

MINUTES of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 6th March 2025** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm**.

*Meeting attended by: Cllr Plumb(acting Chairperson), Cllr Dunlop, Cllr McCartney, Cllr Lake, Clerk + 5 residents*

**Meeting started: 19:00**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies from Cllr Grint as there was a clashing meeting at SDC
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved for the Parish Council Meeting held **Thursday 6th February 2025**
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 Dunlop, Cllr McCartney with their respective neighbours Planning Applications, they will refrain from voting on those Applications
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:**
  - 4.1. A resident's email complaint was noted regarding hedges obstructing the pathway on Old London Road. The Council reiterated that residents are responsible for the regular trimming of hedges on their property to ensure the pathway remains unobstructed.
  - 4.2. A resident requested the relocation of a slow-down sign on Highland Road from outside their property. The Council agreed to discuss the matter further, and any relocation will only occur with the agreement of the affected neighbours and the Parish Council.
5. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** It has been brought to the Council's attention that the landowners of the land opposite Parish Field are considering potential development for approximately 4-5 residential units. Planning policy officers have indicated a preference for any such development to include affordable housing provision. However, the specifics of any development will be contingent upon the outcome of the forthcoming call for sites process.
6. **FINANCE AND STAFFING**
  - 6.1. Accounts for Payments approved
  - 6.2. Bank Reconciliation completed & matched with Bank statements
7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Nothing new to report
8. **CLERKS REPORTS**
  - 8.1. Discussion on improving communication to residents – Councillors discussed improving communication with residents. Residents noted that while social media like WhatsApp & Facebook groups updates are helpful, not all residents use or regularly check those channels. Email was suggested as an alternative, but GDPR compliance and a previous low response rate to an email collection campaign were discussed. Residents encouraged the Council to re-attempt email collection. It was also suggested that direct, door-to-door communication would be beneficial for important, targeted information. Residents further suggested more timely website updates, including earlier posting of meeting minutes. The physical newsletter and leaflets physically dropped to all households were confirmed to be effective communication methods.
  - 8.2. Proposal to FM Conway (FMC has been fully acquired by Vinci Construction) for part usage of Jenkins Woods for community area- The Parish Council has submitted a proposal to FM Conway regarding the potential use of a portion of Jenkins Woods for a community area. The proposal the specific area being considered, the intended community uses, any proposed development or maintenance plans & sustainability & ecological impacts. The Parish Council is currently awaiting a response from them.
  - 8.3. Tree works & signage completed on Badgers Road/Highland Road Junction. Additional road signage, compliant with the Highways Code, will be ordered and installed to supplement the existing signage
  - 8.4. New Planters & Village Planters maintenance contract: The installation of new self-watering planters has been completed. Two planters and a bench are located in proximity to the Memorial sign, near the bus stop. A further three-tier planter has been installed at the upper end of the public pathway, close to Nesbitt House. All planters, including both existing and new, have been fully planted.

- 8.5. Content for Parishes Together Magazine – Rota for content creation for the magazine to be drawn & shared with the Councillors.
  - 8.6. Community Newsletter: Spring edition - The Clerk will formulate the strategic theme and content outline for the newsletter. Relevant organisations will be invited to provide submissions, and the Clerk will subsequently edit and complete the newsletter for distribution.
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS
- 9.1. Invasive Spruce Bark Beetle Awareness: The Forestry Commission is urging vigilance within the Pro-active Spruce Removal Area for the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), an invasive pest that targets weakened spruce trees, particularly after storm events, and is asking for residents to report any concerns via TreeAlert or email. This proactive approach aims to prevent the beetle from establishing and potentially devastating the country's timber industry. Clerk to include a short message in the Community Newsletter for information to residents
10. PLANNING
- 10.1. 25/00281/HOUSE: Hiawatha Highland Road Badgers Mount Kent TN14 7BB. Part first storey side and rear extension Part two storey rear extension. Demolish existing porch and construct new two storey entrance lobby. (Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025) – The Parish Council has No objection to this application
  - 10.2. 25/00318/HOUSE: Druids Oak Milton Avenue Badgers Mount Kent TN14 7AU. Demolition of existing garage, side and rear extensions including reforming roof with new rooflights, rear patio extension. The Parish Council has No Objection in principle. There will be a separate planning application for the tree with TPO.

**Meeting ended : 21:00**