

# BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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  
Rita Jones  
Tony Statham

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Habib. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

## 1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were agreed and signed.

## 2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

**ANTAS AGM:** on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Gordon, Paul, Rita, Christine and Tony attended. Gordon reported that the meeting had been an outstanding success, very interesting and with good food. There was useful information and networking, but ANTAS do need people to run it or it will struggle in future.

## 3. Chairman's Report

**Sparrows Herne Turnpike waymark:** Susan had received information that English Heritage had listed (Grade II) the Sparrows Herne Turnpike. Many congratulations to Susan for organising this. She will write something for the Gazette about it. **SJ**

Susan had received a letter from a member complaining about the fact that our meetings are always held on Thursdays. She had written a very good reply.

**4. BCA AGM:** Susan had written an article about possible BCA grant-giving to appear in the newsletter prior to the AGM. This was approved with one or two suggestions and amendments, including the insertion of the words "if funds permit". This topic will appear as an agenda item. The agenda will be in the next newsletter, at the end of February. **SJ**

Susan will contact Porters (restaurant moving next to Marks & Spencer), and possibly Lidl, as speakers at the AGM. **SJ**

Nomination papers will be completed at the next committee meeting. Susan will get in touch with Jackie Hicks to see whether she wishes to remain on the Committee. **SJ**

Berkhamsted Mayor, Cllr Peter Matthews, will attend the AGM. Refreshments will be organised by Tony and Miranda. Tony will arrange for a projector. Christine cannot attend the AGM, as she will be on holiday. **SJ/TS/MC**

**5. Map:** Its arrival is imminent, though Paul had been unable to contact Bill Willett. The map is being printed. Gordon would like a copy to take to the next Parish Paths Partnership. [Subsequently informed that the map printing is now complete and awaiting delivery to Tony.]

## **6. Reports from sub-committees**

### **TASC**

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 had been approved by TASC and were adopted by the Committee. Minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December had been circulated to TASC members.

**Flyposting:** Susan had attended a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December arranged by Berkhamsted Town Council about fly posting and A-boards. This had been rather inconclusive. BTC would like devolved powers to control flyposting, and will discuss this with DBC. Suggestion is to explore designated sites, e.g. railings but not trees. A-boards are the responsibility of HCC, who were not represented at the meeting.

**Conservation staffing at Dacorum:** There is some confusion as to what was going on. Paul was told by James Doe, Head of Planning at Dacorum, that they were not disbanding the conservation team although it had been in BTC minutes.

**Noticeboard at Swing Gate Lane:** This is now being used.

**Palisade at station:** had been painted black. Paul will seek some planting to act as a screen.

**Proliferation of street signage and poles:** Most of these have now been removed.

**High Street trees:** Paul had contacted DBC Trees Officer Luke Johnson about the replacement of the trees removed from the High Street. Luke Johnson advised that this work needed to be coordinated with the re-paving project planned for the High Street in 2015.

**Post box at Swing Gate Lane:** Royal Mail is stonewalling on this. Paul will pursue the matter and could now go to OFCOM. **PC**

**Environment Award:** The plaque for last year is now with the owners but not yet installed. The list for this year has now been reduced from 25 items to 15.

**Application by Druglink for hostels at 22-24 Clarence Road and The Gable, Prince Edward Street:** Druglink had held public consultation meetings. The application is now to be discussed by the Development Control Committee.

**Police Station, Library and Swing Gate Lane planning application:** We welcomed the enhancement of the library but expressed concerns about the paucity of public car parking. We felt that the new building by the traffic lights was too tall.

### **ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY**

**New Year's Day walk:** Went very well – 14 adults, three children and one dog.

**5<sup>th</sup> February - Mark Lewisohn on The Beatles:** He wants to include film clips, music, etc. using an Apple Mac. Will ask Paul Chambers to liaise with him to provide necessary equipment.

**Hustings:** Susan to book the Town Hall for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Rita to contact political agents, starting with that of David Gauke. **SJ/RJ**

**7. Newsletter:** Next copy date Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February. To deliverers by 21/22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Newsletter to include AGM agenda, grants article, activities including Hustings, 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch, Environment Award and usual TASC report, and a membership article reminding that only paid-up members can vote at the AGM.

**8. Publicity and Website:** Something in the Gazette about the Shop Window Competition results. Susan will write articles for the Gazette about the Sparrows Herne waymark, the Environment Award plaque and the new noticeboard, as well as the Hustings and the next talk. Your Berkhamsted has been putting our events in, but omitted the February meeting. SJ

Following the ANTAS AGM and discussions about communications and social media, Paul felt that organisations do better when they use social media. We need to re-invigorate our Facebook page. This could be mentioned at the AGM and ask for a volunteer for manage this.

### **9. BCA 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

This is to be held at Sunnyside Church Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The hall and caterers have been booked. 40 people have responded so far. More forms will be available at the AGM.

### **10. Reports from representatives on other bodies**

**Berkhamsted Arts Trust:** Are holding a seminar on how to write grant applications. They are still looking for a treasurer.

**CARP:** Gordon reported that monies have been found for resurfacing the towpath as far as Billet Lane. He has done a lot of research on the proposed surfacing and thinks it will be much better than before. Contracts will be issued this month.

**Festival of Light:** The sound system was very bad at the Festival and Susan's speech could only be heard by those close by. We were also disappointed with the lack of publicity after the Chamber of Commerce pulled their sponsorship. These matters to be raised at the wash-up meeting.

**Parish Paths Partnership:** A meeting is being called. Herts Groundwork will not be attending any more meetings but £1,000 p.a. will still be available to each Hertfordshire parish.

### **11. Membership Report**

There were currently 359 member households. 11 members will be deleted if they do not pay soon. 45% of those previously unpaid have paid since November. 141 are now on email.

### **12. Treasurer's Report**

Draft accounts were circulated and some minor amendments made. Sparrows Herne, noticeboard and donation for mooring rings charged to Map Fund. Affiliations to be listed on accounts. Thanks to Christine. She will circulate amended accounts, to be approved at next committee meeting.


### **13. Any other business**

Christopher had made use of email to tell members about the Waste Site new opening times and days. This had been appreciated by many. Paul reported it had been copied on to Facebook, which in turn linked back to our website. This was the plus side of social media.

**14. Dates of next meetings:**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February (Susan)  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – AGM  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April (Susan)

The meeting ended at 10 p.m.

  
.....  
(Chairman)  
18/2/2015 ..... (Date)

**Agenda for next meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Stonycroft, 9 Shrublands Road at 8 pm**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. BCA AGM.
5. Map reprint – report from Paul & Tony
6. Reports from TASC and Activities
7. Newsletter
8. Publicity and website
9. BCA 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
10. Reports from representatives on other bodies
11. Membership report
12. Treasurer's report including approval of Accounts for 2014
13. Any other business
14. Dates of future meetings