

MINUTES of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting to be held on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm**.

Attended by : Cllr Nigel Williams (Chevening), Cllr Grint, Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr McCartney, Cllr, Lake, Clerk + 17 residents

### Meeting started:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: NO APOLOGIES
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 approved
3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS: To receive any disclosure by members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interests, and whether the member regards the interest to be prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. - None
4. PUBLIC SESSION: BMPC was pleased to welcome Cllr Nigel Williams from Chevening as he has considerable experience in dealing with the Planning application for the Chevening House development. He spoke about the impending abolition of district and county councils, replacing them with large mayoral unitary councils. This will heighten the importance of parish and town councils. The new government's planning laws and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) require building over 1000 houses annually, straining administrative resources. The introduction of a new "gray belt" category for development is subjective and controversial. Traffic concerns were raised, with 200 lorries expected daily, and proposals for pedestrian crossings and speed limits were discussed. Some action items that emerged from the residents were : Explore using social media and reaching out to other local groups to raise public awareness about the issues and gain more support, Investigate getting air quality monitoring data from the local authority to quantify the impact of increased traffic, Closely monitor the routes taken by the lorries and take action if they deviate from the designated routes. Another idea suggested was to employ 'Lollipop people' to help children cross the street during school start & end times to guide them safely to the bus stop
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: The District Councillor reported that preparations are ongoing for the anticipated devolution, though no clear timetable has been provided, leading to continued uncertainty for staff at SDC. A significant development is planned east of the High Street, which includes the construction of a new leisure centre. The existing leisure centre site will subsequently be redeveloped for housing. The future of the padel operation remains undecided; however, the measures currently being taken to mitigate any potential impact are considered adequate.
6. FINANCE AND STAFFING
  - 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments : Accounts approved
  - 6.2. Employers PAYE registration + VAT reclaim: Clerk has already requested HMRC for setting up BMPC as new employer. VAT will be reclaimed for the last four years, information to be filled out in the format required by HMRC
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : Nothing to report
8. CLERKS REPORTS
  - 8.1. Settlement Hierarchy audit : Clerk to submit the information to SDC before deadline
  - 8.2. Community Newsletter – Spring 2025 : Newsletter to be designed and completed by Clerk to be printed by the first week of May
  - 8.3. Catapult complaints/local incidents : The request has come from Laura Trott's office to submit any complaints. All Councillors confirmed that they had not heard of any such incidents in the village
  - 8.4. Annual Parish Meeting **May 15** : Format of the meeting was agreed. Clerk proposed a guided woodland walk as an additional event to celebrate 10 years of BMPC. It was also suggested that it would

be good to give all residents a token present to celebrate the occasion. Clerk to organise the specifics & submit final plan for all Councillors to agree on

- 8.5. Badgers Mount Charity Bake Sale **April 27** : Clerk to design & get posters printed in time for the event as well as liase with BMPC & WI for support
- 8.6. Oak Tree Farm updates: All evidence has been submitted to SDC. SDC has requested if any resident or the Parish Council would like to submit an s9 Statement of Witness for further action

**Meeting Ended : 21:30**