

MINUTES of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 16th January 2025** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm**.

Attended by: Cllr Grint, Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr McCartney, Cllr Lake, Clerk

Meeting started: 19:30

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Resolve to approve the minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th December 2024. Minutes 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. Cllr Lake disclosed his interest in section 9.1 as he has vested interest in the person carrying out the works. It was decided that Cllr Lake would not be voting therefore for that section.
4. PUBLIC SESSION: Including items emailed to the Clerk in advance of the meeting (up to 15 minutes)
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: Cllr Grint spoke of the various discussions on Devolution being held at District Council. Kent County Council have put themselves up to be part of the devolution priority programme. Results are expected to be announced by the end of January. More information to come later.
6. FINANCE AND STAFFING
 - 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments: Payments approved
 - 6.2. Bank Reconciliation: Bank reconciliation matches Bank statement
 - 6.3. Debrief on Personnel Meeting held on 15th Jan 2025: The Committee met on the 15th to review the performance of the Clerk which will be conveyed by the Chairman to the Clerk in a separate meeting on the 22nd of January. Lengthmans contract will need to be reviewed for 2025-26.. PAYE for National Insurance will need to be organised
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman informed that Council that Colin Merritt & Ian Butler have been introduced to each other to work out the fly tipping issue on the land opposite Parish Fields. A meeting has been requested by Mr Butler to meet Cllr Grint & Cllr Williams. The Council authorised the Chair to have an exploratory meeting with Ian Butler.
8. CLERKS REPORTS
 - 8.1. Devolution & local Govt reorganisation update: As discussed in the District Councillors report.
 - 8.2. SDC's waste collection services – Comments on "Big Waste Conversation" Survey (Deadline 3rd Feb) : The Parish Council discussed the ongoing "Big Waste Conversation" survey by Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and agreed to submit comments. Concerns were raised regarding waste collection in smaller roads within Badgers Mount, where access is often restricted. It was noted that smaller collection lorries are required for certain areas to ensure efficient service. Additionally, the Council emphasized that waste collection planning should account for peak waste volumes rather than relying solely on average figures. The width of the roads, particularly at corners, was also highlighted as a factor requiring careful consideration to ensure smooth and effective collections.
 - 8.3. TfL A21 Sevenoaks Safety improvements: No further comments. The Council's stance remains the same
 - 8.4. Oak Tree Farm Update: Evidence gathered from residents have been passed on to the relevant department of SDC as well as to Crimestoppers. SDC will be organising another site visit shortly.
 - 8.5. Saturday Freighter: 2025 timetable & possible new venue - Following concerns raised about the safety of the current Freighter location at the junction of Badgers Road and Orpington Bypass, the Parish Council has been in discussion with SDC regarding an alternative site. It has been confirmed that the Freighter can access and fit within the Memorial Car Park. The Council has agreed to trial this new location for the next collection on **8th March 2025**. The Clerk will confirm the change with SDC and ensure residents are informed.

- 8.6. Village Planters maintenance contract: The Parish Council expressed gratitude to all volunteers who have maintained the village planters. However, due to challenges posed by summer droughts, difficulties in watering, and sourcing plants, it was proposed that maintenance be outsourced to a professional organisation. With additional planters arriving soon, this measure would help ensure their upkeep. A proposal was received from the organisation responsible for planters in Dunton Green Parish Council, Riverhead Parish Council, and Sevenoaks Town Council. The Council approved the proposal, with acceptance **proposed by Cllr Dunlop and seconded by Cllr Lake**.
- 8.7. BM Annual Charity Bake Sale: Proposed dates are 23rd of March or 16th March depending on the Memorial Hall availability
- 8.8. Dates for Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting : Proposed dates are 1st of May & 5th of May respectively & agreed by the Council (1st of May will have to be reconsidered should the KCC elections go ahead as planned
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS24/02486/HOUSE
- 9.1. Badgers Road/Highland Road Junction tree/hedge clearing works for better visibility-Quotations have been called for. Post selection dates will be decided and residents' communication would be rolled out.
- 9.2. Salt Bins & Salt for KCC & Parish Council owned – The Parish Council confirmed that salt bins have been delivered, and additional salt bags are expected to arrive tomorrow. Two additional salt bins have been ordered, along with a pallet of salt for bins located on unadopted roads. KCC has already supplied salt for the bins under their maintenance. It was emphasized that salt distribution is a **community-wide responsibility** and not solely that of the Councillors. Residents are encouraged to assist in spreading salt when necessary. The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that salt supplies are in place and ready for use before winter sets in next year.
10. PLANNING
- 10.1. 24/03279/FUL: Land South Of Polhill Garden Centre London Road Badgers Mount Halstead Kent TN14 7AD. Development: Indoor Padel Centre with 6no. courts, Clubhouse, Community function rooms, Therapy Room, Outdoor Community Gardens and Learn to Ride Cycling Course. (Deadline 22nd Jan 2025). The Parish Council supports the application. Clerk to liaise with HPC to get their views on this application
- 10.2. 24/03338/HOUSE: Keepers Cottage Orpington Bypass Road Badgers Mount Kent TN14 7AG. Development: Erection of detached single storey home office. (Deadline 31st Jan 2025). The Parish Council objects to this application & will sent their comments to the Planning department

Meeting ended : 22:15