

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th JANUARY 2016 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

Present: Susan Johnson (Chairman)
Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman)
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)
Christine Manning (Hon. Treasurer)
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Paul Crosland
Rita Jones
Elaine Mercer
Tony Statham

Apologies for absence were received from Jude Egan and Jenny Habib. Lindy Foster-Weinreb was welcomed to the meeting. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2015 were agreed and signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

NHS – Closure of Gossoms End Community Hospital: Susan had written to the Herts Community Trust about this, with a copy to the West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust.

SJ

3. Chairman's Report

The Chiltern Society: This year is the 50th anniversary of the Society, which the BCA had helped to found. They intend to form a Heritage Group and interested parties are invited to Chenies Manor on Saturday 9th April at 10.30 am for the launch. Susan will reply to say that someone from the Association will attend. Jenny Habib is our representative at the Chiltern Society.

SJ

DBC Statement of Community Involvement: DBC is holding a consultation on a revised version. There is an online document. Committee members should scrutinize it and send comments to Susan by 20th February, who will put together a response by the deadline of 25th February.

PC

Friends of St. Peter's: Has been awarded £73k of Lottery money. This will enable preliminary work to be carried out, which it hopes will lead to a further grant of £990k to return the cemetery to being a community asset, e.g. by rebuilding walls, re-opening gates, restoring paths, gates and restoring the Sexton's Hut. There will be a market stall on the last Saturday of every month to explain to residents what is happening. Congratulations from the BCA. Lindy offered to make a film of the project, and will contact Dr James Moir.

Lower Kings Road car park: There will be a planning application soon, which could be considered by the Town Council's Planning Committee on, or after, 22nd February. Susan will keep an eye on this and on the next meeting of the Parking Forum. [Ref: 4/00122/16/MFA]

Berkhamsted Councillor John Higgins has resigned and there is to be a by- election in West Ward on 18th February. There are four candidates.

Canal & River Trust: Is carrying out a consultation on mooring on the canal in Berkhamsted, handled by Sarah Brown on behalf of C&RT. Consultation comments required by the end of February. BCA members have been encouraged to respond individually. BCA supports the Town Council-led Canal & Riverside Partnership's position of favouring 2-day mooring in the town centre throughout the year. Colin Garrett has taken over Neighbourhood Watch for the town, so has circulated this to his many contacts. Gordon will respond on behalf of the Association.

GB

4. Map: Christine will talk to Bill Willett after the AGM. 120 maps sold to Waterstone's last week. Footpath 27, running from Lower Kings Road past Waitrose to St John's Well Lane, is shown on the Definitive Map following a route which does not exist; and will be diverted to follow a route that is actually used. Susan has checked on this, and the closing date for comments was 18 January 2016.

SJ

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

Paul said that he was sorry that he would not be able to continue on TASC in any capacity after the AGM, due to other demands on his time. He was warmly congratulated on the way he had performed this role, particularly as Chairman. Gordon volunteered to chair TASC until there was a more permanent arrangement. Extra members were needed.

There had been a TASC meeting on 19th January.

TASC is continuing to liaise with Robert Freeman on s106, and Paul is pursuing s106 with regard to New Lodge.

The planning application for housing at the bottom of Swing Gate Lane has been withdrawn and it was thought that this might be having implications on the building on the old police station site, as they are linked.

There has been no discussion at DBC Cabinet about conservation budgets. Susan will email David Gauke about this, with a copy to the DBC Portfolio Holder.

SJ

Environment Award: The TASC January meeting decided that nothing this year merited a plaque but came up with a short-list of three for commendation. The committee voted on these and agreed to give commendations to Farm Place and Sheldon Lodge. (New Lodge failed to win sufficient support.)

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Elaine reported.

New Year's Day walk: 27 people and 2 dogs started. Eight people returned.

Thursday 4th February – British Film Institute, in the Great Hall. We need an extra person on the door and will use this meeting to try to recruit new members.

Thursday 17th March – AGM. We need a speaker for 10 minutes. Susan will try to get someone to talk about the Lower Kings Road multi-storey car park.

SJ

