

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council
held on Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 8.00pm in Little Berkhamsted Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Ellis Downes (in the Chair), Mrs Elaine Hunter, Ms Leanne Davey, Jim Holt, Derek Standbrook

In attendance: Nina L. Villa, Parish Clerk
3 members of the public

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs W. Morris and R. Chaplin

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

35. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 15 July 2015 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

36. MATTERS ARISING

Apple Day Care use of the cricket club facilities was discussed at length. The Council noted with disappointment that despite requesting a copy of the new lease, none had been supplied by either the Cricket Club or Apple Day Care. The Council expressed concern that the facilities are being used at times outside of the stated agreement to the detriment of the village children. The Chairman stressed that the Council was keen to retain good working relations with all concerned and is keen to meet representatives of the various parties to seek an amicable solution.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Parish Clerk would examine the existing document to determine the legal position
- b) The Chairman agreed to contact Apple Day Care with a view to arranging a meeting
- c) The Vice Chairman agreed to contact the Cricket Club.

The issue of public footpaths, bridleways etc. maintenance was discussed and the Council considered an offer from Hertfordshire County Councils footpaths team to do a short presentation to the next meeting. It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) Cllr Holt would continue to liaise with Hertfordshire County Council and invite the relevant officers to present to the next meeting

37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public confirmed that local children are being put off use the play area etc. because of Apple Day Care's extensive use.

The issue regarding HGVs driving through the village was raised and the Chairman

advised that it is incredibly difficult to know whether they are legitimate journeys and as such, this is something that the Council will monitor and, if necessary, raise with the local police.

The Council received an update on the rural parish council conference from Cllr Standbrook. The agenda had consisted of various useful items such as planning, policing, environmental issues such as dog fouling and fly tipping and grant information. Time banking was also discussed and there were talks about aging and dementia, as well as the Forever Active in East Herts programme being run at Wodson Park.

38. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had arranged a meeting with the Herts County Council Grants Officer to learn more about what grant funding might be available for the village. He reported that there had been an announcement by BT recently about Broadband for rural locations and it was agreed that Cllr Standbrook would follow this up. The Chairman reported that he was very keen to build on the existing relationship between the Cricket Club, Recreation Committee and Council during his term. He also requested that the monthly Crime Reports from the Constabulary be added to the agenda. The potential of the Council hosting a meeting of residents to meet the new Council and discuss village matters was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a positive initiative and should be arranged for a Thursday evening at 8pm towards the new of November. There was a suggestion that this might be an appropriate time to recognise the contribution of the retiring Councillors which met with Council approval.

39. FINANCE

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approve the financial statements to 30 August 2015.
- b) The Council approve the payments now due

40. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered 3 applications:

- 4 Stockings Lane – no objection
- Danes Farmhouse - no objection
- 3 The Boundary – objection for reasons previously circulated via email

The Clerk was asked to formulate and submit responses.

41. LITTLE BERKHAMSTEAD'S 950TH ANNIVERSARY

The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by a resident who had provided some historical data regarding the 950th anniversary of Little Berkhamstead in December 2016. It was agreed that the Council would consider holding an event to mark this important anniversary.

42. PARISH CLERK VACANCY

The Chairman advised the Council that the potential new Clerk whom it was hoped would accept a joint appointment with Hertingfordbury Parish Council had decided to accept the position at that Council only. The post would now have to be externally

advertised. The current Clerk agreed to remain in post in the interim.

43. HALL, COTTAGE AND OPEN SPACES

The Council considered 3 quotes for the required repairs to the village hall and agreed to appoint S. Simmons subject to clarification about whether VAT is chargeable. It was noted that the quote exceeded the available budget but as the repairs were urgent, the Council agreed that the work should be undertaken.

44. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

It was noted that the recent flooding issues had been resolved very quickly once reported to Highways.

45. RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was a successful quiz night recently but as there had not been a meeting of the Recreation Committee since the last Parish Council meeting there was nothing further to report.

46. MINERALS AND LANDFILL

None

47. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

None.

48. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND NOT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

None

49. MATTERS TO NOTE OR BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE MEETINGS

None

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2015.