

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th of April 2023 in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm**

In attendance: Cllr Grint, Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr Lake

Present: Clerk

Meeting started: 1935

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr McCartney sent her apologies & apologies accepted.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Resolve to approve the minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 2nd, 2023 – approved and signed.
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 to declare.
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:** Polhill roundabout has many advertising boards, and it is not determined if they have the permission to display the boards. Cllr Lake to make a list of the businesses and the hygiene factor and then make an informed decision. The Council needs to determine whether short term advertising is permissible & what constitutes a short term.
Another question raised was whether there a definitive name for the 'Polhill roundabout'. Clerk to check if there was any documented evidence of a name.
A resident raised a question via e-mail regarding incomplete road markings on the resurfacing done on the A224. Kent Highways will be coming back to complete the job in dry weather.
Slogan for Badgers Mount: A resident has suggested that the village should have a slogan with which the residents can identify themselves with. The Parish Council have decided to hold a Slogan Contest for the Residents which will be published in the Newsletter.
5. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**
 - 5.1. Update on Oak Tree Farm- SDC has led a multi-agency visit to Oak Tree Farm to collect evidence of contraventions relating to various Agencies. They are also in touch with nearby residents to collect witness statements before considering appropriate actions.
 - 5.2. Emergency full council meeting for Sencio insolvency was held regarding the closure of the Seven-oaks Leisure Centre. The District Council is trying to get back the leases from Sencio & the insolvency practitioners are trying to raise money by selling equipment.
 - 5.3. Chevening Parkland proposal – A conglomeration of affected Parish Councils are considering next step led by Cllr Nigel Williams (Chevening) & Cllr Grint (Badgers Mount)
6. **FINANCE AND STAFFING**
 - 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments-approved.
 - 6.2. Approval for end of March Bank Reconciliations - approved
 - 6.3. Personnel Committee
7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – None to report
8. **CLERKS REPORTS**
 - 8.1. Parish Elections May 4th, 2023. Notice of Uncontested Elections for the Parish Council served. District Council elections will go ahead.
 - 8.2. Roadworks – Orpington Bypass roadworks completed by Kent Highways apart from markings, which will be done once the dry weather commences.
 - 8.3. Road at the entrance to Polhill – It was discussed that given the spate of recent accidents would it help if there was a roundabout at the Polhill garden centre entrance having a roundabout at the entrance of the Garden Centre. As there is a proposed roundabout to come up at the Otford Lane junction, it needs to be considered carefully. Clerk to include this in the HIP requirements.

- 8.4. Implementing effective Community engagements– A few ideas were brainstormed to increase engagement between the residents & Parish Council in an appropriate environment. It has been decided to trial a Councillors Clinic (confidential & one to one) once a month 30 minutes before the Parish Council Meeting. Clerk to work out details & communicate through the Newsletter.
- 8.5. Coronation celebrations decisions – Various organisations as well as resident volunteers have put together a programme for the Coronation and presented to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to fully support this programme of events.
- 8.6. Newsletter: Clerk to put together the Spring edition of the Community Newsletter which will also carry the updated schedule of all events for the Coronation weekend ahead of the celebrations
- 8.7. Spring/summer plans for village planters: Parish Council to request Polhill if they could supply a combination of perennial as well as annual plants for the planters such that the planters could be maintained through all seasons.
- 8.8. Defib Machine at Andrews Woods: The Clerk has contacted the Countryside Manager at SDC for installation of Defibrillators at Andrews Woods. SDC are in the process of establishing the maintenance & installation requirements and will inform the Parish Council once they have more information.
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS
 - 9.1. Emergency Plan Taskforce (Community preparation for flooding, storms & snow): A Draft Report has been prepared. A short summary would be included in the Newsletter & a presentation shared at the Annual Parish meeting for the Residents to contribute their thoughts on this.
10. VILLAGE/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
 - 10.1. Empty plots on Highland Road – Discussion to be deferred to next meeting.
11. PLANNING
 - 11.1. No new Planning Applications

Meeting ended: 21:45