

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Badgers Mount Parish Council held on Thursday 6th of October 2022 in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm**

Meeting Started: 19:40

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 1st, 2022 approved
3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS: None
4. PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr S Pullman from the The Cottage next to the Parish Field attended the meeting to answer the questions & concerns of residents previously raised regarding the construction. The Update was as follows: Finish construction of the basement slab steel works & concrete poured w/c 17th of Oct. Construction of walls to start the week after and wall plate height by w/c 29th Nov (dependant on weather & material deliveries. Once wall plate height is reached then they will start removing the stored sand from the adjacent plot and use it for backfilling. Site is expected to be complete close to Christmas 2022. Mr Pullman assured the Council that there will be no more digging the road up, as all services will be brought along the side of the fence. Both the verges would be made good.

Mr Maclean, an attending resident asked about the Land opposite Parish Field & future plans. He mentioned that clearing of the field by the owners has been beneficial in the last 3-4 years. He also asked about the latest changes for construction on the green belt. The District Councillor informed him that the current legislation still held good, however, with the latest changes in the Government, one would need to wait to see the changes in legislations.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Sevenoaks District Council is preparing a Local Plan for the District and is being issued for Regulation 18 Consultation proposed to run for 8 weeks from 16th November 2022 till 11th January 2023. Briefly – all new developments will have to be close to existing settlements. By the 3rd phase the District Council will be looking at development in the Green Belt (deferred to next year). Housing targets are yet to be announced. The District Council's philosophy is to first exhaust the previously developed sites i.e. brown field sites. Budget process will be starting now & there are bound to be pressures on Council Budgets.

6. FINANCE AND STAFFING -

- 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments – Payments done
- 6.2. Approval for end September Bank Reconciliations - Done
- 6.3. Update on Bank online payments – Card Readers to be sent to all a/c holders to complete the set up of online Accounts for the Parish Council
- 6.4. Personnel Committee – Lengths man Contract – ready for the Nov 3rd meeting. Mr Evans would be happy to sign the Contract once it is approved by the Council. He also informed the Council that litter bin needs to be replaced at the top of the path next to Nesbit House.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The PC is deeply saddened by the death of the Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth but looks forward to the reign of the King Charles III.

8. CLERKS REPORTS

- 8.1. Update on Land East of the Cottage and Land opposite Parish Field – Discussed and minuted under Public Discussion
- 8.2. Telecommunication Mast Northeast of Haresfield, Badgers Road – Permission refused
- 8.3. Community Newsletter – Autumn edition. Draft to be drawn by the Clerk
- 8.4. AGAR – External Auditors Report has now been published & its available for the residents to see on the Parish Council website
- 8.5. Planters Maintenance – Cllr Lake to organise a meeting with Polhill to select plants for the next season. It has been recommended to select a mix of drought resistant perennials as well as seasonal plants given the difficulties in watering the planters. Clerk to organise gift vouchers as a token of appreciation for help in building the planters.
- 8.6. Budget for 2023-24 – Breakout meeting fixed for the 26th of Oct of the Financial Committee to get the first draft proposal ready for the next Parish Council Meeting

- 8.7. Council Elections 2023 – The Council to be guided by SDC with regards to Election preparation
- 8.8. Adoption of Green Energy- Given the current energy crisis as well as a move towards cleaner & greener energy, should the Parish Council explore opportunities for off-grid energy sources and energy independence like wind turbines, solar farms. Also explore opportunities to install EV charging points. Clerk to prepare a written report for further discussion
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS
 - 9.1. Unadopted Roads – Council to consider the one pager note drawn up by Cllr Dunlop and send comments about pros & cons for each action point.
 - 9.2. Conversion of Mumbai Central Diner to offices – Has had a change of ownership. The current owner was met by the Council Chairman but was not very clear on what he wanted to do for the future.
 - 9.3. Remembrance Day Poppies – Cllr Lake advised the Council that the poppies will go up end of October/early November.
 - 9.4. Christmas 2022 – The Council had in the past been discussing if Christmas Tree should be put up in the Parish. However due to health & safety considerations it's been agreed that streetlamp X-mas decorations would be a better idea. Cllr McCartney to shortlist such decorations so a decision could be taken for the next meeting. Clerk to check timelines for permissions from KCC for going ahead with this.

Meeting ended : 21:50