

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS 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
Jude Egan
Jenny Habib
Rita Jones

Apologies for absence were received from Elaine Mercer and Tony Statham. Susan was thanked for her hospitality.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2015 were agreed and signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

NHS – Closure of Gossoms End Community Hospital: Susan will write to West Herts Hospital NHS Trust, with copy to Herts Community Trust about this. **SJ**

3. Chairman's Report

Festival of Light Shop Window Competition: the winner was Woods, with certificates of commendation given to Amelie, Number 20 and Home and Colonial. H&C had subsequently changed their windows.

Dacorum Digest (page 7) contained an exhortation to members of the public to report matters to DBC Planning Enforcement, e.g. buildings not being built to plan, buildings erected without planning permission, or breaches of conservation area rules. It was noted that the *Dacorum Digest* is not being delivered throughout Berkhamsted, eg. not to Bridgewater Road.

Lindy Foster Weinreb is invited to our next committee meeting on 26th January, with a view to co-opting her on to the Committee; and possibly becoming Chairman of the Association.

4. Map: No further developments.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

The minutes of the meeting of 20th October were adopted. There was no meeting in November and the most recent meeting was on 8th December.

Multi-storey car park: The consultation had been badly advertised and the format of the meeting on 3rd December was not made clear. It was a lively meeting. Dacorum Borough Council would be making the planning application. It was reported that it was the intention to close the car park at night, but Dacorum are now saying no decision has yet been made on this.

TASC will write to DBC with the Association's views.

PC

Section 106: Gordon is in discussion with John Higgins, Berkhamsted Town Councillor. There is resistance to doing anything about Section 106 monies. [*Cllr Higgins resigned as a councillor with effect from 17th December 2015*]

Parking Forum: Susan will try to clarify the situation with Cllr Peter Matthews, Chairman of the Parking Forum, as we would like to be involved with this. SJ

Totem pole: Totem poles are designed to rot so we will not be supporting any refurbishments.

Environment Award: This will be discussed at the TASC January meeting.

New mooring regime: there will be no long-term winter moorings in the town, with a two-day maximum in the centre of the town and seven days further out. Statutory Instruments will be required to effect this.

Susan will not be attending TASC meetings while she is Acting Town Clerk to Berkhamsted Council.

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Elaine had submitted a written report.

Friday 1st January 2016 - New Year's Day walk

Thursday 4th February – British Film Institute, in the Great Hall

Thursday 17th March – AGM

Thursday 14th April – Rectory Lane Cemetery "Dead Place to Living Space"

Sunday 19th June – walk.

Elaine had been given an idea for a talk next year on setting up an electric car club. Frithsden vineyard does not give talks but will take 20 people as visitors.

2016 – the castle and Prince Louis. Possible walk around exhibition organised by the Local History & Museum Society. English Heritage agrees in principle. The Alderney Tapestry may be exhibited for a week if the LH&MS can find a venue.

6. **Newsletter:** Another very good issue.

7. **Publicity and Website:**

The launch of the Environment Award will go on the website. There was a photo of Susan in the Gazette presenting the Shop Windows cup, in pouring rain! Katy will show Elaine how to produce the newsletter. Thanks were expressed to Katy for all her work over the years.

KB-D/EM

The cost of renewal for our domain name is £36 + VAT pa. Paul will investigate whether this is the best way of paying for it. The website had been hosted by a company in Northbridge Road at no cost. Paul has been asking them for help and will investigate the current charges.

Christine will ask Pete if he knows about Word Press.

PC/CM

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

Berkhamsted Arts Trust: *Berkhamsted Living* has offered to take over the Green Sheet.

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

Festival of Light: There were fewer stalls and attendance was down, partly because of inclement weather, but possibly also because of the lack of publicity. Miranda will attend the wash-up meeting, usually in February.

Friends of St. Peter's: They may hear about their lottery application on 16th December. Paul is their new membership secretary.

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust: Next meeting on 17th December. There is a draft programme for the 2016 Festival.

9. Membership Report

361 member households. 149 subscriptions due when the newsletter went out. 10 in already. Two new members.

10. Treasurer's Report

Not a lot to report. She has paid the Open Spaces Society by cheque and direct debit. All committee members asked to submit their expenses.

Paul wondered if we should consider increasing our membership subscriptions. This would have to be raised at the next AGM. We will discuss this at the meeting on 26th January.

11. Any other business

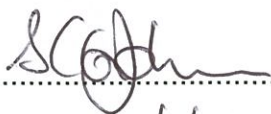
Continuing education in Berkhamsted: At present there is nothing held in Berkhamsted. The Quaker Meeting Room could be used as a venue for adult education programmes. The Town Council should be lobbying for these activities. Rita to find out how to pursue this. **RJ**

12. Dates of next meetings:

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

Will arrange dates of future meetings after the AGM.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

..... (Chairman)
26/1/16..... (Date)