

**Draft Minutes** of the **Annual Parish Meeting** called by Badgers Mount Parish Council - Thursday 1st June 2023 in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm**

### **Meeting Opened : 7:15 PM**

The Meeting was attended by 18 members of the public. Four Councillors & the Clerk were present. Apologies by Cllr McCartney

Cllr John Grint, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided over the Annual Parish Meeting

7:15 to 7:30 pm - Informal drinks & nibbles and networking. Members of the Parish met the Councillors informally over drinks & nibbles. They also had a chance to browse through an Eco pop up shop whilst chatting with their neighbours & friends.

7:30 pm – The Chairman of the Council called for people to take their seats so that the formal meeting could begin.

7:32 pm - Chairman's address – Cllr Grint opened the meeting by introducing the recently re-elected members of the Council claiming that he saw this as a mark of confidence for the Parish Council. He then spoke about the large-scale events that had taken place in the Parish over the last year – QPJ, passing away of the Queen, Charity Bake Sale for Turkey & Syria & the Coronation. He thanked all the other organisations in the village as well as the volunteers & applauded them for working together to bring forward memorable community events. He then gave a brief overview of the Parish Council financials for 2022-24 & concluded that the Parish Council had healthy finances. He also announced the launch of Councillors clinic ( a one to one platform for Parishioners to talk to their Councillors starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday meeting of the Parish Council in July. He touched upon the Parish Council's commitment towards eco-sustainability & move towards the net-zero goals of the country, encouraging all residents to do their bit and contribute their ideas on achieving these goals. John introduced and decided to open the meeting report. He also stated that the Council was working on a Risk & Emergency Plan, the committee headed by Cllr Alistair Dunlop & handed over to Cllr Dunlop for a presentation on the framework.

7:40 pm - Presentation by Cllr Dunlop on Risk Management & Emergency planning. Cllr Dunlop took the attendees through the problems faced by many from last year i.e., power outage, sewage leaks & outbreaks of minor fire water leakages. He followed it up with some practical solutions on how to mitigate risk and broad outline plans for the same. He invited residents to provide feedback on the issues that were important to them as well as bring forth their ideas on what the PC could do to improve the ongoing planning to keep the Parish safe.

7:50 to 8:15 pm - Open House for questions/discussions by Residents. Some of the questions raised are listed below:

- Would the Parish Council consider unlocking the Defib machine to allow speedier access in case of an Emergency?
- Could the PC approach SDC to adopt a system of stricter enforcement of those not cleaning up after their Dogs and introduce a system to Fine the defaulters?
- A concern was raised against the rapid coppicing of trees in some of the surrounding woodland areas like near Conways & Andrews wood as it was removing the noise shield from the M25
- As a result of the grant of Appeal to Chevening House, there will be increased traffic on Orpington Bypass and therefore there should be a renewed call for reducing the speed limit on the A224. There were also concerns raised about the increased noise volume due to the patched resurfacing & increased traffic. Residents expressed concerns about safety with regards to turning into their homes as well as entering Badgers Road & Highland Road from OBP. There was also a point raised that though there was lesser traffic due to the closing of the entry from the A21 on the old London Road,

8:15 to 8:30 pm – Prizes – Prizes for some of the competitions held in 2022-23 were distributed to the prize winners i.e. the Photography competition as well as ‘Find the Jubilee Bear’ competition for kids.

8:30 to 9:00 pm - Guest Speaker 1 – Kathie Foster from the West Kent Badger Group spoke about the conservation, habitats & habits of Badgers

9:00 to 9:20 pm - Guest Speaker 2 – Peter Mehmet from Solar & Renewable Solutions spoke about the benefits of using solar power to save energy bills as well as the planet.

9:20 to 9:45 pm - Networking & drinks – post the presentations the Residents as well as the Guest speakers networked while having drinks & nibbles. Potter & Hare Eco Living had a pop-up store with eco-friendly household products & gifts through the entire duration of the presentation.

Meeting Ends: 22:00 hours