

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS ROAD BERKHAMSTED

Present: Susan Johnson (Chairman)
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Katy Collins
Paul Crosland
Jude Egan
Jenny Habib
Elaine Mercer

Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman), Rita Jones, Christine Manning (Hon. Treasurer) and Tony Statham. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

1. Minutes of last meeting

After one amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2015 were signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

Gas mains replacement: Works were to stop at the end of August and continue at half-term and Christmas, if necessary, but have carried on, apparently without any major problems.

DBC Conservation Strategy & Budget: Susan, Paul and Jenny Sherwood had attended a BTC Planning Committee meeting on 7th September. Susan and Jenny spoke. Berkhamsted Town Council supported our stance and has since written to Cabinet members at Dacorum, with a further supporting note from Cllr Ashbourn, its Chairman. The BCA was heartened by the new, supportive tone of the Council. The matter should go to Cabinet in October.

3. Chairman's Report

NHS: West Herts NHS has been judged by the Care Quality Commission to be 'inadequate', although Hemel Hempstead Hospital only 'requires improvement'. There are considerable variations between departments.

Colin Garrett: has been recognised in the 2015 Dacorum Clean, Safe and Green Champions Awards.

Retail changes: Profitt & Holt, estate agents, has closed. Berkhamsted Tool Hire is moving to Billet Lane, prior to development of that site.

The Rising Sun PH is CAMRA's Regional Pub of the Year. It will now compete for the national title.

Berkhamsted Raiders Football Club has been given a *Silver Award* for 'Best Grassroots Club in Europe' by the European football association, UEFA.

4. Map: Christine has had a useful conversation with Bill Willett and will report on this in person at the next Committee meeting.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

Minutes of the meetings on 16th June, 16th July and 11th August were adopted. Minutes of the meeting on 15th September had been circulated.

There had been a positive meeting with Cllr. John Higgins on Section 106 monies. A working party is being set up to monitor spending Section 106 money in Berkhamsted. Information is needed from groups as to what this money should be spent on. Suggestions from the Committee included: the Rectory Lane cemetery, provision of bike racks, more public seating and improved public toilets in the town, railings around water at Stag Lane, youth club equipment, and the Swan Project. Paul will pass these suggestions to Gordon. **PC**

Berkhamsted Town Council will purchase land at Lombardy Drive, subject to approval by F&P Committee. Knight Frank has been required by DBC Planning to put in a new application for signage with no internal illumination. Nat West Bank's application has been approved but with the removal of all internal illumination. Sterling estate agents (former Claire Lloyd's) wants to paint outside woodwork at its premises black. TASC has objected. Application for houses and flats in Station Road – objection on planning grounds difficult, but parking is an issue.

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Elaine Mercer reported. The speaker from St. Albans said they could not now speak on 8th October and could not find a replacement. Elaine will try to change the date for this talk or get another speaker. Suggestions included: Frithsden Vineyard, Nettleden Cheese makers, DENS, Jellicoe Gardens in Hemel Hempstead. [The St. Albans talk has subsequently been arranged for Thursday 15th October.]

6. Newsletter: Last edition very good. Next one due out early December. Copy date: 27th November. To Christopher for Katy to compile on 2nd December. Expected distribution date weekend of 5th/6th December.

7. Publicity and Website: Information appeared on our activities in *Berkhamsted Living* and in the 'Green Sheet'. Our response to the Conservation Area Strategy is on our website.

8. Reports from representatives on other bodies

ANTAS: We responded with our views on the future on ANTAS. Susan and Paul will try to attend its next meeting on 17th October. **SJ/PC**

Dacorum District Citizens Advice Bureau: As members, we are invited to their AGM on 7th October. Susan and Brian might go to this. The Annual Review takes place on 13th October. **SJ**

Festival of Light: Miranda had attended a meeting on Monday 7th September. Many key members of the committee were not there, so there has been nothing further on publicity and our contribution towards this. Elaine has a contact who could take photos of competing shop windows, which could be put up on our website. **EM**

Friends of St. Peter's: Their Lottery application for the Cemetery is in and they will hear in December. There will be a social evening at the Court House on Wednesday 30th September at 8pm, with a DVD about the life of the Home Front, and a talk by David Pearce. Christopher will email our members about this talk. **CT-P**

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust: We withdrew our Trustee nomination in 2010 because it would not provide Trustee Liability insurance. It has now obtained this and the Trust would now like to have Susan back. The Committee nominated her. Miranda will write to Yan Christiansen, Secretary, to tell her. There is a Trustees' meeting on Saturday 26th September. There is to be no Festival this year but there will be one in 2016.

Parking Forum: Susan attended a meeting on Monday 17th August at which there was initial discussion about the possible multi-storey car park off Lower Kings Road. An archaeological survey is being carried out there. Susan will keep an eye on this and we will discuss our view on installing the car park at our next committee meeting. Conservation officers need to be involved in this from the start. Susan had written to Keith Frost, Conservation Officer, but had received no reply. Cllr Peter Mathews postponed the meeting due to be held on 14th September without setting another date for it.

9. Membership Report

358 member households; 13 unpaid. 42% have paid for one year and the rest for more than one year.

Paul offered to do a leaflet drop at New Lodge and Susan at Gilham's Court, Sheldon Lodge and Farm Place. There is a new contact in Kings Langley for putting our details into estate agents' information packs.

10. Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report.

11. Any other business

Katy needs to leave the Committee as she is moving from Berkhamsted in January. Great thanks were expressed to Katy for her work on the Committee, particularly with the newsletter. Everyone wished her well. Elaine offered to be trained as the new Editor. **EM/KC**

John Cook's photograph collection of the High Street is now in Susan's attic.

12. Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 3rd November (Tony or Jenny) (Apologies from [possibly] Susan and Katy)

Tuesday 15th December (Susan)

Tuesday 26th January 2016 (Susan)

Tuesday 1st March (Susan)

Thursday 17th March – AGM.

The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.


..... (Chairman)

3/11/15
..... (Date)