

# BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 8PM AT ASHLYNS LODGE, CHESHAM ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

**Present:** Susan Johnson (Chairman)  
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)  
Christine Manning (Hon. Treasurer)  
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)  
Katy Brookes-Duncan  
Paul Crosland  
Jenny Habib  
Tony Statham

Apologies were received from Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman), Jude Egan and Rita Jones. Tony was thanked for his hospitality.

## 1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 were agreed and signed.

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

There were no matters arising which would not appear under other items.

## 3. Chairman's Report

**Electoral Review:** There are proposals to change the town boundaries for County elections in line with the old parish boundary lines, i.e. between Berkhamsted and Northchurch by Lagley Meadow. Berkhamsted TC is not in favour as it would mean the town and county boundaries would no longer be contiguous. We will make no representations.

**Dacorum Local Planning Framework Pre-submission Site Allocations Development Plan Document:** There will be a public exhibition in Berkhamsted Civic Centre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October between 2 and 8 pm, and a consultation period from 24<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Core Strategy has been approved and now the question is how to implement it. The London Green Belt Council is making a complete map of Green Belt land around London and would like to hear of any encroachments.

## 4. Map

Paul provided a copy of the revised map. He still needs to check details and when he has done this, it will go to the printers and should be ready during November.

## 5. Reports from sub-committees

**TASC** Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014 had been circulated and were adopted by the Committee.

**Section 106 meeting:** Scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> September, it had been cancelled by the DBC councillors. Susan will re-arrange a meeting. The pre-meeting on this had been held on 27<sup>th</sup> August. **SJ**

**Sparrows Herne Turnpike waymark:** There had been publicity in the Gazette. English Heritage was taking the listing application seriously. As the cost of the restoration had been only £600, there was £160 left over from the BTC allocation to this. (See under Noticeboard item below)

**Noticeboard at Swing Gate Lane:** Greenbarnes had sent an illustration. The total cost is £1402.78 plus VAT, totalling £1683.34. DBC now do not want to be involved with noticeboards, so it will have to be ordered and the invoice paid by Berkhamsted TC. Paul will discuss ordering and ownership with the Town Clerk. BCA owes the TC £160 from the Sparrows Herne project and BTC have said the BCA can put in a grant application for the installation cost of £248.30 towards which this money could be put. Susan will do this and remind them that they already hold £160. Paul has the necessary forms. **PC/SJ**

**Electricity Sub-station on the railway station forecourt:** In a response from Dacorum following a Freedom of Information request, it said it had not been consulted on either appearance or siting by Network Rail, who regarded it as permitted development. Berkhamsted TC is now following this up and will try to get the cage painted or hidden by plants.

**Environment Award:** The plaque has not yet been received and the cheque for it has not cleared. Paul to check with Gordon. **PC/GB**

**Lidl:** Plans have been approved by Dacorum but details are not on line yet.

**Egerton Rothesay** application has gone to appeal.

**Trees in High Street:** No news yet on replacement trees.

**Traffic signs:** New speed and parking regulation signs have appeared throughout the town – in many cases sited inappropriately and contributing to street clutter. Cllr Ian Reay and officers from the County were looking at new signage at a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Police station and Swing Gate Lane proposals:** These linked planning applications will be put in by the end of October. There had been a public exhibition of the plans in the Civic Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September.

## **ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY**

The BCA programme card and the Berkhamsted Arts Trust 'Green Sheet' have been circulated.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October: Red Squirrel Brewery. Susan has not had any response from her recent approaches to the speaker, so hopes all is well.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November: ANTAS AGM.

6. **Newsletter** Another very good issue. Next copy date Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

7. **Publicity and Website** Article on Sparrows Herne Turnpike waymark in the Gazette, but no picture.

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

A provisional booking has been made at Sunnyside Church hall for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This will need to be confirmed with the caterers. We should invite the Mayor, MP, Cllrs Ian Reay and David Lloyd. Christopher will provide a list of past Chairmen of the Association. **CT-P/SJ/CM**

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

**Berkhamsted Arts Trust:** will end deficit funding in two year's time but hope to keep the Green Sheet going. They are looking for a new treasurer.

**CARP:** The Waitrose to Stag Lane section of the towpath has not been started. Funding has only just been finalised and it will be done between January and March - £90,000 to upgrade, with funding from the County Council and BTC. The new aim is to have it 1.75 metres wide, but that will depend on additional funding. The **Canal and River Trust** wants to install mooring rings. 10 are required at a cost of £40 each. Our constitution allows us to contribute money towards external projects (as opposed to funding just BCA projects) but we agreed to go to the 2015 AGM for members' endorsement. Notwithstanding in the meantime Paul will tell James Clifton (CRT) that we will donate £200 towards the cost of the rings. Tony added that Berkhamsted Community Partnership could give up to £250 for this project. **PC/GB**

**Festival of Light – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** The Committee agreed to contribute £125 towards the cost of printing the publicity leaflet for the Festival, and the Chamber of Commerce will contribute the same amount. The wording on the leaflet will be the same as last year. Letters for shopkeepers will be produced by BTC and signed by Susan and the Mayor, and we have offered to distribute these letters. Judging for the shop windows competition will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November. **MC/SJ**

**Friends of Rectory Lane Cemetery:** The "Graveyard Shift" event on 14<sup>th</sup> September had been very well attended.

**Berkhamsted Community Partnership:** Next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

## 10. Membership Report

There were 359 member households. Paul suggested that chasing up non-payers in person could have good results.

## 11. Treasurer's Report

Everything is paid to date. Balance of £13,642. The EA Plaque cheque had not yet cleared; and a deposit for the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration lunch booking had yet to be made.

## 12. Any other business

A BCA member had spoken to Christine about the view of the tatty buildings at the crossroads opposite the old police station – above Petals and Clinton Cards. The Committee suggests that the member contacts the Town Clerk; and Susan will do this on behalf of the Association. **SJ**


Replacement Post Box London Road/Swing Gate Lane Berkhamsted: [Report from Paul since meeting "Latest report on the replacement post box, as advised by the Town Clerk..... apparently the original notification to Royal Mail was lost, but now it looks like it will be replaced "in approximately two weeks".]

Dacorum Design & Conservation Team: As from 1<sup>st</sup> October there will be no specialists in conservation. The Team has been abolished and integrated into the Planning Department. Conservation projects will now come under Strategic Planning and Regeneration.

## 13. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November (Susan)  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (Susan)

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.

  
..... (Chairman)

19/11/14  
..... (Date)