

LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 19th July 2017 in the Village Hall, Little Berkhamsted.

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

In attendance: Laura Brooks-Payne (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies sent to the clerk by Wayne Morris.
2. **To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
3. **To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 17th May 2017:** Approved as correct, proposed by Cllr Holt, seconded by Cllr Standbrook.
4. **Chairman's Report – Cllr Downes;** (Inserted into the minutes at this point as a regular agenda item). Welcome was given to new clerk Laura Brooks-Payne, there were many applications received. We still have a vacancy for another councillor. A member of the public present volunteered to be co-opted and Cllr Downes will follow up with this. Thank you to County Cllr Ken Crofton for his ongoing support to the parish council. A pamphlet with information on the Stratton Tower has been produced. Thank you to Marion and David Cooper for producing this. Clerk to contact David Cooper to ask for permission to publish this document on the parish council website. The Strategic Plan should be commented on. ACTION; Clerk to contact David Cooper to ask for permission to publish the Stratton Tower document on the parish council website. Cllr Chaplin to set up a 'working' party to continue with the strategic plan and to decide if the PC will start to put a Neighbourhood Plan in place.
5. **To receive parishioners comments:** A resident asked if the PC were any further forward with this issue with Apple Day Care and the cricket club. It was noted that Apple Day Care who use a private residence for daily childcare, have a contract and pay a revenue to the village Cricket Club to use their facilities during the daytime. There is conflict of interest at times with the children using the green and dog walkers with dogs off lead. Parents dropping children off at the facility can cause obstructions on occasion too. Cllr Chaplin noted that the PC own the cricket Club Pavilion. ACTION; Cllr Downes will attend the next Cricket Club AGM. Clerk will email the cricket club to ask for latest copy of the contract for approval.

A resident asked if the Strategic Plan currently being written will, in time, turn into a Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Chaplin reported that Little Berkhamsted would unlikely see significant development. The Parish Council believes that it would be a sensible approach however to begin a Neighbourhood Plan. A comprehensive survey to households was conducted some 3 years ago and it would be beneficial to repeat this.

6. **To receive the planning report:** the latest planning applications document for the village had been circulated to councillors by the clerk. (attached at the end of this document). No objections were proposed by councillors on the two new planning

applications at 11 Henderson Place (3/17/1324/HH) and Barn at Garden Cottage, Bucks Alley (3/17/1375/ARPN). ACTION: clerk to email Est Herts District Council the 'no objections'.

- 7. To receive report on open spaces:** Cllr Downes reported that a donation of £1000 had generously been given to the PC for updates to the existing circular pathway surrounding the village. Cllr Holt reported that the PC would like to make the path accessible to all, including wheelchairs and pushchairs. This would involve possible replacement of stiles with kissing gates, reinstating paths and cutting back hedges. Cllr Holt is currently having ongoing discussions with land owners that the path affects, with these permissions granted, the PC will be able to obtain a P3 grant from Groundwork Herts for this work. ACTION: Cllr Downes will set and advertise a date for residents to join councillors for a walk along the path on either the first or second Sunday this coming September.

To receive a report on Highway Matters: Cllr Downes reported that the white line road markings had been replaced in the village and around the war memorial. Discussion was had on the possibility of unofficial speed monitoring by residents and/or solar speed indicator devices depicting the sad and smiley faces. It was noted that traffic calming devices such as road speed humps were not possibility due to the absence of street lighting. Cllr Holt explained that he is currently researching the possibilities for traffic calming via the Drive Safe Campaign and noted that the resident speed monitoring techniques have proved to be fairly unsuccessful in other parishes and can cause resident resentment. ACTION; Cllr Holt will continue to research and contact County Cllr Ken Crofton for possible funding through the locality budget.

- 8. To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee:** Quotes obtained for the Hall redecoration. Discussion was had as to whether a surveyor was needed to ascertain actual works needed. Playground inspection reported mainly low risk items. Once agreed by Little Berkhamsted PC, the committee will pay 50% of the costs for updating.
- 9. To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:** New accounting spreadsheet was discussed and approved. Payments approved and signed.
- 10. Matters for future consideration and confirmation of the date of the parish council meeting:** Wednesday 20th September 2017
- 11. To receive correspondence – clerk:** The PC received an enquiry via the website from the cricket club to ask if the PC would be prepared to contribute towards repairs to the vandalised bench which sits outside the clubhouse. It was agreed to pay for 50% of the cost of £150.00. ACTION: Clerk to reply to the treasurer.
- 12. To close the meeting:** Meeting closed by Cllr Downes at 9.30pm.