

LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on 19th September 2018 at 8pm in the Village Hall, Little Berkhamsted.

Present;

Cllr Downes (Chair), Cllr Hunter (Vice-Chair), Cllr Standbrook, Cllr Chaplin, Cllr Holt

In Attendance: 7 members of the public, District Cllr Ken Crofton and Laura Brooks-Payne (Clerk)

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve;**
Apologies from Cllr Wayne Morris and Leader of the Council Linda Haysey
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
- 3. To approve minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council; Wednesday 18th July 2018:** Cllr Downes went briefly through the minutes. These were unanimously approved, proposed by Cllr Chaplin and seconded by Cllr Holt
- 4. To receive questions and comments from the public:**

A resident asked if Cllr Downes had met with the cricket club recently. The resident reported that the residents felt that they could not use the recreation ground during the summer at weekends while cricket matches were being played. The cricket club has utilised the space for much of the summer weekends playing two teams. Cllr Downes reported that he had visited the Cricket club on two occasions but relevant staff were not available. Cllr Downes is aware of this issue and others. Cllr Hunter reported that a resident had noted that the path running across the recreational ground had become uneven.

ACTION: Cllr Downes will compose a letter for the clerk to forward to the Cricket Club in respect to both issues.

Residents reported concern of the speed of vehicles and expressed a view that there is imminent danger on the road. The junction of Bucks Alley and Robins Nest Hill being particularly dangerous due to poor sight lines. Also noted was the size of vehicles travelling down Bucks Alley which is narrow and has many tight bends. Cllr Downes replied that the PC are aware of the dangers and are currently looking into traffic calming measures.

ACTION: Cllr Holt will report this to Highways and research traffic calming measures.

A resident reported that 'The Walled Garden' land on Little Berkhamsted Lane has recently acquired 3 wooden structures believed to residences with utilities running to them. In addition another resident reported that the walled garden orchard had recently had two stable blocks erected, none of which it seemed had planning permissions.

ACTION: Cllr Downes will formally notify Kevin Steptoe at East Herts District Council (EHDC) to report these possible breaches of planning regulations.

5. To receive the chairman's report; Cllr Downes reported that in the last week the Secretary of State has put the EHDC District Plan on hold, in short this is because of the amount of 'green' space allocated. EHDC have spent a great deal of time, expertise and funds putting this together but now have to wait until policies and/or procedures either change or move forward. Cllr Crofton added that the inspector had approved the District Plan but MP for Stevenage Steven McPartlin had been instrumental in putting the plan on hold.

6. To receive the planning report; Clerk had circulated the latest planning application report prior to the meeting. Cllr Downes went through the new plans and it was noted that there have been a few recent refusals for extending properties because of the rules against over development in the Green Belt. There was a 4 to 1 majority verdict from councillors to send a comment to object to the application at 11 Henderson Place (3/18/1929/HH) because it seemed to be overdevelopment of the site. The clerk also asked if any of those present knew if the retrospective building of a car port structure had been removed after the recent appeal having been dismissed. (17/00114/REFUSE).

ACTION: Clerk will email EHDC planning department the comment of objection. Cllrs will investigate if the structure has been removed.

7. To report on the Village Day litter picking event: Clerk reported that she had information from Cllr Linda Haysey that there is a 'pack' of equipment that the PC can use for the day. We are also covered on our PC Insurance for a litter pick day. Ellis proposed the date of Saturday 13th October at 10am meeting at the recreational ground.

ACTION: Clerk will liaise with Cllr Haysey to organise the equipment.

8. To receive a report on open spaces: Cllr Holt reported that work is continuing on the footpaths thanks to the P3 Grant and they are looking much neater.

9. To receive a report on Premises management – Hall, Cottage; Discuss PC responsibilities as landlord: The clerk had previously sent Cllrs some detail on being a landlord. Cllr Standbrook reported that he had looked into our responsibilities of being a landlord for the cricket pavilion and the cottage adjacent to the village hall. The PC now have the fire assessment certificate for the both properties. It was suggested that Carbon Monoxide alarms need to be installed and an electrical safety check for both properties. Although the latter is not a legal requirement neither property has been checked for some time. This was approved unanimously. Cllr Standbrook suggested also that we look at a complete review and a new tenant's agreement for the cricket club.

ACTION: Cllr Standbrook will liaise with Cllr Morris to gain quotations for the electrical safety checks. Cllr Downes will be writing to the cricket club.

10. To receive a report on Highway Matters; car parking restrictions: Cllr Holt reported that Herts Police & Crime Commission Fund opens again on 28th September and the PC will make an application for two speed indicator devices (SID's). Cllr Crofton added that as Highways are already aware of the parish council's intentions for SID's and have already discussed locations during a site visit, the PC need to be prompt with our application in order to secure the funds. Cllr Holt explained that preferred sites are those

well lit, the SID's being solar powered; 200 yards from Blackmores Farm entrance on Robins Nest Hill and just before Goddards Close on Church Road.

Cllr Downes reported that residents have complained of dangerous and permanent parking in the centre of the village. Cllr Hunter suggested an area outside of the village hall for residents parking. It was noted that non-residents regularly occupy many of the spaces already in situ.

ACTION: Cllr Holt will contact Highways to organise a survey to be carried out. Cllr Crofton offered his assistance on this.

- 11. To report on progress of new Village signs and discuss design for central village sign;** Clerk suggested that Highways were consulted because the signs will be erected on Highways land. It was agreed that this would be done when the signs are ready to be installed. Dominic, designer of the new signs, showed Cllrs and the public a real size print out of the agreed design of the new sign. Dominic also explained that the proposed design for the central village sign was based on the same format incorporating traditional look using stained glass and wrought iron. Cllrs suggested that when the new signs are in situ, a maintenance plan be put in place to keep the new signs in order.
- 12. To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee:** Cllr Hunter briefly went through the report explaining that the committee would like to meet with cllrs regarding parking issues in the village when the PC have more to report. Cllr Hunter advised of dates of community interest as follows; 29th September – Quiz night, 3rd November – Firework Night, 15th December – Christmas Ball. Cllr Hunter also reported that Sandie Ash, current chair of the recreation committee, will be standing down as Chair at the next AGM in November. Cllr Downes thanked Sandie for her many years of hard work and dedication on the committee.
- 13. To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts;** Cllr Downes reported on the payments for the month. The accounts were approved by Cllr Standbrook and seconded by Cllr Chaplin. The invoice to Beam for the new village signage was brought to the meeting for payment approval. The clerk explained that as only one quotation had been sought, two additional quotations would be needed for cllrs to compare because of the high value of the invoice.

ACTION: Dominic, designer of the signs, agreed to seek additional quotes.
- 14. Matters for future consideration and confirmation of the date of the parish council meeting on Wednesday 14th November at 8pm:** clerk advised that the budget and dates for 2019 parish council meetings would appear in the November agenda.
- 15. To receive correspondence;** none
- 16. To close the meeting;** Meeting closed at 9.40pm by Cllr Downes who also reported that Dominic Latham-Koenig had agreed to become a councillor and was welcomed to the Parish Council.

Laura Brooks-Payne, Clerk
26th September 2018