



Badgers Mount Residents' Association

THE 59th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY 8th JUNE 2023
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGHLAND ROAD FROM 8pm

MINUTES

Outgoing committee: Chairman- Zena Belton (ZB); Secretary- Arthur Evans (AE); Vice Chairman- Sarah Marshall (SM); Treasurer- Gordon Plumb (GP); Committee Members- Dulcie Marshall (DM); Nick Stewart (NS); Rob Thompson (RT); Sрни Kasturi (SK).

Present: 32 members of the Association

1. Apologies for Absence: Jill, Ken Sadler; David, Carole Masters; Karen, Patrick Lagarde; Simon Lake; Kirsty Wardley; Iris Qizilbash; Alex Lewis; Cathy Southwood; Nicola, Roger Walker; Emma, James Newman; Helen Miller; Noel Wills.
2. Minutes of 58th Annual General Meeting held 9th June 2022 at Memorial Hall, were agreed. The 2024 AGM will return to being held in May.
3. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered elsewhere.
Harold's Seat was installed. Footpath SR740 has had some work laying a hardcore surface and is to be completed soon. OBP has had some sections of the road resurfaced. Chevening House planning appeal was upheld, despite all efforts to have it rejected. Recently the re-design of the A21 dual carriageway/ London Road is causing an increase in traffic travelling from Bromley to Sevenoaks.
4. Presentation of the Chairperson's Report including:-
 - a) Report on Planning Matters (Gordon Plumb).

There have been not too many recent planning applications. Cedar Holme is a total rebuild and is outstanding. Druids Oak planning application was refused and an Appeal is in place.

- b) Report on Neighbourhood Watch (Arthur Evans) (ZB) formally thanked (AE).

Neighbourhood Watch hasn't met formally since pre-Covid. With most of us being at home has meant that there have been many more eyes and ears about. Unfortunately, this hasn't stopped a few incidents of burglary/house breaking crimes taking place. Over the last 12 months, with dog walkers, walkers without dogs, CCTV cameras and Ring Doorbells, things have remained relatively crime free. Dog poo pick-up is serious enough to carry a £1,000 fine. If an incentive scheme is introduced, I may put on my army camouflage fatigues to support my holiday fund and build a bivvy in Conway's woods.

Roadside verges are a bit of a problem at this time of the year, with sight lines reduced and accident risk spots increasing. No, let's ignore that. Speeding motorists are creating problems for pedestrians all year round, it just rises in these last weeks of spring with reduced visibility due to vegetation. Poorly sized vehicles using our lanes designed for carts and horses do not help the situation.

Polhill Roundabout seems to be constantly covered in gravel because of the Skip lorry site opposite the garden centre, as is the London Road between that site and the roundabout.

The Orpington By Pass has become much busier with an increase in traffic levels along OBP due to new road layout at A21/Sevenoaks Road junction. Traffic noise has also increased as a with this. Entry and exit to properties take more time due to having to wait for a gap in the traffic. Left turns into Highland Road from OBP carries a risk due to being unsighted to traffic travelling down Highland Road at this acute angled junction. Changing this junction to a NO LEFT TURN, so that traffic would have to travel around Polhill Roundabout, to return and then safely turn right, would add minutes to journey time but increase safety tremendously. I'll suffer the increase in traffic.

Drones seemed to be a bit of an issue earlier in the year but I haven't heard any recent comments.

Car Racing A21- Hewitts Farm Roundabout- M25. This is a twofold problem. The noise is an issue and the stress caused by motorists using that area with aggressive Boy Racers is another.

Reduced traffic levels along OLR and London Road due to above but with an increase in speed.

Please use the BMPC, BMRA and Village websites and other social media facilities

<https://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk/>

www.badgersmount.net Twitter:@Badgers_mount and Badgers Mount Facebook page.

c) Report on Entertainment Matters (Zena Belton)

Chairmans report

Thank you to everyone for coming and a special thank you at the start of this meeting to the amazing committee that I have worked with this year and I hope (votes are coming up!) they will continue next year with perhaps some additional new faces. We would like to welcome more people to join our committee, this small team works hard and we are always looking for new events and ideas to improve Badgers Mount.

My task now is to report on last year –

What is Badgers Mount is

Badgers Mount is a small village/hamlet in Kent made up of around 260 properties.

Situated between Sevenoaks, Bromley and Orpington, just south of London.

Badgers Mount to me is a small community that is certainly punching well above its weight.

We have managed a full programme of social activities.

Starting with the regular events – coffee morning on Thursday with the library visit

fortnightly and Badgers Sett monthly on a Thursday. We would welcome other groups that

would like to meet regularly and there is currently an interest in a bingo / games night possibly on a Friday evening

The WhatsApp groups continue to grow– Out and About in Badgers Mount and a more Social Badger Mount social group and ICE which is just that In Case of Emergencies. We also have a presence on Twitter and a Facebook page.

Through these we are able to keep everyone informed and plan activities that brought the village together and created that community feeling. Please do use these groups as they are intended.

The two big events were of course the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was amazing with a whole weekend of events organised by a small team of residents supported by the BMRA and the PC this was then poignantly followed more recently with the Coronation when the PC asked if we would plan ways to commemorate and celebrate this event in history. Again, the working Party – Stacey, Emma, Kirsty, Helen and myself set about planning and booking entertainers! This time we were joined by Maureen and Arthur whose creativity meant we have a legacy in the form of the Fairy Garden. Please can we thank this team. We have supported National Causes with a diet busting Bake-Up for Syria and Turkey. The Christmas fair continues to gather a pace next year is going to be bigger and better and we are currently auditioning for a Father Christmas and need a team of volunteers to convert a cupboard into a grotto for him to visit.

The soup and a roll this year was combined with the defibrillator training and residents felt much more confident about what to do if an emergency were it to occur.

Easter egg trail is now firmly in the diary and causes much excitement for the younger children and some competitive adults.

Alcohol does seem to feature when we do get out and the beer tasting and wine tasting events continue to be well supported, we are now planning a Gin tasting in August. The quiz with Fish and chips had possibly the highest turn out we have had for a very long while – a great way to involve wider friends and family.

We are now looking at a Preloved Sale on June 16th if you would like a table to sell your good quality unwanted items.

We have also tried to keep the area we live in a pleasant place to be with installation of flower boxes, that were watered all through the hot summer and at Christmas had the addition of solar Christmas lights. We supported Remembrance Day with Poppies on lampposts and have worked on the footpath from Highland Road to Milton Avenue – with a team of volunteers.

We have also had to deal with some less pleasant events such as Oak Tree Farm. Sadly, we have lost a local restaurant The Mumbai Central and the Halstead Post Office but Hancock's continues and I would urge you to support our nearest small shop. There have been some unwanted visitors in both Drone activity and although very few some break ins, disturbances and burglaries. However, residents are very observant and ensure these are reported and we do look out for each other. Discussion on security has been a recent topic on the WhatsApp group. Particularly for one area of the Badgers Mount so may need a smaller working party who would like to put together any further proposals. It is important that all residence affected by any change are consulted – and this is often difficult and ever changing. We are also aware that discussion regarding the renaming of the Orpington By Pass has been raised again and similarly may require a smaller working party.

In such a small community we work very closely with the Parish council their annual meeting last week reported on more of the activities that they are leading on and the work they are doing so I will not repeat these.

Sadly, there continue to be some issues that still need to be resolved.

Racing around Hewitts roundabout is still a concern – there is a small WhatsApp group to share this information and we hope soon to have a better communication channel to report this activity. We have Tony Marshall from Halsted PC attending this meeting to update us all later.

The skips on Polhill roundabout have slowly been removed.

Persistent dog walkers who are unable to clear up after their dog – we are an open public area so this may not always be the residents of Badgers Mount, but we have asked the Parish Council for their help with this too. I am very grateful to the residents who not only have put up additional signage but have taken cleaning up into their own hands quite literally.

So, ending on a positive note – we have a full calendar of events for next year that will be published in the next newsletter, we have spaces for more community activities and we would welcome suggestions of ideas.

This small committee try to reflect the needs and views of all the residents of Badgers Mount and that can be a difficult task. Without hearing your views or knowing what you think it is hard to get it right. Often it is easier to hear the 20% who make 80% of the comment but it is also important we hear from all the residents, so at the AGM we have the open floor for questions and discussion.

Any questions?

Can another Defibrillator training session be arranged. Certainly, we will get dates and Hall availability.

The volume of traffic on OBP and OLR. Is it time to reduce the speed on OBP? The sight lines and layout on OBP junctions with Badgers Road and Highland Road need re-planning. Speed reminders. Flashing lights? BMRA/BMPC Base lining numbers/Speed/ Pollution. Signage? Children/ Old people crossing?

Blind corners at Highland Road/ Badgers Mount House and Charles Road, signs to be considered at BMRA next meeting, agenda item. 20MPH Slow Children Crossing. Work taking place in Badgers Road field. This is something for the BMPC Councillors Clinic.

5. Presentation of accounts, Treasurer's Report and appointment of Auditor
Thanks to Gordon Plump for preparing these accounts and John Grint as auditor.

BADGERS MOUNT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Income and expenditure account for the year ending 31st March 2023

<u>Income</u>	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Members subscriptions paid in 2021/2022	0.00	7.84
Members subscriptions paid in 2022/2023	12.92	0.00
Queens Platinum Jubilee mugs etc. sales	251.28	55.16
Grant from BMPC for Queens Platinum Jubilee events	985.58	0.00
Social events	1359.48	1005.00
Bake up for Ukraine Red Cross appeal	0.00	1585.00
Bake up for Turkey earthquake appeal	700.00	0.00
Interest on deposit account	20.20	1.15
	<u>2654.15</u>	<u>2654.15</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Hire of Memorial Hall (3 years)	249.75	0.00
AGM expenses	0.00	34.32
Officers expenses	0.00	0.00
Secretarial & general expenses	11.75	18.00
Photocopying & printing	0.00	37.31
Social events	1205.22	968.82
Queens Platinum Jubilee purchases etc.	1406.77	0.00
Bake up for Ukraine Red Cross appeal	0.00	2585.00
Bake up for Turkey earthquake appeal	700.00	0.00
	<u>3573.49</u>	<u>3643.45</u>
Excess of expenditure over income	<u>244.03</u>	<u>989.30</u>

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2023

<u>Reserves:</u>		
General reserve at 31st March 2022	1677.37	2666.67
LESS excess of expenditure for the year	-244.03	-989.30
General reserve at 31st March 2023	1433.34	1677.37
Community protection reserve	8532.45	8532.45
Capital reserve	1688.80	1688.80
	<u>11654.59</u>	<u>11898.62</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
Lloyds TSB current account	893.16	180.86
Lloyds TSB deposit account	10660.49	11640.29
Cash	100.94	77.47
	<u>11654.59</u>	<u>11898.62</u>

Auditors statement

I have examined the accounts, invoices, vouchers etc. produced, the Lloyds TSB accounts balances and the cash held, and certify that these accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31st March 2023.

Signed John Grint Date 7 June 2023

6. Appointment of the Committee. Thanks to the outgoing Committee. All are willing to stand for re-election. We need as many committee members as possible; many hands make light work. Would anybody else like to join us?

(1) Chairperson (2) Vice - Chair (3) Secretary (4) Treasurer and minimum of 4 members.

It was suggested that all previous committee members be voted in en bloc. Nominated by Maureen Simmonds; seconded by Maureen Evans. Laurie Williams and Stacey Tucker to be elected to the Committee. Nominated by Maureen Evans; seconded by Maureen Simmonds. (AE to check if Emma Newman wants to stand.) Ability to co-opt OK. Creation of a Badgers Mount Flyer with useful information for new residents.

7. Update from Cllr Tony Marshall, Halstead Parish Council re A21/ M25 road racers.

Thanks from Tony to BMRA for his invite. Tony gave a summary of the work that he has been doing regarding the problem with Road Racers.

The road racing in the area started in 2021 by 2022 it had increased to become a nuisance. In Dec 2022 due to the problems at Hewitts roundabout a Police talk was arranged at Halstead Parish Room. Mark Wells from Met Police explained that there were 19 groups over the UK with 800,000 followers. It is a national problem – there is even an Orpington Group! PC Lane said that they use the Dark Web and U Tube to communicate their activities. It takes four Police cars at each location to deal with the problem. To date there have been 33 arrests, using Section 59 road traffic act and 259 Community Letters have been issued. As at April 2023 the Met Police were working with Kent Police on this. Talks with TFL were happening. Cameras both average speed and ANPR are to be fitted. Road resurfacing has been completed, this has reduced the road noise, though the exhaust noise continues. This is a road safety issue so the use of 999 applies. Anti-social behaviour is a big issue. The speed limit from Hewitts roundabout A21 and A224 must be reduced to 40 MPH. What can we do? Contact Matthew Scott the Police Crime Commissioner for Kent. <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/get-in-touch/contact-us/> Use the website to make your opinion known and complete the Anti-Social Survey. There is a Community Trigger that records incidents of anti-social behaviour. Use it to report car meets. Mark Wells is part of the WhatsApp group. CCTV Camera are going ahead.

8. Any Other Business:

The next BMRA Committee Meeting is 7.30pm Thursday 13th July 2023 at Memorial Hall.

The next BMRA AGM will be 7.30pm Thursday 9th May 2024 at Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:12 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Arthur Evans, secretary.bmra@gmail.com