

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2015 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
Jude Egan
Jenny Habib
Rita Jones
Elaine Mercer

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Statham. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2015 were signed, having been previously approved on 2nd July. The minutes of 2nd July 2015 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

Meeting with new Town Clerk: The introductory meeting with the new Town Clerk, Karen Jones, was held on 29th July and attended by Susan, Gordon and Paul, together with Cllr David Collins, who is Leader of Berkhamsted Town Council and Chairman of Development Control at Dacorum Borough Council. It was agreed that this had been a positive and relevant meeting. Until now the BCA has had no representation on the Parking Forum, but this has now been arranged. The Town Clerk suggested we also store our archives with Dacorum Museum Store, but they are not accepting any more materials at the moment.

New Library consultation: The two public consultations were successful in the numbers who attended – 400 turned up or responded. People have strong feelings that the library matters. A report has been prepared and sent to HCC Library Services, who were pleased with the process. This report is on the B-Hive website. We now have to wait for the response of the Library Services.

Gas mains replacement: This is now four weeks behind schedule. They are planning to stop works at the end of August and continue at half-term and Christmas, if necessary.

DBC Conservation Budget: Susan had written to the DBC Portfolio Holder and the Director of Planning on 10th July but had received no reply. She has asked Cllr Collins to raise this at DBC; and had discussed it with the *Gazette* reporter. The letter had been copied to the Chairman of the Town Council's Planning Committee and the Town Clerk but it had not appeared on an agenda. Susan will follow this up. SJ

Berkhamsted Local History Society, in its summer newsletter, included a reference to the BCA campaign, as follows: *"Recommendations for the Conservation Area document made by the Berkhamsted Citizens Association and our Society are unlikely to be carried out because the funding has been directed elsewhere"*.

3. Chairman's Report

ANTAS: Susan had circulated to the Committee the ANTAS proposals for its future together with a new draft constitution. ANTAS wanted to keep twice yearly meetings, the organisation of which would now have to be undertaken by the member group hosting the meeting. It would like to retain a committee of nine. Approximately 25 organisations are members of the organisation. This Committee felt that ANTAS had an uncertain future although it was a useful link to Civic Voice, which otherwise was very expensive to join; and provided interesting speakers. It was agreed that we would continue to be represented at meetings but would not volunteer to organise them; and would reply that the new constitution would be acceptable, although we did not wish to serve on the committee.

SJ

Consultation of focused changes to the pre-submission site allocations document for Dacorum (Regulation 19): DBC wants to make some small changes to the Site Allocations for housing, which will be available for perusal at the Civic Centre between 12th August and 23rd September.

Retail changes: Country Casuals and Haydon's Cookware have closed. Café Rouge is becoming the Giggling Squid and Susan has written to DBC Conservation about the latter in view of the age and sensitivity of the listed building.

4. Map: Christine had not yet managed to get hold of Bill Willett to speak to him about his fee, numbers of maps and his royalties. She has received an invoice for £400 for work on the map prior to the reprint, and one for £86 from Cosmographics. The Committee decided that it would leave it to Christine to negotiate with Bill and confirm the outcome at the next Committee meeting. There are still 85 old maps remaining; and Christine will try to sell these to her walking group. 720 new maps have been sold. 80% of the last map went to the National Trust.

CM

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

Meetings had been held on 16th July and 11th August 2015. The affordable housing at Swing Gate Lane has now been approved. Still no Environment Award plaque at Mariners. Susan will follow this up. The Lombardy Drive green space is likely to be bought by Herts CC or Berkhamsted TC, so that it can be taken into the public sector. The BCA needs to keep an eye on New Lodge Section 106 money, so that it is collected and used locally. Other items mentioned were a new footbridge at New Lodge, a car wash at 49a High Street, Northchurch and NatWest's application for illuminated signage.

Gordon had undertaken a considerable amount of research on Section 106 monies – having been working on it for three years - and had received the latest information on the current situation. He felt that the DBC officer managing S106 seemed overwhelmed by the amount of work involved. There is a time limit on the collection and allocation of S106 money, so there is a risk of losing out if steps are not taken. After some discussion it was agreed that Gordon would draft a piece to send to Cllr Collins, and Susan and Paul would look at it before dispatch.

GB

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Elaine Mercer reported. The programme card is being produced. We do not now have to

acknowledge DBC funding on the cards, as their funding had been withdrawn. Elaine will write a piece for the Newsletter.

All our talks had been registered for listing in the BAT 'green sheet'.

Mark Lewisohn had been on the Today programme on 8th August talking about a performance of John Lennon's *In his Own Write* which is being performed at the Edinburgh Festival. Mark is also involved in a biographical piece on Lennon at the *Fringe*.

6. Newsletter: Next edition due out early September. Copy date: 28th August.

7. Publicity and Website: Susan is still trying to get an article on the DBC's Conservation budget priorities in the *Gazette*. She might have to resort to a letter to the Editor.

8. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Berkhamsted Arts Trust: *Berkhamsted Living* will produce the 'green sheet' from next year. BAT will pay for it this year with what is left of its resources; and then wind itself up.

CARP: Christopher attended a meeting on 21st July.

Friends of St. Peter's: The Lottery Award application for the Rectory Lane Cemetery is going in by 1st September. Its website has been revamped.

Festival of Light: Susan had attended a meeting on ^{30th}~~2nd~~ July, chaired by Cllr Stephen Bateman. The next meeting is on Monday 7th September.

Parking Forum: Susan will attend a meeting on Monday 17th August.

9. Membership Report

15 unpaid; 356 member households. Two new members.

10. Treasurer's Report

Christine has paid the public liability insurance. Gordon will look over the policy to ascertain its suitability for BCA activities. Nothing outstanding.

11. Any other business

Dacorum District Citizens Advice Bureau: Miranda had received a letter from them asking if we wished to continue to be members of the charity, and will reply that we do. **MC**

12. Dates of next meetings:

Thursday 24th September (Tony) Apologies Rita
Tuesday 3rd November (Tony)
Tuesday 15th December (TBA)

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

.......... (Chairman)

.....24/9/2015..... (Date)

Agenda for next meeting on Thursday 24th September at Ashlyns Lodge, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted at 8 pm

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2015
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Footpath Map – report
5. Reports from TASC and Activities
6. Newsletter
7. Publicity and website
8. Reports from representatives on other bodies
9. Membership report
10. Treasurer's report
11. Any other business
12. Dates of future meetings