

# BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2015 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS ROAD BERKHAMSTED

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

Apologies for absence were received from Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary) and Jenny Habib. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

## 1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved. They would be signed at the next meeting when Miranda would be present to process them.

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

**Meeting with new Town Clerk:** It was agreed to seek a short meeting with the new Town Clerk, Karen Jones, to introduce the Association to her, with special reference to who we are, our Association's mutual concerns and conflicts of interest with the Town Council, our work in the fields of planning (including S106 and CiL) and conservation, and the events we host. **SJ**

**AGM minutes:** No-one sought any amendments to the draft AGM minutes circulated, so they would now be put up on the website. **SJ/PC**

**Kings Road/Kingshill Way/Shootersway junction:** Trials of lights/phases had been carried out, which had proved instructive. Discussions are on-going.

**Canal towpath:** An official opening of the refurbished and upgraded towpath, and the new mooring rings to which the BCA had contributed, had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Chairman had attended.

**DBC Noticeboard at Farm Place:** had been repaired.

## 3. Chairman's Report

**New Library consultation:** HCC has engaged with B-Hive to hold two public consultations (charrette-style) on the content of the new Library, which will be located on the ground floor of the new development on the former Police Station site. The consultations will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm in the present Library; and on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 10 am to 1.30 pm in the Civic Centre. All Committee members were encouraged to attend. **All**

**Café Rouge, 296-298 High Street** is expected to be replaced by small chain Giggling Squid, Thai restaurants. Susan would alert the DBC Conservation staff to the probable need for Listed Building consent applications. **SJ**

**Gas main replacements** are to take place in the High Street for 7 weeks w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**DBC Conservation:** The Budget for 2015/16 was set at a paltry £49k. The Conservation Officer had resigned and left on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A temporary replacement, reportedly engaged at a lower grade and on shorter hours, had been recruited. The report to Cabinet was being written reportedly making it clear that there was no money for the required work the BCA and others had identified in the consultation on the Core Conservation Strategy. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to DBC (Portfolio Holder, Planning Director) and copy to the Town Clerk, expressing concern. A copy would also go to *The Gazette*. **SJ**

**4. Map:** There was a good review of the new edition of the Footpath Map in the summer edition of *Berkhamsted Living* and Susan had thanked David Guest in person for it. Following discussion on possible new outlets for the Map, Christine warned against being seen as trading. Our purpose was to facilitate access to the countryside around Berkhamsted; so it was agreed to restrict outlets to the current Berkhamsted ones and the NT shops. It was also agreed to offer a map for a concessional rate to any new member in their joining pack.

**CM/EM/GB/CT-P**

## **5. Reports from Sub-Committees**

### **TASC**

**Minutes** of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were adopted; and those for the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated for information to TASC members.

There was a new planning application for affordable housing at the junction of Swing Gate Lane with the High Street, which had not yet been determined.

The Outline Planning Application for development of five family houses at Ashlyns Farm had been refused.

There was no final outcome as yet to enforcement at 11 Bank Mill.

There was concern at the application to demolish and rebuild 254 High Street, an unprotected (other than in the CA) early Victorian house with back extension used as an office. TASC had written two strong objections, and would continue to pursue the application.

The 2014 Environment Award plaque had still not been put up at *Mariners*. Susan would get in touch with the house owner again offering Pete Manning's assistance. **SJ**

The piece of green space at the foot of Lombardy Drive being sold off by the developers continued to give cause for concern. The neighbours were attempting, with the Town Council's help, to have it designated a Village Green.

The HCC cuts to subsidies to bus services were to go ahead; but Berkhamsted seemed little affected.

## **ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY**

Elaine Mercer reported.

**21<sup>st</sup> June:** Walk to Hawridge was attended by seven. The walk came across the Ladies Cycling Tour of the UK, which was passing through Dacorum that day.

## 9. Membership Report

16 unpaid; 354 member households.

## 10. Treasurer's Report

Everything is paid to date, except the newsletter costs. The balance is £8,715.

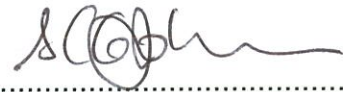
## 11. Any other business

**173 High Street:** CT-P had noticed on passing on 30<sup>th</sup> June that there was work going on inside following the departure of Claire Lloyd Properties. As this was a sensitive and ancient building, and Listed Grade II\*, the activity would be reported to DBC Enforcement. **SJ**

## 12. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August (Susan) Apologies Jude  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September (Tony) Apologies Rita  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (Tony)

The meeting ended at 9.47 p.m.



.....  
(Chairman)

12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (Date)  
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## Agenda for next meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at Stonycroft, 9 Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted at 8 pm

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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