

# **BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, 31 March 2026**

The meeting was postponed by a week.

Committee members present: Chris Moore (Chair), Ian Earl (Treasurer and taking notes), Dave Austin, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby.

**1 Apologies** received from: Rick Blackman, Sue Earl, Gareth Fulton, Ben Pullen, Tom Sisley.

## **2 Approval of minutes**

2.1 The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

## **3 Matters arising** (numbers in parentheses refer to entries in the January minutes)

3.1 (3.1) Footpaths cabinet: The map finally arrived and has been installed in the frame with all parts (polycarbonate window, seal, mount) except the outer frame new.

3.2 (3.2) Tractor tyre: Removed to the far copse (whence it came) by BP.

3.3 Items (3.3, 3.4, 3.5) – no change.

## **4 Accounts**

4.1 The current balances in the four accounts as on 30 March 2026, were:

BPH: current = £3005.25, reserve = £6087.66;

BLPC: current = £2292.51, reserve = £2268.74.

4.2 The 2025 accounts are with Yoshi Euridge for independent checking.

4.3 Hall Hire Rates. This topic was revisited following a letter received from regular hirers EK0GG wherein they stated their disappointment at the rise in hire costs, and the inclusion of a fee for use of the store room. They also wished for the agreed rate to be fixed for, say, seven years. Following a long discussion, the following were agreed:

- an hourly rate for EK0GG (and other regular hirers) of £14 per hour, and £15 for normal hirings;
- there would be no increase in hire charges for two years;
- no charge would be levied from EK0GG for the use of the store room.

At EK0GG's request discussion also included possible remedies to the damp conditions in the store room. Although no expert views were possible from the committee most agreed that insulating the corrugated iron roof (with, for example, 30-40mm polystyrene sheets) and giving the room a vent (an active airflow would be better than passive) should improve the situation. It was also thought that because the store room is open to the kitchen throughout an EK0GG hiring the extra water vapour from tea-making gets trapped in the store room when they leave. Having the windows in the kitchen open during a visit and venting the store room afterwards may constitute a cure. IE to investigate installing a Vent Axia (or similar) extraction fan.

4.4 100 Club membership stands currently at 58. LB has been very pro-active in getting villagers to join and chasing regulars who have yet to pay.

## **5 The Lees**

5.1 Despite a wet start to the year an early cut was achieved on 10 March. Although there are some tractor tyre marks it was agreed that the lees is looking good as a result.

- 5.2 The Spring Clear-up took place on Sunday, 8 March. Despite miserable weather, turnout was good and included non-committee members Helen Whately (Leaveland Court) and Jim Ramsden (new to Glebe House). All efforts are greatly appreciated.
- 5.3 During the clear up a large quantity of bread was found deposited by the copse in the centre of the lees, which was both disappointing and perplexing. This follows on from the sausages found earlier (and which may have contributed to the illnesses that some villagers' dogs suffered).
- 5.4 IE reported that during February, contractors working on behalf of Southern Housing tarmacked the drive associated with Leavemere bungalows (the work stopping at the boundary between the bungalows and the lees as marked by granite sets) with a drain and soak away (approximately 2.0m x 1.5m x 1.2m in size) installed. This may help to prevent the large puddle that has formed on the lees side in the past.

## **6 Hall Refurbishment Works**

- 6.1 IE has done little since the Wine & Wisdom, mostly because he was waiting for warmer weather and partly due to family commitments. He is hoping to resume the refurbishment in April.
- 6.2 Improved lighting and a car park extension were also requested by EK0GG in their recent letter (see 4.3 above). While the latter will have to wait until the hall refurbishment is completed (to know what funds remain) the committee agreed to investigate the stop-gap action of simply replacing the current fluorescent tubes with their much brighter LED equivalents, so not waiting until a complete redesigning of the lighting in the main hall is carried out. If this is proves feasible, the working light above the stage and the light in the large store room should be included.
- 6.3 Wifi. A brief discussion took place on the desirability of having wifi, and the technical challenges of getting it in the hall. IE reported that potential hirers often ask if there is wifi. It was agree that there should be no immediate action but that the matter should be revisited in the not too distant future.

## **7 Community Events**

- 7.1 10k Run update. The date of the 10k Run has been revised to 27 September, and promotional material produced together with announcements to clubs, other interested parties and on social media. DA showed the committee his short video, already on YouTube and other Meta platforms. The committee were suitably impressed. It promotes the event as a challenge, with the race being called 'the Beast of Badlesmere' because of its hilly nature, rather than a run in which a personal best could be achieved. Also, the beauty of the route is championed. Following this latest setting of the date it was discovered that the Faversham 10k has been scheduled for the same date. Unfortunately it was too late to change the date of our 10k. Online booking is already underway; a search for 'Badlesmere 10k' will direct you to: "<https://badlesmere10k.eventrac.co.uk/e/badlesmere-10k-10236>". Chip-timing has been arranged. The committee expressed doubt as to the need to have an ambulance in attendance when we will have trained first aiders present (and probably a doctor or two) so long as there is a vehicle that can access all parts of the course (which should be the case).

**8 Governance and grants** (nothing to report)

**9 Safety & Crime** (nothing to report)

**10 Date of next meeting(s)**

10.1 Tuesday 12 May 2026, following the AGM.

10.2 The AGM, set for 12 May in the village hall, will start at 6.30 pm. CM to broadcast.

**11 AOB**

11.1 CM has received from GF details of proposed repairs to the North Track (the village hall acting as one of the seven 'residents' along it). These are expected to be carried out on 11 April. Costs, inc. VAT, will be: 20 tonnes of planings £540, £200 for hire of loader from Phil Scutt, £50 for hire of whacker plate. The village hall is therefore expecting to receive a bill for £112.86.

**The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.**

**The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12 May, after the AGM, in the village hall.**