

# Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of Little Berkhamsted Parish Council  
held on

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 8.00pm in Little Berkhamsted Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Ellis Downes (in the Chair), Mrs Elaine Hunter (Vice-Chair), Derek Standbrook and Richard Chaplin  
In attendance: Councillor Linda Haysey and Councillor Ken Crofton, Sandi Ash and 2 members of the public  
Linda Middleton Parish Clerk

67. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies had been emailed to Clerk by Wayne Morris, Jim Holt and Leanne Dring – the apologies were accepted.
68. **To note declarations of interest in line with the code of conduct** – none
69. **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016** - The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were approved and signed, proposed by Councillor Derek Standbrook and seconded by Councillor Elaine Hunter.
70. **To consider matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – A member of the public remarked that the “Horses crossing” sign had not been removed and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Bambridge to remind him that he had agreed to do this.
71. **Public participation** – The use of the Cricket Club pavilion by Apple Day-care was raised and a number of cars dropping off and collecting children parking inconsiderately. The Chairman undertook to liaise with the Cricket Club regarding this.  

Councillor Linda Haysey advised that there might be a planning breach if the use had increased but that evidence would be required if planning enforcement action was to be taken. The District Plan had received over 2000 comments, the plan was due to go to the inspector in March and be evaluated between July – October. She encouraged the Parish Council to consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan and offered to arrange a meeting for Parish Councillors with an appropriate Planning Officer.

Councillor Ken Crofton explained that he was a member of the County Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that he would assist with any highways issues.
72. **To receive the Chairman’s report** – the Chairman reported that he had read one of the lessons at the Nine Lessons and carols service in the Church in December. He had been contacted regarding fly tipping in the layby on Berkhamsted Lane by two residents. Councillor Linda Haysey advised that residents should be advised to contact the District Council who would arrange for its speedy removal. The Council would check the fly tipping to see if they could identify the perpetrators and if they could, would prosecute. The water leaks on Robin’s Nest Hill and by the Beehive would be referred to Herts County Council by Councillor Jim Holt. The Chairman spoke about the issue of rural shops closing and urged residents to use the shop. Councillor Linda Haysey spoke about registering shops and public houses as assets of community value and undertook to send details of how to register.

73. **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 - these were approved; proposed by Councillor Richard Chaplin and seconded by Councillor Derek Standbrook

- b) To approve bank statements, bank reconciliation and budget report – these were approved; proposed by Councillor Derek Standbrook and seconded by Councillor Elaine Hunter

- c) To approve the draft budget and set the precept for 2017/18. There was some discussion on the draft budget and the reduction in New Homes Bonus to £1956 from £3299.

A 2% rise (£173.00) was proposed by Councillor Ellis Downes and seconded by Councillor Elaine Hunter.

Councillor Richard Chaplin proposed, seconded by Councillor Derek Standbrook that the precept should be increased by £640 (approximately 6.5%) - the same amount as last year.

The motions were put to the vote and a 2% increase agreed on the Chairman's casting vote.

74. **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) No further applications had been received

The Chairman reminded members to respond to the Clerk when asked for their views on planning applications, indicating whether they supported or objected to the application.

75. **To receive an update on hall, cottage and open spaces** – the Clerk advised the meeting that the repairs were due to start on 31<sup>st</sup> January and the contractors would be in touch with Councillor Derek Standbrook to arrange a quote for redecorations. The Clerk also advised that she had been in touch with another playground maintenance company and she was waiting for comments and a quote for essential playground repairs. Councillor Derek Standbrook advised that Alan Fitzjohn had started work on the recreation field.

76. **To receive an update on highways matters, minerals and landfill activities** – nothing to report.

77. **Update on pension duty** The Clerk brought members up to date on the Parish Council's pension duties.

78. **To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee** – Councillor Hunter provided a report on the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016. The Committee were seeking a new treasurer following the resignation of Peter Chivers. There was a balance of around £10,000 but the Committee had noted that they needed to generate more income during 2017. Parking was a problem in the village and this affected hall bookings. There was going to be a fete in July

– a Music and Food festival. The Christmas ball had been very successful and would be repeated in 2017.

79. **To answer previously submitted questions from councillors** – none submitted
80. **To note any correspondence received and not previously circulated** – the Clerk had received an email from a land agent.
81. **To suggest agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting** – Councillors discussed the proposed village meeting. Councillor Richard Chaplin outlined what being a category 2 village meant for Little Berkhamsted. It was decided to postpone the Village meeting due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February until councillors had met with a planning officer from East Herts to find out more about formulating a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that there had also been some interest about the Drive Safe scheme and this would also be discussed at the rescheduled Village meeting. The meeting Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**