

BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to Parish Council:

Geoff Dessent

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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2020 at 7.30pm by VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS, AND PERMITTED BY THE VIRTUAL MEETINGS REGULATION

Present: Cllr J Grint (JG) Chair
Cllr G Plumb (GP)
Cllr T McCartney (TMC)
Cllr A Dunlop (AD)
Cllr S Lake (SL)

Others present: None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Geoff Dessent, Clerk to the Parish Council.

1. MINUTES:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th June and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting on 18th June 2020 (both held by teleconference) not available due to clerk's sickness.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSIBLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

None received from Councillors in relation to items on the Agenda.

3. PUBLIC SESSION:

- (1) Email received from Arthur Evans enquiring who owns or is responsible for the water reservoir/sump pond adjacent to the rear of Crest Close. Councillors confirmed that, to the best of their knowledge, it is the responsibility of Kent Highways.

Agreed:

TM will email Mr. Evans and advise.

- (2) Roger King on behalf of the Badgers Mount Residents Association requesting a contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of essential tree works in Highland Road. The Council agreed to contribute one half of the cost. This item will be put on the next Agenda for formal agreement.

Agreed:

TM will advise Mr. King of the decision by email.

A comprehensive review of maintenance of all trees and vegetation in the parish should take place within the next 6 months. This will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

4. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

District Councillor report:

Very little to update on. The majority of meetings are being held online. The SDC Argyle Road Office reception has re-opened to the public now.

County Councillor report:

No report received.

5. FINANCE AND STAFFING:

- 5.1 Approve accounts for payment:

These were agreed and the payments were made by GP on 3rd July 2020 (see annex 1). Wet signed copies will be provided in due course.

Agreed:

TM will print and sign and then GP will sign.

GP will make all payments during Clerk's leave of absence.

- 5.2 Approval of end of June Bank reconciliations
No bank reconciliation available due to Clerk's leave of absence. This will take place next month.
- 5.3 Approve the Annual Governance Statement:
Approved, JG will sign and send directly to external Auditors.
- 5.4 Approve Annual Accounting Statements:
As 5.3.
- 5.5 Clerk's absence due to sickness:
Clerk on temporary sick leave from Council.

Agreed:

JG will contact KALC to enquire about the legal position re Clerk duties and what should happen next.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should only return to his role when medically certified to be fit for work.

- 5.6 Clerk's Annual Appraisal update:
Appraisal carried out by JG. Formal appraisal has not been issued due to Clerk's absence. This will be reviewed on Clerk's return.
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** (including correspondence):
Nothing else to report at this time.
SDC Press release warning fly tipping in district will not be tolerated.

Agreed: publish on website for resident awareness.

7. PARISH COUNCILLORS/PARISH CLERK REPORTS:

No report available from Parish Clerk due to absence.

7.1 Planning Applications for PC decision - PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Plumb)

Planning Applications –

- a) SE/20/01665/HOUSE – 18 Johnsons Avenue – double garage and workshop.
Agreed: No objection.
- b) SE/20/01707/FUL – Worsley, Badgers Road – demolition of existing and replacement 5 bed dwelling
Planning Determinations - for discussion (Cllr Plumb).
Comments considered from resident.
Agreed: GP will prepare draft response on behalf of Council and circulate to Councillors for comments/approval.
- c) SE/20/00266/FUL – Land to rear of The Cottage, Badgers Road – Application granted at Development Control Committee meeting, SDC earlier today despite representations from GP and JG. A Construction & Transportation statement will be issued relating to the site before work can commence.
- d) Calcutta Club, London Road – Appeal by car wash company for leave to remain refused. They have 3 months to vacate the site.
- e) Urban Farm, Wheatsheaf Hill – determination awaited.
- f) Bluebell Cemetery, Old London Road – Statement of Common Ground agreed between SDC and Applicants on 17/06/2020 prior to Appeal hearing taking place.

Comprehensive report on the site prepared by Halstead Parish Council (HPC). Cllrs had nothing further to add to

report at this time.

Agreed:

We will advise HPC of further concerns raised by our residents.

TM will write to HPC to thank them for a comprehensive report and request to be kept informed of any further developments that they become aware of in relation to this site.

- g) Polytunnel construction at the rear of Polhill Garden Centre – referred to SDC Planning Enforcement due to size of tunnel.

7.2 BSP SKIP site by Roundabout

No update available. Continue to monitor.

7.3 Neighbourhood Plan

Awaiting latest Vision Note from O'Neill Homer.

Agreed: Short break to be taken on Neighbourhood Plan preparation during Clerk's absence.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

- (1) Consideration to be given to communication at future meetings (Zoom etc.).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

16th July 2020 – Planning Meeting (if required)

6th August 2020 - Council Meeting (if required)

The meeting closed at 10.01 pm.

Minutes prepared by TM on behalf of Geoff Dessent, Clerk to the Parish Council.