

Clerk: Sejuti Roy

07988610720

clerk@badgersmountparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES of the Badgers Mount Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Jun 2026** in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall at **7.00 pm.**

*Meeting attended by: Cllr Grint, Cllr Plumb, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr MacCartney, Cllr Lake & Clerk*

**Meeting started: 19:05**

1. *APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:* None received.
2. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:* The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 April 2026 were reviewed and approved.
3. *DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:* No declarations were made.
4. *PUBLIC SESSION:*

Residents had contacted both Conway and the Clerk regarding late-night noise from the Conway Chelsfield Depot. Additional complaints were received about inconsiderate parking across the village and several reports of abandoned vehicles.

5. *DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:* The District Councillor reported that Sevenoaks District Council is continuing to work through several long-running matters. Discussions are ongoing regarding the future of The Stag Theatre, with a recommendation that it be sold to STC for approximately £650,000, subject to agreement on a fair and appropriate price. Alongside this, consideration is being given to granting a 30-year extended lease. Councillors also noted steady progress on the Land East of High Street project and the replacement Leisure Centre, both of which are now approaching final sign-off.

**6. FINANCE AND STAFFING**

- 6.1. Certificate of Exemption: As the Council's gross income and expenditure for the year were below £25,000, the Certificate of Exemption (Form 2) was reviewed and signed.
- 6.2. Internal Audit report: The Independent Auditor's report was shared with the Council and noted.
- 6.3. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 - Reviewed, agreed, and signed by the Chair and RFO.
- 6.4. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 - Checked and signed by the Clerk/RFO, then countersigned by the Chair.
- 6.5. Exercise of public rights - The period for public inspection of accounts was set for **8 June – 17 July 2026** (inclusive).
- 6.6. Accounts for Payments - All payments were approved.
- 6.7. Annual recommendations of the Personnel Committee - The Personnel Committee presented their annual review of the Clerk's performance. The Council resolved:
  - 6.7.1. To increase contracted hours from 30 to 40 hours per month from July 2026.
  - 6.7.2. To increase the home-working allowance from £18 to £30 per month, effective April 2026, in line with current practice.

7. *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT* – The Chairman reported that a serious incident occurred on Old London Road, where an elderly resident was the victim of a robbery with violence. Police remained on site for several hours. The Council expressed deep concern at this senseless act, noting the absence of doorbell cameras or surveillance at the property. The Parish Council wishes the resident a full and swift recovery and will continue to identify and support vulnerable residents.

**8. CLERKS REPORTS**

- 8.1. Statement of Internal Control: Minor amendments were suggested. The updated version will be adopted at the next meeting.
- 8.2. Parish Council IT Policy: The Council agreed that an IT Policy is essential and should be reviewed annually due to rapid technological changes.
- 8.3. Parish Priorities Statement: The Council discussed the benefits and challenges of adopting a formal priorities statement. An article will be included in the Community Newsletter Summer Edition to gather residents' views.
- 8.4. Community newsletter: Content for the Summer edition was discussed. The Clerk will prepare the newsletter.

- 8.5. Discuss complaints from residents of noise from the Chelsfield Depot site: The Clerk had contacted the site manager regarding recent disturbances. Conway expressed apologies and confirmed they had implemented changes to prevent further disruption. They advised that the noise likely originated from a plant-cleaning process normally used only on site. This process has now been stopped, and Conway expects the disturbance to cease. They are very keen as always and willing to work with the Parish Council and residents and will continue to be good neighbours.

## 9. AMENITIES/PROJECTS/SAFETY

- 9.1. Increasing levels of complains of inappropriate Parking and 'abandoned' vehicles around the village: The Council discussed the increasing number of complaints regarding inappropriate parking and reports of 'abandoned' vehicles around the village. Members considered various options to address the issue; however, as most of the affected roads are unadopted, neither KCC nor SDC Parking Enforcement are able to intervene. The Council emphasised that it therefore falls to all residents to park responsibly and avoid obstructing other road users. It was strongly noted that in certain locations, inconsiderate parking could prevent emergency services from accessing properties, which is a serious concern.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, a resident suggested that the Parish Council issue parking reminder placards to households, empowering residents to place these on vehicles parked irresponsibly. The Council agreed that this may be a worthwhile initiative to trial. The Clerk will draft several wording options for the placards and present them at the next meeting. If approved, the placards will be printed and distributed to residents alongside the Summer Community Newsletter.

- 9.2. Continue discussion on "No Parking" signs requests from various locations in the village along with other road safety issues : Members noted that the issues raised closely relate to the concerns outlined in Item 9.1, particularly around inappropriate parking on unadopted roads and the associated risks to emergency access and general road safety. The Council agreed to consider potential signage options alongside the proposed parking reminder placards, with further discussion to take place once draft wording has been prepared for review at the next meeting.

## 10. PLANNING:

- 10.1. 26/00612/FUL-Bluebell Cemetery Old London Road Badgers Mount Kent TN14 7AE. Development: Provision of a new exit road and associated vehicle crossover onto Old London Road to facilitate a one-way circulation system within the existing Bluebell Cemetery site.. Deadline: 9th Jun 2026. The Parish Council **resolved to object** to this application. Members noted that the proposal is retrospective and expressed significant concern regarding the safety implications of the new exit. The exit is positioned adjacent to the bus stop used by schoolchildren, creating a potential hazard for those crossing the road and increasing the risk of accidents.

The Clerk will draft a formal objection response for submission to the Local Planning Authority.

Note: Meeting scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July was cancelled due to non-availability of several Councillors, meeting will now be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July instead

**Meeting ended: 21:15**