

Minutes of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd of February 2023 in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm**

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

Present: Clerk, Cllr Marshall (HPC) & 1 Parishioner

Meeting Started: 19:35

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies from Cllr Lake accepted.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on Jan 5th, 2023, approved.
3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS: None declared by those present.
4. PUBLIC SESSION:
 - 4.1. A Councillor from the Halstead Parish Council attended the session & invited the residents of Badgers Mount to attend a session by the Metropolitan Police on Road racers who have been creating a lot of disturbance in the Hewitts roundabout area. The Chairman accepted the invitation and assured the Councillors that BMPC would promote the meeting amongst the Residents
 - 4.2. The Lengthsman informed the Council that he has cleaned the Millennium sign, however it required professional cleaning done.
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

The District Councillor provided an update on the appeal hearing on Chevening estate which was not optimistic. He reported that there seemed to be a mismatch between the resources of the Chevening Estate and SDC. Interested parties were not presented with any opportunities to give an extended presentation. Statement for common ground-was not balanced towards SDC. Traffic plans were discussed, but it was not seen as a long-term inconvenience. At the Appeal, Cllr Grint pointed out that BMPC were not consulted & Barrister issued an apology.

He also reported that Fort Halstead has been approved and there was to be a co-ordinated activity to take concerted action. He suggested that time might be right to put together a joint working group and asked Halstead Parish Council if they would like to take the lead in the formation of the a joint committee.
6. FINANCE AND STAFFING
 - 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments: Payments approved.
 - 6.2. Approval for end January Bank Reconciliations: No change in Bank Statements since January 2023
 - 6.3. Personnel Committee: No updates provided.
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Halstead PC organising a meeting to discuss the Coronation arrangements at the Pavillion on Feb 20th, 2023 at 19:30 hours. Chairman & Clerk to attend.
8. CLERKS REPORTS
 - 8.1. Parish Elections May 4th, 2023 – In advance of the Parish Council elections on the 4th of May this year, the Clerk advised that there is a new rule for electors that choose to vote in a polling station will need to provide Photo ID for the very first time at the polls. The Notice of Election will be published on March 17th2023. The Clerk encourages Councillors and those that would like to stand for the Elections to attend the Nominations training which will be announced by local organisations shortly.
 - 8.2. Kent Police updates post Parish & Town Clerks Forum
 - 8.2.1. At the Town & Parish Council Forum Inspector Atkinson of Kent Police informed the Clerks that there is a re-structuring of the Police Force which is currently being planned. Kent Police are looking at structuring it around five areas of policing i.e. District Based, Child-centred, PC + PCSO policing, Divisionally based which will include a Rural Task Force & a Prevention Hub manned by CSU's
 - 8.2.2. Drones: The Kent Police have been made aware of Drone activities at night in Badgers Mount. Kent Police have asked to be kept updated & will continue to monitor the complaints. The Parish Council agreed that they would also monitor any further sightings closely.

- 8.3. Implementing effective Community engagements- Ideas to be shared with the Councillors by the Clerk and discussed in coming meetings.
 - 8.4. Green Energy adoption by City of London as a blueprint for Local Authorities- In continuation of the discussion find more sustainable energy solutions for the Parish, the Clerk informed those attending about the project announced by the City of London Corporation whereby a Solar Farm in Dorset would be providing energy to major London sites including schools, social housing & open spaces.
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS
- 9.1. Discuss updates on Unadopted Roads- The Roads sub-committee is studying the various options to resolve the issues for the unadopted roads. The options and the way to communicate about them will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - 9.2. Emergency Plan Taskforce (Community preparation for flooding, storms & snow): A Task Force has been created comprising of Councillors and a co-opted Resident to prepare An outline structure & provide ideas for the Risk Management & Emergency Response Document in time for the newly elected Council in May
 - 9.3. Coronation Arrangements: Cllr Grint & the Clerk to attend the Halstead meeting and then prepare a joined-up plan for Coronation Celebrations for Badgers Mount.
10. VILLAGE/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
- 10.1. Discuss concerns raised about Oak Tree Farm: There have been concerns raised about the activities at Oak Tree Farm by the residents of Halstead & Badgers Mount. The Parish Council would like to extend all support to the Halstead Parish Council in resolving any unlawful activity in the mentioned location.
 - 10.2. Discuss Badgers Mount membership of CPRE: The Parish Council have decided to continue the membership & nominate the Clerk to be the Nominated representative.
 - 10.3. Discuss building works around the building formerly known as the Mumbai Central: This item was proposed by Cllr Lake and due to his absence this item is deferred to the next to our next meeting.
11. PLANNING
- 11.1. Planning Applications
 - 11.1.1. 23/00003/FUL-Polhill Garden Centre: Removal of 2 storage containers and one sided canopy and erection of glasshouse. The Parish Council has no objection to this Planning application provided it is used for horticultural purposes.
 - 11.1.2. 22/03553/WTPO-Caversham Highland Road: Application for consent to cut down, prune or uproot trees covered by Tree Preservation Order (for information only). The Council was informed about this application.

Meeting ended: 22:05