

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th AUGUST 2014 AT 8PM AT ASHLYNS LODGE, CHESHAM 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
Tony Statham

Apologies were received from Katy Brookes-Duncan, Miranda Cummins, Jackie Hicks, and Jenny Habib. Tony was thanked for his hospitality. Susan agreed to write the minutes in Miranda's absence.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2014 were signed; and given to Paul to scan for the website before being inserted into the Minute book.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

The Royal Forestry Society: held an Open Meeting on Thursday 24th July at 7.30 pm at the Old School, Ashley Green to talk about plans for Hockeridge and Pancake Woods. Paul attended along with 14 others. Jude attended the follow-up walk around the woods along with about 50 people.

B-Hive and the Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting is being planned with the Town Council.

3. Chairman's Report

Katy's bereavement: The BCA's condolences had been sent to Katy on the death of her father.

New shops in High Street: Vision Express (in old Gregg's site); Darvill's (bread) and House of High Tea at the eastern end of town; and Vintage Vagabond at 76 High Street.

New Choir: The Castle Street Singers will meet on Wednesdays at Berkhamsted School to sing a whole range of music.

4. Map reprint

Bill Willett is still drafting the main map. The town map has been reviewed and sent back to him. There are 300 old maps left. We are creeping towards a final version.

5. Reports from sub-committees

TASC

The Minutes of the meetings held in March, April, May and June were adopted by the Committee.

Section 106: A meeting with DBC Councillors Andrew Williams and Margaret Griffiths, Portfolio Holders for Planning and Housing respectively, had been fixed for 3rd September. There would be a BCA pre-meeting on 27th August at Jude's house to draw up specific points for discussion to be communicated to the councillors ahead of the meeting.

Sparrows Herne Turnpike waymark: Susan had organised publicity. English Heritage is considering the listing application. Susan was asked to circulate the original background paper on the project to all Committee members. BTC offered the chance of BCA keeping the remaining grant monies by our applying for another grant. *See paragraph below.* **SJ**

Noticeboard at Swing Gate Lane: BTC has informed us that HCC has 'no objection in principle' to the siting; but that DBC will no longer install or maintain. BTC has obtained a price for installation (£250; no VAT) and the Town Clerk has offered to collect the board. BTC will consider an application for the cost of installation (F&P 20th October) against which can be set the £160 left over from the Waymark grant. BCP would also consider, subject to a meeting decision, to contribute. BTC further asked us to reconsider the wood colour choice. The Committee decided on green as it was our corporate colour. Paul would write to BTC with our decision; and Susan would prepare the grant application. **PC/SJ**

Berkhamsted station cage: Paul will pursue the Freedom of Information request with DBC.

PC

Environment Award plaque: The plaque was paid for on 22nd July but has not yet arrived. Gordon will pursue this at the end of August.

GB

Lidl planning application: The application was severely criticised by BTC on good planning grounds.

Egerton Rothesay site: The application was refused by DBC Development Control Committee on 26th June.

Trees in High Street: Four trees had been removed from the High Street without replacements being identified.

Planters in High Street: TASC had written to the Town Council in appreciation of the new planters.

Post and Phone box replacements: The post box demolished in the recent accident near Swing Gate Lane was in the process of being replaced. The Town Clerk would be reporting back on the phone box.

Traffic lights at Kingshill Way/Shootersway/Kings Road: TASC has written to HCC in support of the BTC stance on their provision sooner rather than later.

CARP: Contractors are behind schedule on the towpath upgrading.

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Talks for the 2014-5 season: The programme card was now available and would be distributed with the next newsletter. The first talk was on 8th October by the Red Squirrel Brewery.

There was an offer by the Herts & Middlesex Bat Group to give a talk next season.

6. Newsletter

Next copy date is Friday 29th August 2014.

7. Publicity and Website

Good coverage recently in the *Your Berkhamsted* of our 90th celebrations.

8. BCA 90th Anniversary Celebrations: Christine had investigated and decided that the venue was too limited and the only date available before Christmas too late in the year. She was asked to investigate other venues and dates next year. **CM**

9. Reports from representatives on other bodies

CARP: Next meeting 10th September.

Festival of Light: Miranda attended a meeting on 1st July. She pledged our usual contribution on shop windows; and promised (subject to Committee approval) up to £150 towards publicity, as last year. Next meeting 30th September. **MC**

10. Membership Report

There are 19 outstanding subscriptions.

11. Treasurer's Report

Everything is paid to date. CAD subscription had been renewed.

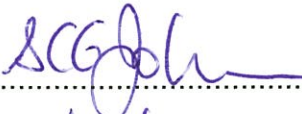
12. Any other business

Bus services: There was a perceived threat to bus services at weekends. Paul would investigate. **PC**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 1st October (Tony) Apologies from Rita
Wednesday 19th November (Susan)

The meeting ended at 9.24 pm.

..... (Chairman)
1/10/14..... (Date)