

# BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

**Present:** Susan Johnson (Chairman)  
Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman)  
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)  
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)  
Paul Crosland  
Jude Egan  
Tony Statham

Apologies for absence were received from Katy Brookes-Duncan, Jenny Habib, Christine Manning (Hon. Treasurer) and Rita Jones. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

## 1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 were agreed and signed.

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

It was noted that the upper storeys of the scruffy buildings at the crossroads between the High Street and Lower Kings Road were being redecorated.

## 3. Chairman's Report

**ANTAS AGM** on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 am for a 10 am start and finishing at 1 pm. Lunch is available after the meeting if preordered at a cost of £9.50. ANTAS pays for the hall, the BCA for the coffee. Susan has written a report for the meeting. Numbers are needed by 26th November. Gordon, Paul, Rita, Christine and Tony will attend.

**BCA AGM** The article about grant-giving will be prepared by Susan for the newsletter immediately prior to the AGM. Suggestions are needed for a speaker, eg. a representative from Lidl.

## 4. Map

This is expected to be ready before Christmas.

## 5. Reports from sub-committees

**TASC Minutes** of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 had been circulated and were adopted by the Committee.

**Section 106 meeting:** Susan and Gordon had met DBC Councillors Williams and Griffiths. Relating to the monies for housing, it was felt that these had to be spent within Dacorum as a whole to get best value for money. Some has been used for Farm Place; which is the first council housing to be built in Dacorum for 25 years. Social housing is rented property at 50% of the market rate; affordable housing is 80% of market rates, with shared ownership. . Money raised in Berkhamsted for other than housing should be spent in Berkhamsted. The next six monthly review of spending is due in January. There is £50m to spend over the next ten years. Thanks to Gordon who had pursued this matter so rigorously.



**Internally illuminated signage:** Now disconnected at Papa John's. However Acorn Pharmacy was exempt due to its status as a pharmacy.

**Flyposting:** BTC is arranging a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December about fly posting and A-boards. We are invited to send one representative. Susan hopes to go. **SJ**

**Conservation staffing at Dacorum:** BTC is concerned about future arrangements. There is some confusion about what is going to happen to the Dacorum Design & Conservation Team. In addition, the Section 106 officer is leaving. Paul will write to James Doe, Head of Planning, about the conservation team; and about painting the "cage" at the station. **PC**

**Noticeboard at Swing Gate Lane:** This was installed today and looks very impressive. The exact position was decided by the Town Clerk. There will be an extra charge for transporting the sign; but we have been awarded a BTC grant for the installation. Congratulation to Paul for all his work on this project.

**Proliferation street signage and poles:** If the 20 mph speed limit were extended into side roads, e.g. Elm Grove, there would be no need for extra signs. This is being pursued.

**High Street trees:** Paul is chasing up replacements for the trees felled in the High Street. **PC**

**Post box at Swing Gate Lane:** There has been considerable correspondence about where a new post box could go, following the demolition of the previous one in a road accident. The Post Office say that the site of the demolished box is now regarded as dangerous. One suggestion is next to our new noticeboard. Paul will pursue. **PC**

**Environment Award:** Gordon had received the plaque, which looks very good. He will now get this to the winner of the award, for installation. 25 items have already been completed for the next award. Thanks to Christopher for his work on this. **GB**

## **ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY**

The talk about the Red Squirrel Brewery had gone very well, in spite of the speaker having spent the day in hospital. 35 people attended. The talk by James Moir was attended by 70 people and was very informative and entertaining.

Paul is organising the New Year's Day walk. **PC**

We need three more suggestions for speakers for next year, in addition to the Herts & Middx Bat Group. The architect of 'Mariners' was a possibility.

**6. Newsletter** Next copy date Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. This should include a flyer about the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch. Christine is preparing this. **CM**

**7. Publicity and Website:** We would like to get a photo in the Gazette when the Environment Award plaque has been put up at 'Mariners'. Need to check whether the house owner is willing to do this. We would like similar publicity for the noticeboard, involving Susan and Paul. **GB/SJ/PC**

Berkhamsted Living and the Gazette have mentioned our Shop Window Competition as part of the Festival of Light.



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

This is to be held at Sunnyside Church Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Bookings for this have been confirmed. The cost will be £20 per person. Invitations have been sent to the Mayor, MP, Cllrs Ian Reay and David Lloyd. The Mayor can come but Ian Reay cannot. No reply as yet from the others. Former Chairmen of BCA will be invited, but will have to pay. **CT-P/SJ/CM**

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

**Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust:** Christopher has agreed to continue as a Trustee on behalf of the BCA. Miranda will confirm to them. **MC**

**Berkhamsted Community Partnership:** Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Four small grants were made: £500 to the Friends of St. Peter's; £200 to the History Society for a portable scanner; £120 to The Swan for a mural; and £200 towards ten canal mooring rings.

**CARP:** Funding from HCC will enable the Waitrose to Stag Lane section of the towpath to be 1.75 metres wide. This is Section 106 Sustainable Transport money.

**Festival of Light – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** The Chamber of Commerce was not willing to contribute towards sponsorship of the publicity leaflet this year, so this has now been printed on one side only by CAD. The BCA had offered to co-sponsor the leaflet, but this was not now required. Letters for shopkeepers were distributed by the Town Warden. Judging for the shop windows competition will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November and Susan will prepare the winners' certificates. **MC/SJ**

**Parish Paths Partnership:** Gordon said that there had been no meeting for a long time.

## 10. **Membership Report**

There were currently 359 member households, three down from this time last year. 15 still unpaid. 20 new members had been recruited over the year.

## 11. **Treasurer's Report**

There was no Treasurer's report.

## 12. **Any other business**

The new Rector of St. Peter's, Tim Pilkington, is to be installed on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Paul has a copy of the new London Green Belt map.

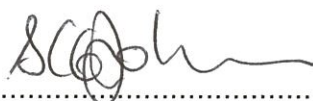
He also has a copy of the newsletter produced by Lewes Town Council which was of a very high quality; and felt that it was a shame that there was nothing similar in Berkhamsted.

## 13. **Dates of next meetings:**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (Susan)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February (Susan)

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

  
.....  
(Chairman)

7<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Agenda for next meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Stonycroft, 9 Shrublands Rd at 8 pm**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Map reprint – report from Paul
5. Reports from sub-committees
6. Newsletter
7. Publicity and website
8. BCA 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
9. Reports from representatives on other bodies
10. Membership report
11. Treasurer's report
12. Any other business
13. Dates of next meetings