

Minutes of Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting to be held on **Thursday 4th September 2025** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm**.

In attendance: Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr McCartney, Cllr Lake & Clerk+ 3 members of the Public

Meeting Commenced : 19:00

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies received and noted from Cllr Grint
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved for the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd July, 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 – None reported
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:** A resident raised serious concerns about hazardous parking on Highland Road, particularly by Open Reach vans obstructing access near the entrance, prompting calls for double yellow lines and “No Parking” signage to prevent future accidents. Cllr Dunlop noted public frustration over water meter installations and related social media discussions. Another resident highlighted incorrect bus routes and timetables for the R5 and R10 due to the Rushmore Hill closure. In contrast, the AA group using the Village Hall on Sundays was praised for consistently parking considerately.
5. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** None to report
6. **FINANCE AND STAFFING**
 - 6.1. Approve Accounts for Payments - Approved
 - 6.2. Bank Reconciliation: Bank reconciliation done
7. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
8. **CLERKS REPORTS**
 - 8.1. Debrief & update on A224 requests by BMPC to Kent Highways - The Parish Council continues to engage with Kent Highways regarding long-standing concerns on the A224, as outlined in the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). A follow-up Automatic Traffic Survey (ATS) is scheduled to begin on 27 September 2025 to measure vehicle speed and volume. This builds on the baseline data collected during last year’s survey and will help inform future safety measures.
 - 8.2. Update on Saturday Freighter Service - Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) has announced the suspension of the paid-for weekend waste collection service from October 2025 due to staffing shortages, particularly a lack of HGV drivers. BMPC has formally requested that the service continue through the end of the 2025–26 financial year, citing the previously published collection calendar and the importance of the service to rural residents
 - 8.3. Update on the meeting with Fort Halstead Developers-Barrat Redrow - On 26 August, Barratt Redrow hosted a site visit for representatives of nearby parish councils to discuss the phased development of Fort Halstead. Phase one will include approximately 110 homes. Developers noted that demolition materials will be reused on-site to reduce lorry traffic. They also requested community input on how to preserve and present the site’s listed buildings and heritage features. Roadworks at the A224/Crow Drive roundabout are expected to take 8–9 months.
 - 8.4. SDC Local Plan upcoming Regulation 18 consultation - As part of the Regulation 18 consultation on the emerging Sevenoaks District Local Plan, SDC will deliver printed consultation materials to parish and town councils between 20–22 October. BMPC will review and respond accordingly.
 - 8.5. Regulation 5A SDC designation of Neighbourhood Area – Chiddingstone Parish - SDC has officially designated Chiddingstone Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under Regulation 5A, following an application by Chiddingstone Parish Council. This allows the parish to begin developing its own Neighbourhood Development Plan.
 - 8.6. Identify projects to apply for CIL Board funding for 2026 - Discussion on potential projects to submit for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Board funding has been deferred to the next meeting to allow full Council participation and input.

- 8.7. Revisit setting timelines for resident's email ID collection for more effective communication – The Council aims to increase resident email sign-ups at local events to improve communication and facilitate initiatives such as the herb pod distribution. A campaign idea was proposed to gather support for reducing the speed limit on the A224, which could also encourage more residents to opt into updates.
 - 8.8. Discussion parking concerns along Badgers Road, particularly between the junction with Milton Avenue and the A224 - Issues were raised regarding parking next to the verge between Milton Avenue and Badgers Road. To assess community sentiment, Cllr Dunlop volunteered to speak with some residents about the possibility of installing "No Parking" signage along the affected stretch.
 - 8.9. Unadopted vs Private Roads: The Council is finalising a clear summary of the distinctions between unadopted and private roads to share with residents, aiming to clarify responsibilities and maintenance expectations T excerpts of which will be included in the next newsletter
 - 8.10. Update-Oak Tree Farm – BMPC remains in regular contact with SDC regarding ongoing concerns at Oak Tree Farm. The Council continues to press for appropriate enforcement action to resolve the matter.
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS/SAFETY
- i. Discussion of Recent Police Incident in the Parish: Kent Police conducted a recent mobile patrol in the area, during which a vehicle was stopped and individuals were detained. Items of concern were seized, and further investigation is underway. Police confirmed that both high-visibility and covert patrols are routinely carried out locally. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious or criminal activity via official channels (999, 101, online, or in person), with anonymity assured. Reports can also be made through Crimestoppers or via local councils, though anonymous tips may limit follow-up. For non-crime matters, residents can use the My Community Voice platform to share local priorities and guide police focus. Measures are in place to protect witnesses should court proceedings arise.

Meeting Closed: 21:30