

LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 8pm 20th September 2017 in the Village Hall, Little Berkhamsted.

Present; Cllr Downes (Chair), Cllr Hunter (Vice-Chair), Cllr Standbrook, Cllr Holt, Cllr Chaplin, Cllr Wayne Morris

In attendance: Laura Brooks-Payne (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Ken Crofton and 19 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** None
2. **To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
3. **To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 19th July 2017:**
Approved as correct, proposed by Cllr Standbrook, seconded by Cllr Hunter.
4. **To receive the Chairman's Report** – no report but a note to the public that the parish council is one councillor short and should any members of the public be interested to contact the clerk.
5. **To receive comments from residents and attendees:** Maria Vavarides, presented to the council a potential future planning application for 45 affordable houses on derelict green land on Church Road. Cllr Hunter explained that the land was once grazing land and was not derelict until Ms Vavarides owned the land. There were questions from the public and much resignation about the size of the potential development and worries about infrastructure, increased traffic, spoilt views and increased congestion in the village. Ms Vavarides explained an infrastructure survey had been undertaken. Cllr Crofton asked if the land is included in the district plan which it is not. Cllr Chaplin explained that we are a class 2 village within the district plan and that housing infill is possible. Residents wanting to obtain any further information on the possible development to contact the clerk in the first instance.
6. **To receive the planning report:** the latest planning applications document for the village had been circulated to councillors by the clerk and briefly read through by Cllr Downes. (attached at the end of this document). An objection was proposed by councillors on the appeal against the unauthorised construction of an outbuilding (E/16/0342) and NO objection for extensions at numbers 1&2 Woodcock Lodge Farm Cottages (3/17/1817 & 3/17/1906). The councillors discussed that they did not have enough information to comment on the Hertford Express Asphalt applications for the extension of an existing soil bund (PL/0861/17) **ACTION:** clerk to email East Herts District Council the councillors decisions and Herts County Council for more information at Hertford Express Asphalt.
7. **To discuss opening up of bridleways:** A resident who had been in touch with the clerk and wanted to question the parish council on the opening up of congested bridleways was not present. Cllr Downes read an email from a resident of Henderson Place concerned

about the poor state of the bridleway. Cllr Holt reported that the Parish Council had received quotes to resurface path number 8. A resident interjected and explained that he owns the land that crosses path number 8 and asked why he had not been consulted. Cllr Holt & Downes apologised to the resident explaining that the Parish Council were unaware of this and asked the resident for a meeting to discuss the matter. Cllr Holt explained that he was receiving good support from Mr Maddox at East Herts Council.

8. **To receive a report on open spaces:** Cllr Standbrook reported that bridleway 18 is very overgrown and had been in contact with Nick Maddox who will re-assess the situation. Cllr Standbrook also reported that the tress directly outside the village hall were becoming rather overgrown and very low in places above the pavement.
ACTION – Cllr Standbrook to obtain quotes for pollarding the trees lining the main road.
9. **To discuss the safety report for the playground:** Cllr Standbrook reported that the playground safety report highlighted a number of low risk safety issues, some of which have been repaired and replaced in the last couple of weeks. Further minor repairs still outstanding. Clerk has organised for replacement bark to be delivered tomorrow.
10. **To discuss Apple day Care and the use of public facilities:** The cricket club run the pavilion on behalf of the parish council. The cricket club have an agreement with Apple Day children care to use the facilities. The existing contract the Parish council have with the Cricket Club is somewhat unclear as to whether the Cricket club can in fact have their own agreement with Apple Day care. There were comments from residents that the parents dropping off children for the daycare at the pavilion were stopping in dangerous locations and blocking the road on occasion. **ACTION;** Clerk to communicate with District Councillor Linda Haysey as to how we can move forward with these issues.
11. **To receive a report on Highway Matters;** Cllr Holt reported that the PC has looked at the cost and grants for SID's (speed indicator devices). The Herts Police and crime commissioner funding envelope is currently closed to new applications but we will make an application when it re-opens. The PC will consider adding to the next precept for a second SID device. Cllr Crofton explained that there is a danger of overfilling the streets with SID's in inappropriate places and therefore County are conducting surveys before allowing these to be put in situ. Cllr Crofton asked for the PC to liaise with him on gaining the grant and noted that over time SID devices can be relocated. **ACTION;** Cllr Holt to arrange a possible meeting with the Highways locality manager through Cllr Crofton to discuss further.
12. **To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee;** Cllr Hunter read out the report (attached at the end of this document). To note the future redecoration of the village hall needs 2 more quotes and further discussion was had in reference to obtaining a professional survey of the building. **ACTION;** Cllr Standbrook will investigate companies that can attend to survey the village Hall to ensure that we are keeping the historic building in a good state of repair and action two further quotations.
13. **To sign a letter to enable the postal address to be changed on the PC bank account to current clerk;** Approved and signed by Cllr Downes and Hunter.
14. **To approve payment to Brickendon PC for printing costs:** The clerk also works for Brickendon Liberty PC. To avoid having duplicate printers it was approved unanimously to pay Brickendon Liberty PC £100 a year for printing costs excluding paper.

15. **To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts;** approved unanimously. **ACTION:** Cllr Chaplin to add a column to the budget spreadsheet tab to allow the PC to view up to date spend against budget part way through the year.
16. **Matters for future consideration and confirmation of the date of the parish council meeting:** None, next Meeting date Wednesday 8th November 2017
17. **To receive correspondence, letter from Miss. S. Faircloth – clerk.** Clerk reported that she had received a handwritten letter from a Miss Faircloth about two paintings left to the PC and currently loose in the village Hall. Clerk has already written to the resident explaining that the paintings will be discussed at the Parish meeting and invited her to attend. **ACTION;** clerk to write to the resident again explaining that the PC will have the paintings valued and will be stored until such time. Cllr Downes to arrange valuation.
18. **To close the meeting:** meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Laura Brooks-Payne, Clerk
31st January 2017