

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council
held on

Wednesday 16th November 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, Richard Chaplin and Leanne Dring

In attendance: 4 members of the public
Linda Middleton Parish Clerk

52. **To receive apologies for absence** – Wayne Morris had sent his apologies – the apology was accepted. Sandie Ash had also sent her apologies.
53. **To note declarations of interest in line with the code of conduct** – Councillors Ellis Downes and Jim Holt declared that as the property concerned in Planning Application 3/16/2450/APRN was situated in close proximity to their own properties they would not take part in the discussion/any vote and Councillor Elaine Hunter declared that as a member of the Parochial Church Council she would not take part in the discussion/vote on Agenda Item 62.
54. **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 21st September 2016** - The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2016 were approved and signed, proposed by Councillor Derek Standbrook and seconded by Councillor Jim Holt.
55. **To consider matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – nothing raised
56. **Public participation** – A member of the public reported that a “Horses crossing” sign was attached to a Little Berkhamsted sign, another member of the public advised that this were there as a safety notice to warn motorists. The Chairman advised that the concern was not that there was a sign, but that it should not be fixed to the Little Berkhamsted sign.
57. **To receive the Chairman’s report** – the Chairman mentioned that he had attended the Remembrance Service at Essendon and that the poppy wreath was now laid at the village War Memorial. He mentioned that a pile of bricks had appeared on Little Berkhamsted Lane which appeared to be fly tipping. He asked Councillor Jim Holt to contact Herts County Council to arrange for their removal.
58. **Finance:**
 - a) To approve the payments now due and those made in accordance with the budget and note receipts received - (attached to minutes)
The Clerk outlined the current financial position.
 - b) To approve bank statements, bank reconciliation and budget report
 - c) To approve the application to the Transparency Fund
These were all approved- proposed by Councillor Elaine Hunter and seconded by Councillor Derek Standbrook
59. **Planning applications:**
 - a) To receive an update on EHDC decisions since last meeting – the planning information spread sheet was circulated with the papers and updated at the meeting.
 - b) Responses made to planning applications since the last meeting were noted

- c) A further planning application 3/16/2512/LBC had been received and Councillors unanimously decided that they wished to raise no objections to the three planning applications before them: 3/2016/2365/HH, 3/2016/2450/APRN and 3/16/2512/LBC.
- d) Councillors considered their response to the East Herts Pre-Submission District Plan and Councillor Richard Chaplin undertook to draft the response, which he would circulate prior to submission to the District Council.
60. **To receive an update on hall, cottage and open spaces** – the Clerk advised the meeting that she was still waiting for a response from Zurich in relation to the claim for damage to the Village Hall despite several chasing emails and a phone call. It was agreed that if no response was received in the next week, Councillor Ellis Downes would contact the insurance company. The batteries had needed changing in the smoke alarms in the Village Hall and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the smoke alarms to be checked. It was agreed that the Clerk would find out details of the playground inspection courses for Councillors Wayne Morris and Derek Standbrook to attend. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact a recommended play equipment repairs contractor to ask for quotes to repair the play equipment, Derek Standbrook would be happy to meet the contractor on site.
61. **To receive an update on highways matters, minerals and landfill activities** – nothing to report.
62. **Update on church building work** – the Chairman advised the meeting that the fund was around £5000 short and that they hoped the Parish Council would be able to offer a donation. The Councillors discussed this and Councillor Leanne Dring proposed, seconded by Councillor Ellis Downes it was RESOLVED: That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area, of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of a donation of £1000 towards the repair works of St Andrew's Church Tower, a historic structure and landmark in the village.
- The motion was carried on the Chairman's casting vote with one abstention.
63. **To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee** – Councillor Hunter provided a report on the last meeting – Councillor Wayne Morris was organising a meeting with a charity to seek provision of a defibrillator. The Recreation Committee wanted additional dog bins – the Clerk provided the meeting with information concerning the cost and was asked to advise the Councillors what the current dog bin cleaning contract covered. The redecorating of the village hall was raised - the work is on hold until the repairs have been completed. The fireworks night had been very successful and planning for the fete/music day 2017 was underway. Christmas activities: the shop had offered to provide a Christmas tree for the field, with mulled wine and mince pies being provided for the carol singing. There will be a get together in the village hall on 14th January for members and their families. The Village Christmas Ball being held on December 2nd - cost per ticket £60.00 and some tickets are still available.
64. **To answer previously submitted questions from councillors** – none submitted
65. **To note any correspondence received and not previously circulated** – the consultation regarding the removal of the pay phone in the village was

discussed, as the phone had not been used for a year the Council did not object to its removal. The Recreation Committee asked if the phone box be retained for use as a library- the Clerk was asked to find out if the box could be retained.

66. **To suggest agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting and set the dates for Parish Council meetings in 2017** – Councillors discussed the possibility of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk was asked to investigate what would be involved. The Drivesafe scheme was also discussed and Councillors resolved to hold a Village meeting on Wednesday 1st February when the possibility of setting up a speed watch group and developing a Neighbourhood Plan would be discussed. PCSO Sally Brooks would be invited to attend the meeting. The 2017 dates were agreed as follows: Parish Council meetings at 8 pm on Wednesdays 18th January, 15th March, 17th May, 19th July, 20th September and 15th November. The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May at 8 pm.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday
18th January 2017.**