

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2014 AT 8PM AT ASHLYNS LODGE, CHESHAM ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

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

Apologies were received from Katy Brookes-Duncan, Jackie Hicks, Jenny Habib and Rita Jones. Tony was thanked for his hospitality.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2014 were signed. These will be given to Paul to scan for the website before being inserted into the Minute book.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

Community Development Agency for Herts. Paul had investigated the role of the CDA and circulated the information.

B-Hive and the Neighbourhood Plan. They are still pressing for a meeting but there has been no response from the Town Council.

3. Chairman's Report

Annual Council Meeting on 19th May: Susan attended and congratulated Cllr Peter Matthews as new Mayor.

Waste recycling: There is currently a consultation on the future of waste recycling in the county. To save £3m over 4 years, it is proposed to close two centres in Herts and to standardise opening hours at all sites. It is proposed that the Berkhamsted site will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (when the Hemel site will be open) and will be open from 8 am to 4 pm on other days. We will not make any representation on this.

ANTAS: BCA is to host their AGM on 29th November. This is change of date from 18th October, but the Mayor is still able to attend. This will be in the Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall, from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm. This is followed by a buffet lunch, payment for which is organised by ANTAS.

The George PH: The Gazette had printed a piece by Susan congratulating those who had replaced the old sign with a new, traditional one. It is not known who is going to be running the pub when it reopens. [Post meeting note: the publican is Simon Jukes]

4. Map reprint

Bill is now saying this should be ready by the beginning of August. The National Trust still has several boxes. Gordon will approach Waterstones in Chesham, but not London Midland yet.

GB

5. Reports from sub-committees

TASC

Section 106: Susan had written to DBC Councillors Andrew Williams and Margaret Griffiths, Portfolio Holders for Planning and Housing respectively, on 19th May, and chased this up a month later, but has still had no reply. She will keep pressing and then go to the press if there is no response in another month. **SJ**

Gordon had emailed Marc Howard, part-time Section 106 officer at Dacorum, to ask to see the current register, which had been promised every six months. Apparently Dacorum is three weeks behind in responding to emails. **GB**

Internally illuminated signage: DBC Planning Enforcement has got officers working on Acorn Pharmacy and Papa John's Pizzas.

Noticeboard at Swing Gate Lane: Paul had obtained formal quotations from Greenbarnes and compared materials, layout, etc. in a brief report, for which he was thanked. Oak boards give a better option for layout and are cheaper. It was agreed to follow the TASC recommendation and opt for an oak one which holds 2 x nine A4 sheets, with a door on one side for paper notices and without a door on the other side for laminated notices. We would like Dacorum to agree to buy, install and own it but we will give them the cost, excluding VAT, as a grant. Ownership by DBC will ensure it is covered by their insurance, and VAT rules are followed. It is not yet clear whether HCC has given permission for its siting. Paul will now take this forward with the Town Clerk. **PC**

Sparrows Herne Turnpike waymark: The work has now been done and the DBC Conservation Officer is very pleased with the outcome. Susan will organise publicity. The cost was £600, including VAT, invoiced by Tim Millard (t/a TM Studios). As the cost fell short of the £1,000 estimated, the contributions from BCP and BTC would be pro rata (£100 by Berkhamsted Community Partnership and £240 from the Town Council), with BCA paying the remainder. Susan will contact the Town Clerk to ask what the procedure is for offering a refund to BTC. Dacorum Conservation is keen that we go for full English Heritage listing for it and Susan is pursuing this application. **SJ**

Berkhamsted station cage: Paul had received an email from James Doe, Head of Planning at Dacorum, with a copy of a letter from them to Network Rail. He is suggesting painting the cage dark green and maintaining the brick planter in front of it. He denied that there had been any consultation with Network Rail. Paul will pursue this with James Doe, asking whether it was permitted development, whether there was consultation with the Conservation Officer, and who met whom and when, because we feel the letters from DBC and Network Rail are contradictory. This will be done as a Freedom of Information request. **PC**

Environment Award plaque: Gordon is waiting for the final artwork and hopes to see a proof next week. Plaque is to be black on grey ceramic, at a cost of £198 including VAT. It is to go on the carport and the owner, Mrs. Lyons, will arrange this. We will arrange publicity when this is done. **GB**

Lidl planning application: We have not objected in principle, but have some queries on access and egress.

Egerton Rothesay site: The application goes to DBC Development Control Committee on 26th June. [Post meeting note: the application was refused.]

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Talks for the 2014-5 season: All talks are now agreed. Susan will approach Keith Ranger about printing the programme card. SJ

Summer Walk: Seven people had gone on the walk on Sunday 22nd June – three committee members, three non-BCA members and one member.

6. Newsletter

Thanks to Katy and Christopher for the latest edition. Next copy date is Friday 29th August 2014. Paul asked for contributions from other committee members apart from Susan and himself. Items will include the Sparrows Herne waymarker and Chairman's report (Susan), station cage (Paul), Section 106 (Gordon) and Berkhamsted pub signs (Tony).

7. Publicity and Website

Good coverage recently in the Gazette, Berkhamsted Living and Your Berkhamsted.

8. BCA 90th Anniversary Celebrations: Katy had produced information on venues and menus for an informal lunch with soft drinks included and a paying bar. It was agreed that Berkhamsted Cricket Club was preferred, on a Saturday in October or November 2014. Christine will pursue this. CM

9. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Berkhamsted Arts Trust: Christopher had attended the AGM which included presentations by various organisations.

Berkhamsted Community Partnership: Gordon is now a Director.

CARP: Meeting on 21st May. £10,000 from Berkhamsted Town Council and some Section 106 money for the towpath, and mooring rings and work is expected to start within the next month. Next meeting 10th September.

Town Hall Trust: Still in negotiation with Berkhamsted Town Council about BTC using the upper floor.

Festival of Light: Miranda will attend a meeting on 1st July. MC

Friends of St. Peter's: Their newsletter is out and several events organised, including conservation, associated with Heritage Open Days. They have received Heritage Lottery funding for a launch event at Three Close Lane cemetery.

10. Membership Report

There are 19 outstanding subscriptions.

11. Treasurer's Report

Everything is paid to date. Susan had received a letter from Graham Spittle about the interpretation of the clause in the Constitution on grants and fund-raising. He felt that it would be acceptable to give a grant towards a project instead of providing manpower. We could

consider giving grants to those bodies on which we have representation, but would not invite requests for grants; and these would be for specific projects rather than maintenance, etc. Gordon felt that this would give us a bit more "clout" on such bodies. It was agreed that we put the idea of having the facility to give grants at the next AGM. Susan will prepare something for a future meeting. **SJ**

12. Any other business

The Royal Forestry Society: is holding 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. Miranda to forward this information to Christopher, Paul and Gordon. **MC**

Waste recycling consultation: Christopher to circulate to members by email. **CT-P**

CAD: Christine to renew our subscription.


Steam train: It was not the 'Bittern' which went through Berkhamsted on 29th May, but a diesel.

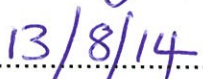
13. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 13th August (Tony)

Wednesday 1st October (Tony)

The meeting ended at 10.10 pm.


..... (Chairman)


..... (Date)

Agenda for next meeting on 13th August 2014 at Ashlyns Lodge, Chesham Road at 8 pm

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2014
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Map reprint
5. Reports from sub-committees
6. Newsletter
7. Publicity and website
8. BCA 90th Anniversary Celebration
9. Reports from reps on other bodies
10. Membership report
11. Treasurer's report
12. Any other business
13. Dates of next meetings