

Badgers Mount Road Maintenance Fund

Draft Minutes of the 56th AGM held at the Memorial Hall on 26th April 2024

Members present are as recorded in the attendance book.

1. Apologies were received from: Carol Masters, Judith Calver, Margaret Dolley, Karen and Patrick Lagarde, Sandra Searle and Noel Wills.

2. The Chairman, David Masters opened the meeting and welcomed those present, but expressed disappointment in the fact that attendance was at its lowest this year with only a few residents present.

David thanked Olive Came for her participation and support for the Fund over many years, and presented her with a bouquet, as she has decided to stand down from our committee this year.

David began by saying that due to the fact that these roads are unadopted, it is necessary to collect voluntary funds to maintain and repair them regularly. The Fund is used purely to keep the metalled surfaces of Badgers Road, Highland Road, Milton Avenue and Johnsons Avenue in good repair, without which we would have cart tracks. Our Hamlet is, as a result, an area that is safe for road users and pedestrians, contributing to the value of the properties.

3. Report of the Committee

There are concerns that we may not have enough funds for all the potholes and cracks that need repairing this year, with some areas such as the woodland end of Highland Road near Oaklea, and most bends that are damaged by the many heavy vehicles we endure these days. In particular, areas damaged by water flow, when the frosts arrive this causes cracks in the road surface, as in Milton Avenue. If there were 100% payments by residents it would afford such repairs and resurfacing. Trevor Simmons suggested writing to residents who fail to contribute, or when payment request slips are sent out, recognising those who have paid, and non-payers will see "Not Paid" written in red at the top.

Zena Belton asked if residents having building work done are asked to compensate for damage caused. In the past newbuilds in particular have resulted in the builder paying an agreed amount into the fund. The Chair felt that knocking on doors demanding payment is not the way to go, as this could alienate people and cause problems for members of the committee. A discussion followed re the possibility of asking that smaller commercial vehicles are used where possible, also to find out if SDC could use a smaller refuse lorry, as in the past.

Zena suggested putting restricted height and weight signs at the junctions with the A224. This will be considered.

4. To Approve Accounts

Treasurer Gordon Plumb went over the statement of accounts for 2023. For 2022 and 2023 income from subscriptions and deposit account interest amounted to £14,079.36, and the only expenditure was for Public Liability Insurance, at a high premium of £1,844.37. Alternatives will be investigated this year. The balance was £19,756.16 at 31/12/23.

Audit carried out and approved by Dugal Dick.

Approval Proposed by Maureen Simmons, seconded by Olive Came.

5. To agree contributions for 2024

The committee proposed that the contributions remain at: £40 per house plus £30 per vehicle in regular use.

This was unanimously agreed.

6. Election of officers and committee:

All the existing committee members except Olive Came have agreed to continue.

Chairman – David Masters

Treasurer – Gordon Plumb

Secretary – Dianne Wills

Road Stewards – Maureen Simmons (Milton Avenue)

Richard Ruston (Highland Road)

Dianne Wills (Johnsons Avenue)

A new steward will be co-opted to fill the vacancy for Badgers Road.

Our auditor is intending to move house in this year, a search for someone to take over will be done.

Re-election was proposed and carried unanimously.

7. A.O.B. Zena Belton, suggested that due to poor attendance from BMRMF residents, we should amalgamate all the Badgers Mount Associations AGMs for one meeting, on the same evening, i.e. BMRMF, BMRA, Hall Committee.

To be discussed.

The meeting was closed with thanks to those who attended.