

# Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Council Meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 8.00pm in Little Berkhamsted Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs R Chaplin (in the Chair at the start of the meeting), Mrs E Hunter, Ms L Davey,  
E. Downes, J. Holt, D Standbrook

In attendance: Ms Nina Villa, Parish Clerk  
Several Members of the public

**01. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

There being a split vote for the Chairmanship, it was agreed to appoint a temporary Chair and defer the election of a permanent Chairman until the next meeting when all Councillors could be present to vote.

It was therefore RESOLVED that:

- a) Cllr Mrs E. Hunter be elected Acting Chairman and that a further debate and election would take place at the next meeting.

**02. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Having confirmed that she was not intending to stand for election as Chairman in the election at the next meeting and that she was happy to continue as Vice Chairman, it was RESOLVED that:

- b) Cllr Mrs E. Hunter be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16.

**03. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Morris (previous engagement)

**04. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**05. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved and the Acting Chairman authorised to sign the same.

**06. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Council received a presentation from representatives of Bayford Parish Council regarding a planning application at Bunkers Quarry. Bayford Parish Council sought agreement from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council that a joint response, signed by both Parish Council Chairman, would be appropriate given the cross border impact of the application.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) The Council shared the concerns of Bayford Parish Council and authorises the Acting Chairman to sign a joint Bayford/Little Berkhamsted Parish Council response to the planning application outlining these concerns.

**07. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**08. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**09. FINANCE**

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) The Council approved the financial statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

- b) The Council approve the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 and authorise the Chairman to sign the same.
- c) The Council approve the appointment of the Internal Auditor as Mrs K. Murphy
- d) The Council approve the payments now due
- e) The Council approve that all new Councillors should be added to the bank signature mandate.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Council noted recent decisions from East Herts Council on various planning applications and requested that the practice of displaying planning applications at the meeting be resurrected. The Clerk will circulate all future letters notifying the Parish Council of planning applications so that they can be viewed in advance on the East Herts Council website.

**11. HALL, COTTAGE AND OPEN SPACES**

It was noted that there were some trees which required attention around the Parish, particularly opposite the Village Hall and that a formal proposal for trees in Goddard's Close was being progressed via Highways.

It was reported that some trees near the Beehive Pub required attention as they were in danger of damaging the BT lines. This has already been reported.

There was also some concern regarding the re-routing of the EDF electrical supply to 31 Church Rd.

**12. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Various Highways issues were discussed and there was an inquiry with regards to available funds for traffic calming measure and it was confirmed that a small amount of money was available but that the Parish Council had limited powers in this area. It was suggested that enquiries in to the Drive Safe scheme could be initiated to see if local residents were prepared to assist in a project to lower speeds through the village but there were concerns around the safety aspects.

The Council expressed its thanks to John Devine for pursuing the Highways to ensure that work on Robins Nest Hill was finally completed.

**13. LITTLE BERKHAMSTED RECREATION COMMITTEE (LBRC)**

The Acting Chairman read the minutes of the latest meeting which were noted by the Council.

**14. MINERALS AND LANDFILL**

Nothing to report.

15. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None

16. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND NOT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED**

None

17. **MATTERS TO NOTE OR BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE MEETINGS.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2105

Signed

Date