

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 8.00pm in Little Berkhamsted Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Ellis Downes (in the Chair), Mrs Elaine Hunter (Vice-Chair), Ms Leanne Davey, Jim Holt, Derek Standbrook, Richard Chaplain and Wayne Morris

In attendance: 6 members of the public
Linda Haysey – County Councillor

66. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The Clerk Nina Villas was caught up at work and was unable to get to the meeting. Vice Chair Elaine Hunter was asked to take the minutes of the meeting.

67. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – None.

68. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – As the Clerk was unable to attend the meeting and as the minutes had not been circulated they were not available to review. The Chairman proposed that the minutes be passed at the next meeting.

69. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – It was reported that there is ice on Church Road. A big pothole at Newgate Street by Mulberry Lodge. East Herts Highways had been informed. Linda Haysey was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and she gave a report on the District Plan, Broadband, stating that the Budget is safe for this year and about grant monies still being available.

70. **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - The Chairman reported on the success of the Residents Meeting which was attended by approximately 30 residents. He also covered Broadband, The Quarry and Apple Daycare Nursery. He asked the councillors to think of projects for the village for this year. It was hoped to have a sign commemorating the 950th Anniversary in the village and the website updating. The chairman welcomed Linda Middleton as the new clerk for the Parish Council. Linda gave a brief outline of herself and her work history. It was proposed by Richard Chaplain and seconded by Jim Holt that Linda Middleton be accepted as Clerk to LBPC. Paul Curzon was thanked for his litter picking of the village.

71. **FINANCE** – It was resolved that:

a) To approve the financial statement - Due to the Clerk being absent this item had to be deferred.

b) To approve payments now due - Due to the Clerk being absent this item had to be deferred. The chairman asked that the Payroll Agent be contacted concerning the PAYE amount owing to HMRC and it be sorted urgently as to not incur any interest.

c) To agree the precept for 2016/17 - The District Council to be notified of our intentions but as we haven't got the information to make a decision Linda Middleton was asked to look

into what other Parish Councils are doing.

72. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – There was only one planning outstanding – Tile Cross at Epping Green for a double garage. There were no objections from the Parish Council.

73. **HALL, COTTAGE AND OPEN SPACES** - It was reported that the play area needed some attention – namely bark in the swing area and the replacement of the baby swing chairs. It was proposed to have a sub-committee for the play area with 2 members from the Parish Council and 2 from Recreation Committee – namely Leanne Davey, Derek Standbrook, Simon Hedley and Michael Northfield. A broken gatepost and fence outside the hall. Derek Standbrook offered to do the work urgently and was thanked by the chairman.

74. **HIGHWAYS** - Footpath 10 – tree across pathway. Bridleway 2 – Howe Green resurfacing to be completed. Jim Holt to contact Highways.

75. **RECREATION COMMITTEE** – Elaine Hunter gave a report on the Recreation Committee. The new treasurer was introduced to all the members present he then gave a history of himself and made some suggestions as to how the committee can make more monies. Apple Daycare are now using the Newgate village hall for school holidays. It was proposed that any meeting held with them included the Parish Council and The Recreation Committee. The Parish Chairman stated that he is still awaiting a meeting with Apple Daycare but the date had been changed three times. The social events for the year were read out and the councillors were asked if they had any ideas and/or would help with the running of the Fete.

76. **MINERALS AND LANDFILL** - The Chairman and George Rowley from Bayford Quarry Group to meet with the council to voice their disappointments over the quarry.

77. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS** – None

78. **CORRESPONDANCE** – None

79. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – It was reported that there had been fly tipping in the garage site of Goddards Close. Elaine Hunter to contact Riversmead. Linda Haysey informed the meeting that the bungalows would no longer be built and Riversmead are wanting ideas of what to do with the site.

Richard Chaplain suggested that a communications audit be completed also that we needed an Over 60's Club and wheelchair friendly paths in the village.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 23rd March 2016.