

LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 8pm on 14th March 2018 in the Village Hall, Little Berkhamsted.

Present;

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

In attendance:

Laura Brooks-Payne (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Ken Crofton and 9 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor Linda Haysey and Cllr Jim Holt

2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:

None

3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 8th January 2018:

The minutes were approved as correct, proposed by Cllr Hunter, seconded by Cllr Standbrook.

4. To receive comments from residents and attendees:

A resident advised that the existing vicar, Pauline Higham is retiring after more than 20 years in service. There is a leaving service for Pauline on 29th April at St Mary's church in Hertingfordbury.

5. To receive the Chairman's Report:

Cllr Downes reported that after the recent winter weather he had noticed that there are many potholes having developed on Robins Nest Hill and Berkhamsted Lane. The dedicated phone number for reporting potholes and street lights that are not working is; 0300 123 4047. You can also report these online at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>

ACTION: Clerk will add the above details to the website and details will be added to parish noticeboards.

Cllr Downes reported that he had left messages on the answerphone for the members of the Cricket pavilion several times following previous issues regarding Apple Day Cares use of the cricket Pavilion. He has received no response as yet. Cllr Downes will continue to pursue this, with a view to speaking with them directly to try and resolve the issues amicably.

6. To receive information from Terry Morris from OWL:

The parish council had been approached by OWL for a representative to attend the meeting to give councillors information, however, Terry Morris was not present.

ACTION: Clerk to contact and invite OWL to attend the next meeting.

7. To receive the planning report:

The clerk had circulated the planning report prior to the meeting. Cllr Downes briefly went through the report. Application number 3/18/0359/HH for Culverwood House on Robins Nest Hill was discussed by councillors and no objections were raised.

ACTION: Clerk to email a comment of NO objection as above to EHDC.

8. To receive a report on open spaces:

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Standbrook reported that repairs had begun on the village hall including replacement of the cottage kitchen window. The tenant of the cottage is updating the internal decorating including making good the area surrounding the window and Cllr Standbrook suggested that the PC should make a contribution to this work. It was agreed by councillors to make a Cllr Chaplin.

TREES

Cllr Standbrook reported that he had received 3 quotes for reducing the tree height and coverage adjacent to the road/pavement and play area. Cllrs unanimously agreed to use RR Trees at a cost of £300.00 for the work.

ACTION: Cllr Standbrook to organise the work and the parking in the lay-bys on the days the work will take place.

9. To receive a report on Highway Matters;

In Cllr Holt's absence, Cllr Downes reported that bridleway number 18 had now been cleared by Highways. Cllr Crofton asked for Cllr Holt to contact him regarding the progress of the Speed Indicator Device funding.

10. To receive an update on Little Berkhamsted Village Identity and branding:

Dominic Latham-Koenig from the company Beam, a local resident too, attended the meeting to present design ideas. Dominic had used Stratton Tower as a reference point for the village, it being a significant building which can be seen for miles around. Cllrs were impressed by the fabulous design. Discussion was had on material construction for the sign and using local craftspeople to make it. Cllrs unanimously agreed on the font and design. Cllr Downes thanked Dominic and the working party for their work to date. It was also noted that there will need to be a maintenance schedule going forward to keep the

potential new signs looking tidy. It was noted that a more decorative version of the design would be good to have in the centre of the village.

ACTION: Cllrs Chaplin and Morris will look at costs and positioning of signage and report to the next meeting. Clerk will add to the May agenda.

11. To receive a report from Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee:

Cllr Hunter reported on the recreation committee last meeting. Minutes attached at the end. It was discussed if the PC could continue paying invoices in order to reclaim the VAT, the recreation committee NOT being a committee of the council.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate the VAT issue.

12. To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:

Cllr Downes went through the last two months payments, nothing unusual to report.

Approved unanimously, Cllr Chaplin proposed and Cllr Morris seconded. Cllr Morris reported that he had been investigating insurance and cleaning of the War Memorial. He stated that the war memorial should be covered for at least £60,000 for insurances purposes.

ACTION: Clerk to research how much we are covered for the war memorial in our insurance currently.

13. Matters for future consideration and confirmation of the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council:

Cllr Standbrook asked for parking issues to be added to the next agenda. Cllr Chaplin suggested that residents and councillors should gain evidence and 'diary' poor or dangerous parking so that the PC has some evidence to take forward.

Wednesday 16th May at 8pm - Annual meeting of the Council

Wednesday 30th May at 8pm - Annual Parish meeting

14. To receive correspondence:

Clerk reported that she had received the following;
Herts Transport and Casualty Facts 2017 from Herts County Council.
HMRC letter regarding changes of how the PC reclaims VAT
Herts County Council Letter advising the PC that the Draft Minerals Local plan consultation has now ended.

ACTION: Clerk will put on the Transport data on the website.

15. To close the meeting: meeting closed at 9.10pm.

15th January 2018

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