

Little Berkhamsted Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2016

Present: - Councillor Ellis Downes (Chairman LBPC)
Councillor Elaine Hunter (Vice Chairman LBPC)
Councillor Derek Standbrook (LBPC)
Councillor Wayne Morris (LBPC)
Mrs S Ash (Chairman LB Recreation Committee)
Linda Middleton Parish Clerk
Electors.

1. The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Leanne Davey, Jim Holt, Richard Chaplin and Rodney Pegg.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. Following a brief summary by the Chairman, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held in May 2015 were passed – proposed by Elaine Hunter and seconded by Sandie Ash.
5. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council: Councillor Downes provided an overview of the Parish Council's work over the last year, mentioning that the Parish Council had four new councillors, a new Chairman and a new Parish Clerk. He remarked that the Parish Council was moving towards greater transparency. He referred to the role of the Parish Council in scrutinising planning applications – 10 applications had been considered with councillors considering carefully whether what is proposed is in keeping with the village. The Parish Council had objected to six applications of which East Herts Council had approved two and of the four applications that the Parish council had not objected to, East Herts Council had refused two. The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's ambitions for the future, identifying three projects which the Parish Council hoped to take forward.
 - A circular footpath around Little Berkhamsted which would be suitable for use by wheelchair and buggy users – Councillor Jim Holt would be leading on this project
 - Playing field improvements in conjunction with the recreation Committee
 - Improved signage for Little Berkhamsted

The Parish Council had been active in trying to ensure that the problems caused by activities at Bunkers Hill Quarry were addressed and had requested East Herts Council to take enforcement action, this had not occurred and East Herts Council had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman. The Parish Council, together with Bayford Parish Council had objected to the recent application by the quarry to vary some of the conditions associated with their existing planning permission.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Cricket club had a new chairman and that closer working between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club would take place in the coming months.

The continuing problem with potholes was mentioned and the meeting was informed that the Chairman of Herts Highways had attended a Parish Council meeting. Speeding and the number of heavy lorries continue to be problems and the

Chairman urged residents to report any incidences of heavy lorries coming through the village.

Residents were reminded that information about the Parish Council's activities were on the website and that notices of meetings were also displayed on the notice board. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking councillors and the clerk for their support, with particular thanks to Elaine Hunter and also to Sandie Ash for her contribution to village life- serving on the Recreation Committee and to the Church. He asked Councillor Wayne Morris to present plaques to three former councillors present- Chris Nunn, Marjorie Bailey and Wendy Walshe and to thank them for their hard work as Parish Councillors.

6. Report of the Recreation Committee: Sandie Ash presented her report on the Recreation Committee activities. She mentioned events held over the past 12 months including the village fete and Arts and Crafts fair, two quiz nights, a coffee morning in support of the MacMillan charity, firework evening, Pantomime and Great Egg Rolling Competition.

She outlined what was planned for the forthcoming year and that although there will not be a fete this year there will be a village picnic on 3rd July. Other events planned include a coach trip to the seaside and a Christmas Ball in December. Sandie thanked the Recreation Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

7. Open Forum: April Barnett reported on Neighbourhood Watch activities and reminded residents that although crime levels were low, residents should remain vigilant. The Chairman thanked April for her hard work running neighbourhood watch in the village.

A resident commented on the litter around the village and although Paul Curson did a good job litter picking, it was still a problem and suggested asking the shop to provide a larger bin. Councillor Ellis Downes mentioned that the Parish Council would consider organising a litter pick.

A resident asked if residents would be consulted about the projects outlined by the Chairman in his report and was advised that there would be consultation.

The need to improve the drainage and path around the recreation field was mentioned, the Chairman advised that several funding options had been investigated but the work would be costly and that he would discuss the matter with the Cricket Club.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm. Drinks and nibbles were enjoyed after the meeting.

Signed

Dated