

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council
held on Thursday 11th February 2016 at 8.00pm in Little Berkhamsted Village Hall

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public (1 arrived during the meeting)
Linda Middleton Parish Clerk

80. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Ms Leanne Davey and Richard Chaplin were unable to attend the meeting and had tendered their apologies, which were accepted.
81. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – Ms Leanne Davey had advised the Chairman via email that she was declaring an interest in the planning matter regarding Danes as she was employed there on a part time basis.
82. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015 were approved and signed, proposed by Jim Holt and seconded by Wayne Morris. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2016 were approved and signed, proposed by Wayne Morris and seconded by Derek Standbrook. It was agreed that outstanding matters from previous meetings would be discussed at the next meeting on 23rd March.
83. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – It was reported that there was still a big pothole at Newgate Street by Mulberry Lodge and also on Robin's nest hill just before Bucks Alley. There was also a broken drain cover on Bucks Alley and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact Herts Highways to express the Parish Council's concerns.
84. **FINANCE** – It was resolved that:
- a) To approve the financial statement as at 17th January 2016, prepared by the previous Parish Clerk, proposed by Elaine Hunter and seconded by Wayne Morris. Councillors commented that the layout was not particularly helpful and the Parish Clerk was asked to review the layout for the next financial statement.
 - b) To approve payments now due – proposed by Elaine Hunter and seconded by Derek Standbrook
 - c) To agree the precept for 2016/17 be set at £8,640. Councillors discussed the draft budget and concluded that it was likely that the new Homes Bonus Grant would be stopping after 2016/17, there was a need to ensure that appropriate reserves were maintained and that funding would be needed to enable projects to improve facilities in the Parish to be undertaken in the future. Following discussion, councillors agreed that an 8% increase was required. The Clerk was instructed to advise East Herts Council accordingly. The demand for the precept was signed by the Chairman, Elaine Hunter and

Wayne Morris.

85. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – The Chairman drew the attention of councillors to two planning matters which had been issued for consultation.
1. A planning application for Robin's Nest Farm, Robins Nest Hill, Little Berkhamsted – demolition of existing side extensions and construction of new west wing with disability access throughout on 2 levels with a lift. There were no objections from the Parish Council.
 2. An Enforcement Appeal in relation to Danes, 34 Little Berkhamsted Lane, Little Berkhamsted in relation to unauthorised works to a listed building. The Parish Council vigorously supported the enforcement action, Danes was one of the most important buildings in the Parish and should be preserved. The Parish Council also wished to point out that the building was situated in the conservation area.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultations accordingly.

86. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Elaine Hunter reminded councillors that 4 Parish Councillors had retired from the Parish Council in May 2015 and that as yet, they had not been presented with an acknowledgement of their services and offered to find something suitable for presentation to them at the next Parish Council meeting. Derek Standbrook advised that he had received a telephone call from a resident regarding overtipping. The Chairman advised the meeting that East Herts were now being investigated about their approach to enforcement. Elaine Hunter advised the meeting that she had been told of a fallen tree branch opposite the village hall and Wayne Morris offered to inspect this. The Chairman advised the councillors of a letter received from Mrs Soutter concerning barking dogs at Danes House and the dangers this posed for horse riders. Advice had been sought from East Herts and that they are not able to take action against them unless the dogs can get out from the property. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter to Mrs Soutter and the residents of Danes House from the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council. A member of the public advised that people were placing dog waste in the wrong bins and asked that laminated signs be provided, Elaine Hunter undertook to do this. A member of the public raised the issue of large rocks being placed along the verge on Little Berkhamsted Lane and was advised that the Parish Council would investigate.

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