

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2015 AT 8PM AT
13 DOCTORS COMMONS ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

Present: Susan Johnson (Chairman)
Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman)
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)
Christine Manning (Hon. Treasurer)
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Paul Crosland
Jenny Habib
Rita Jones
Elaine Mercer

Apologies for absence were received from Katy Collins, Jude Egan and Tony Statham. Jenny was thanked for her hospitality.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2015 were signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

Gas mains replacement: Works stopped, then came back, and have now gone again. Unclear whether finished. Other road works postponed.

NHS – Closure of Gossoms End Community Hospital: Two wards – for Elderly Care and Rehabilitation - are closing and this is said to be a temporary measure due to lack of staff. Susan to write to say this is unacceptable for patients and staff and will try to ascertain whether it is really lack of money or staff shortages. SJ

3. Chairman's Report

ANTAS: Paul and Susan went to the ANTAS AGM on 17th October. The new simplified constitution was adopted, with meetings to be held twice a year. Laura Sandys, former MP, gave a talk.

Street names: Susan was invited by Berkhamsted Town Council to join the meeting to suggest names for the new estate at Shootersway/Durrants Lane. The Town Council suggested a theme of royalty/distinguished persons: Cecily, Elizabeth II, Charlotte and Clementine; Susan had suggested arts/literary figures connected with Berkhamsted: Hordern, Todd, Worth, Barrie, Longman. The 'royalty' names were chosen and the others will be kept for the future, expanded estate. The Town Council can choose the names as long as Royal Mail approves.

Tring Heritage Trail: Susan had attended the launch of the new Tring Heritage Trail and had some copies for distribution to the Committee.

4. Map: Christine had discussed with Bill Willett how we should continue with the map if anything happened to him, and what the position would be as regards his royalties. As this Committee discussion was inconclusive due to not all the information needed being available, the Committee would discuss the matter again when it had all the facts. Meanwhile the Committee agreed to charge an additional 10p per copy to the National Trust for its bulk purchases, with immediate effect.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

The minutes of the meeting on 15th September were adopted. The minutes of the meeting on 20th October had been circulated.

The funding for conservation in Dacorum is now due to be considered in November. The agreed works at New Lodge under Section 106 funding have still not been carried out. Paul will continue to pursue these, particularly the footbridge. Gordon is having ongoing discussions with Berkhamsted Town Council on Section 106 monies and is making some progress.

The consolidated planning application for 11 Bank Mill was being considered at DBC DCC. TASC had objected to the application as it did not meet the requirements of the Planning Inspector. [It was subsequently refused.]

The Red Squirrel Brewery Shop on the High Street has put up a large awning on the side of its building facing the Dower House, and concerns have been raised that the proper permissions had not been obtained for a site within the Conservation Area.

The Environment Award plaque for *Mariners* has still not been put up. Susan will contact them to say that if they are not going to put it up, we would like to have it back. **SJ**

Parking Forum: Susan was not invited to the latest meeting so contacted David Collins but is not sure how things stand now. We will go to the exhibition when it is arranged. TASC had discussed the proposed multi-storey car park in Lower Kings Road. Main points were: a) has need been established? b) is the proposed access suitable and c) is the design appropriate? We are very concerned about its appearance in the Conservation Area.

Totem pole: there had been a meeting called by BTC and the Management Company for Alsford Wharf about the maintenance of the totem pole. The Management Company is considering what action to take.

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

The re-scheduled St. Albans talk was very good and about 50 people attended. The next meeting, about the "computer cut house" in Wigginton, is on 12th November. A suggestion was for the summer walk to go to the Nettleden cheese maker or Frithsden vineyard.

6. **Newsletter:** 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:** Susan has distributed our leaflets to Farm Place, and to Sheldon Lodge where she talked to residents. Gilhams Court was still to be done. Susan suggested it might be better to write letters to the Gazette rather than submit articles which don't get published.

8. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Berkhamsted Arts Trust: It is proposed that the Trust will cease to be a grant giving organisation and its objective will be to promote events in the local area. They had suggested employing consultants to produce posters, their website, etc. *Berkhamsted Living* would distribute the Green Sheet.

Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust: Christopher has been nominated as our representative.

Castle Liaison Group: Christopher will be attending a meeting to discuss events to take place in 2016.

Dacorum District Citizens Advice Bureau: Susan and Brian did not attend their AGM.

Festival of Light: Next meeting on Monday 9th November. The letter for the Christmas Shop Window competition had been distributed by the Town Warden.

Friends of St. Peter's: The social evening at the Court House on Wednesday 30th September at 8pm was very popular and successful.

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust: Susan attended a Trustees' meeting on Saturday 26th September.

CARP: Gordon had attended a meeting on 29th September. There are now firm plans to limit mooring to 7 days.

9. Membership Report

359 member households – two up on this time last year. 12 unpaid.

10. Treasurer's Report

There was nothing significant to report.

11. Any other business


We still need a successor for the Chairman of the Association and also more committee members. A plea will be made in the next newsletter.

C T-P had circulated to members an email concerning new opening hours at the Library.

12. Dates of next meetings:

- Tuesday 15th December (Susan)
- Tuesday 26th January 2016 (Susan)
- Tuesday 1st March (Susan)
- Thursday 17th March – AGM.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.


..... (Chairman)
15/12/15
..... (Date)