

MINUTES of the Badgers Mount Parish Council held on **Thursday 5th June 2025** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm**.

Meeting attendees : Cllr Grint, Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr McCartney, Clerk

Meeting started: 19:00

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies accepted from Cllr Lake
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th April, 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: None
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: The District Councillor provided a brief overview of some of the developments that had taken place at the Management Committee level at SDC. It was noted that an independent group had been formed within Sevenoaks District Council due to dissatisfaction with the Conservative leader's management. Nine members, all former Conservatives, had joined this group, which would not automatically cooperate with the Conservatives but consider matters on a case-by-case basis. The Council now comprised 25 Conservatives, 14 Liberal Democrats, 9 West Kent Independents, and others. The independent group aimed to represent local interests without party control. The discussion also noted the upcoming election in 2027, the reallocation of committee positions, and the challenges of decision-making within a minority-led council.
6. FINANCE AND STAFFING
 - 6.1. Accounts for Payments approved
 - 6.2. The Internal Auditors report was discussed at the meeting. The Internal Auditor was happy with both the governance as well as the accuracy of the numbers & concluded the independent audit on the 12th of May 2025. He did make a comment on the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held in May rather than April.
 - 6.3. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 (Section 1 of AGAR) has been noted by the Council, approved & signed by the Chairman & Clerk
 - 6.4. The Accounting Statements 2024/25 (Section 2 of AGAR) has been noted by the Council, approved & signed by the Clerk as well as the Chairman
 - 6.5. Commencement date for the exercise of public rights have been set from June 6th to July 17th 2025 (both days inclusive)
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : The Chairman informed the Council that the Padel club planning application (24/03279/FUL) has been recommended for refusal by SDC due to building in National Landscapes. However, it has been referred to the Development Management Committee and will be heard and decided at the meeting (date TBD)
8. CLERKS REPORTS
 - 8.1. A224 issues regarding increasing traffic due to developments: The Parish Council had sent letters to Director-Highways & Transportation KCC & Laura Trott, MP Sevenoaks. Kent Highways had responded to BMPC's complaint regarding increased HGV movements on the A224. It was noted that Condition 30 of the Fort Halstead application had been discharged by Sevenoaks District Council in March 2025, granting legal permission for the HGV routing as set out in the Construction Traffic Management Plan. Kent Highways confirmed that the A224 is a primary route suitable for the level of HGV traffic involved and that the overall traffic and safety records remain acceptable. As such, KCC Highways would not be making any further representations on the matter. The Parish Council are disappointed with the response from KCC but will continue to take the matter up at the highest levels. Meeting to be set up with Kent Highways to discuss revised HIP for Badgers Mount. Parish Council will also consider seeking assistance from '20isplenty', the Community Interest company.

- 8.2. Strategy for collection of email IDs from residents for more effective communication : The Parish Council recognises the importance of collection of email IDs from residents in order to communicate effectively with them in a GDPR compliant manner. Various strategies were discussed. Door to door campaigning by a pair of Councillors was considered to start the process off. The route of signing up via the Newsletter & website has not yielded the desired result. Placing QR codes at strategic locations was also discussed and will be tried at a later date
 - 8.3. Herb Pods from the Annual Parish Meeting to residents will be distributed at the same time as the door to door collection of email IDs
 - 8.4. Discuss resident concerns regarding parking-related safety issues along Badgers Road, particularly between the junction with Milton Avenue and the A224 : The meeting discussed severe parking issues in the village, with insufficient parking spaces and vehicles obstructing roads and driveways. Specific problems include builders and utility vehicles parking in restricted areas, and residents parking multiple cars in the street instead of their drives.. Proposed solutions include double yellow lines, no parking signs, and bans on certain types of vehicles. The Parish Council acknowledged the problem but noted limited options due to regulations and the need for further discussion. Specific instances of parking violations by residents were also highlighted, emphasizing the need for community awareness and potential enforcement. The Council have registered the issue & deferred more indepth discussion to further meetings
 - 8.5. It was proposed to combine the AGMs of all organisations in Badgers Mount in one day/meeting due to dwindling attendance. Clerk to ask all local organisations if they were willing to consider this proposal.
 - 8.6. Car Race meeting at Hewitts Roundabout on May 25th - The Council was made aware of this incident. It was decided to remind residents of the process for reporting to police in the next newsletter.
9. PLANNING
- 9.1. 25/01285/REM – DSTL Fort Halstead – Amended Consultation - Reserved matters application (details relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to condition 5 of hybrid planning permission (in outline) 19/05000/HYB for Phase 1 (RM01) works comprising Polhill Roundabout and a section of Crow Drive, with associated infrastructure including landscaping, and to comply with conditions 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 55. Deadline 7 June 2025. Application noted by the Parish Council.

Meeting ended : 21:30