

Minutes of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 1st February 2024** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.30 pm**.

Meeting started: 19:15

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th January 2023 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 declared.
4. PUBLIC SESSION: An email sent by a resident requesting that the Village Hall Defibrillator should be left unlocked was discussed. Pros and cons of this action were discussed at length. Concerns were raised that if it is left unlocked & because of pilfering or theft, then it may not be available to the next person who may need it. Prevailing opinion is that it should be kept locked. If users don't go through the recommended process, then it may not be serviceable & the risks of having it unlocked is greater. The Council thanks the resident for raising this issue. A document prepared on this subject by Cllr Plumb will be emailed.
5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: The Sevenoaks District Council is pre-occupied with two main issues: Budget (balanced budget has been produced with cuts in services to achieve savings, some amendments are expected) and Plan 2040 (Formal consultation has formally been closed, majority of the respondents seem to have opted for Option 2 outlined in the Development section). There have been some discussions on Boundary review – the process of defining the Ward Boundaries have just been initiated.
6. FINANCE AND STAFFING
 - 6.1. Accounts for Payments approved.
 - 6.2. End of January 2024 Bank Reconciliations approved.
 - 6.3. Clerk's Annual Review: The Chairman informed the full council that the Personnel Committee had met on Friday 9th February 2024 to review performance over the past year as well as a salary review. The recommendations of the Personnel Committee were ratified by the Parish Council
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – none to share
8. CLERKS REPORTS
 - 8.1. Discuss Kent Highways response/report for reduction of speed on OBP reduction of speed. Inform residents on KH's response via the newsletter. While the Council is disappointed with the results of the report, it would be counterproductive to pursue this matter further immediately. The Council have decided that the issue will be raised again after a hiatus (possibly 18 months)

- 8.2. Waste Collection Strategy for the next financial year including Dog Bins: Council will wait for the Budget to be passed by SDC and understand the cuts in services made for the beginning of the next Financial Year before collaborating with the Council on Waste Management
- 8.3. Discuss the need to continue with Councillors Clinic & subsequent change in timings for BMPC meetings. Councillors Clinic to be disbanded as the residents have not been forthcoming to utilise this opportunity. Going forward new Parish Council meetings to start at 19:00 unless specified otherwise.
- 8.4. Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2024-2039: No objections to the proposed Plan as it doesn't affect the Parish directly
- 8.5. Dates for Annual Parish Meeting (18th April 2024) & Annual Parish Council Meeting (16th May 2024) agreed by the Council.
- 8.6. Discussion on Badgers Mount Carbon footprint & levers of influence and change targets discussed briefly. Discussions to be continued over future meetings.
9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS
 - 9.1. KCC Flood Management Plan: Parish Council to include Flood Management as part of the Emergency & Risk Management Plan for the Parish
 - 9.2. Application for Free Defibrillator from British Heart Foundation (deadline 25th March 2024): Application to be submitted to British Heart Foundation. As there is no Defibrillator on Old London Road, Cllr Lake has offered his wall to host the Defibrillator, should a new one be approved by BHF
 - 9.3. Cllr Lake reported to the Council with regards to the Police Independent Advisory Group meeting, which is related to policing activities and will operate as a co-ordination committee to the Police. Cllr Lake will continue to be involved with the Advisory Committee & feedback into the Council. Cllr Dunlop then reported on the Webinar he had attended on Community Emergency Planning Workshop which was beneficial in planning the format for the Parish Emergency & Risk Policy. New learnings not considered earlier were on incorporating a response to forest fire & to talk to the fire service.
10. PLANNING
 - 10.1. 23/03695/FUL Bluebell Cemetery Old London Road Badgers Mount Kent TN14 7AE Development: The provision of a service road and associated cross over from Old London Road to provide access to a storage area, including mobile storage and welfare units and secure steel containers. (deadline: 9th Feb 2024). The Parish Council objects the planning application and will be sending in a formal response.

Meeting ended: 22:00 hours