local people?

Answer: Yes, and NC added that a large number of people raising concerns was more likely to register the strongest message with Sevenoaks District Council

7. SEVENOAKS FIRST RESPONDERS

GP reported that the Sevenoaks first responders group had already provided a helpful session to support training as regards the Defibrillator in the Parish, and that further sessions could be arranged.

8. OTHER QUESTIONS

Question: What is the latest on the proposed redevelopment of the Fort Halstead site?

Answer: JG said that planning permission was still approved, and that whilst this project was likely to take time, due to the "clean-up" required on the site, he expected the proposed development of housing and businesses to go ahead – but could not put a timescale on it.

9. CLOSE

JG closed the meeting at 8.45pm, thanked residents for coming and invited them to stay for refreshments and further discussions with Councillors. And to attend future Council meetings, the next one of which was on 3rd May.

ANNEX – LOCAL RESIDENTS AND SPEAKERS ATTENDING

Local Residents

Arthur Evans
Margaret Dolley
Roger King
Diana King
Gill Johnston
Mary Bliss
Zena Belton
John Pringle
Terry Wilding
Judith Brown
Helen Brown
Maureen Simmons
Trevor Simmons
Parish Councillors as listed above

Speakers

John Grint – Badgers Mount Parish Council
Amy Hardy – Kent Police
Nick Chard – Kent County Council
Age UK
Halstead Green Belt Future – Helen Brown