



LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall in Little Berkhamsted.

Cllrs present: Cllr Stokes (Chair), Cllr Hunter (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Standbrook, Cllr Fellowes

Cllrs not present: Cllr Morris, Cllr Noble

Others present: 1 member of the public

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence and approve:**
District Cllr Ken Crofton, leader of the Council Linda Haysey, Clerk
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
- 3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022:** unanimously approved
- 4. Chair's Report:**

Cllr Stokes thanked everyone involved in the successful Autumn Litter Pick. It was reported that the bonfire event did not take place because no one came forward to lead on its organisation.

It was reported that a new District Services Agent has now been employed by Ringway & Herts Highways hope this will help to speed up the ongoing repairs needed to Robins Nest Hill and Church Road.

Our Ward Councillor and Leader of East Herts Council, Linda Haysey, has announced that after 18 years she will not be standing for election next May. Linda has always been a friend to Little Berkhamsted Parish Council who are extremely grateful to her for all the guidance, support and wise words she has offered the Parish Council over the years. We wish her well.

Remembrance Sunday was marked by the PC at the Hertford Hundred Group service and a short ceremony was held at the village War Memorial.

Standing orders suspended to allow members of the public to speak if they wish

- 5. To receive questions and comments from the public:** none

Standing Orders reinstated from here

6. To update on potential new PC Website:

Cllr Noble was not in attendance, no report.

7. To update on the meeting held to start work on the archive materials:

Cllr Noble was not in attendance, no report.

8. HIGHWAYS

8.1 To update on traffic data collection costs & approve:

Cllr Stokes reported that Herts County Council (HCC) Highways department has quoted the PC for speed and volume surveys at two sites in the village, subject to there being satisfactory street furniture for the radars to be attached to. Cllr Eaglestone will investigate quotes from other companies once Cllr Stokes has checked that Highways will accept their data. Cllrs approved the commissioning of traffic data collection at up to two separate sites in the village in both directions.

9. PLANNING

9.1 To receive & discuss the latest Planning Report circulated by the clerk:

There have been no new planning applications since the last meeting. There are several applications still pending a decision.

10. OPEN SPACES

10.1 To report on playground issues: Cllr Standbrook: Nothing to report

10.2 To discuss siting of a charity clothing bank on the recreation field:

Cllr Stokes reported that the PC have been approached and asked if they would like to site a charity clothing bank in the Parish. After discussion it was agreed that it would be worth trying to fund raise through a village charity clothing bank. It was agreed that the recreation field is not the best location for it. Cllr Stokes will visit the Five Horseshoes pub to ask if they would consider siting the clothing bank in their car park.

10.3 To update on hedge cutting:

Cllr Standbrook reported that the hedges had been cut, wood removed, and brambles cleared. Some small branches and suckers have been removed from smaller trees. Cllr Standbrook will contact Alan Fitzjohn about further work to the 'ditch' at the bottom of the field.

11. PREMISES MANAGEMENT

Village Hall

11.1 To update on quotations for insulation & secondary double glazing:

Cllr Standbrook updated Council on details re the insulation and double glazing, having previously circulated details to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was discussed and unanimously approved that the secondary double glazing will be completed after the insulation of the roof had been completed. The insulation chosen will be Rockwall and not spray foam as was suggested previously. The quotations are still being worked through. Cllr Standbrook will also investigate whether the chosen company complies with the Fire Regulations for this work.

11.2 To update on maintenance work carried out: Cllr Standbrook reported that the light behind the building has been replaced.

Cricket & Community Pavilion (C&C Pavilion)

11.3 To receive the latest report on the C & C Pavilion:

It was discussed and approved that Terry Hunter will be paid for the cleaning of the Pavilion that he has carried out since the previous cleaner finished. The Cricket Club will clear and clean the fridges and freezers. It was discussed and approved that a TV aerial will be purchased to be installed on the pavilion.

11.4 To update on the repair of the clock:

Cllr Morris was not in attendance so no report was given. It was, however, discussed that the clock has been broken for over a year. Cllrs unanimously approved the purchase and installation of a new clock, quotes having been sought previously by Cllr Stokes.

11.5 To update on security:

Cllr Stokes reported that the pavilion garage was broken into for a second time on 2nd October. Nothing was stolen. At the same time the container and green garage locks were damaged. The security light has not been repaired/replaced. Cllrs discussed the need for a sensor light possibly located high up in the tree to help deter thieves and vandals. Cllr Eaglestone will research a suitable light for both the village hall and to the outside of the pavilion front door.

11.6. To update on maintenance work that has been carried out:

Cllr Standbrook reported that work on the manhole covers has been completed with the last security bar installed. The donated television has been installed on the wall.

11.7 To update on the existing & ongoing contract with the Cricket Club:

Cllr Stokes reported that she and Cllr Eaglestone are meeting with the CC on Friday to sign next year's contract. Cllrs discussed the draft contract and approved the rent for the 2023 season at £3,680 (a 5% increase on 2022). This will be subject to a mid-season review due to the uncertain economic climate.

12. FINANCE

12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:

Clerk had circulated the latest accounts summary prior to the meeting, these were unanimously approved.

12.2 To approve expenditure for replacement of clock: see agenda item 11.4

12.3 To consider a donation to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance:

It was discussed and approved that £150 will be donated. Clerk to organise.

12.4 To approve costs for item 11.1: Unanimously approved.

12.5 To approve expenditure for item 11.5 Unanimously approved.

12.6 To approve the budget & precept for 2023-2024:

The clerk had circulated a draft precept and budget document to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The council's fixed costs had been reviewed and after discussion Cllrs unanimously approved a precept that will cover rising costs, business rates and pay rises.

13. To approve the date of the next meeting on 18th January 2023: date approved

14. To close the meeting: Cllr Stokes closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Parish Clerk:

(Cllr Hunter in the absence of) Mrs Laura Brooks-Payne

clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk

DRAFT