

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted on

Monday 23 March 2015 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors P B Matthews, Town Mayor
T Ritchie, Deputy Mayor
A Armytage
J Ashbourn
S A Bateman
Mrs C Green
Dr L Handy
Julie Laws
Fiona Macdonald
Dr I M Reay
G Stevens
PC Warren

OFFICER: Gary Cox, Town Clerk

2 members of the public

OPENING MATTERS

FC 19/15 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Bonnett, D Collins and E Collins.

FC 20/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

FC 21/15 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Full Council meeting on held on 19 January 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by The Mayor.

FC 22/15 Town Mayor's Communications

Full Council noted that:

- the Town Council has received a personal letter of thanks from David Pearce for the Centenary Civic Award, presented to him at the Annual Town Meeting.
- Berkhamsted Cycling Club has won their first trophy – the Harp Hilly Hundred; and that the Town Council has agreed that the trophy be displayed in the Council Chamber.
- Dacorum Borough Council that it has decided that the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and policies will now come into effect on 1 July 2015 (*deferred from 1 April 2015*).

FC 23/15 Public Participation

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mrs Fulks of McDougall Road to speak regarding Item 32/15 on the application to have the Totem Pole at Alsford Wharf registered as a Community Asset; and Mr Dyer of Woodland Avenue, to speak regarding Item 30/15 on the Town Council's response to the Borough's draft Conservation Strategy.

Mrs Fulks advised that she was a director of the company that owned Alsford Wharf. Mrs Fulks said that it would not be appropriate for the public to have access to the totem pole as it was in the private gardens of Alsford Wharf and would interfere with the privacy of residents in flats closest to the pole.

Mr Dyer thanked Councillors for the excellent response to the Borough's draft Conservation Strategy and hoped that the Borough take the comments on board.

The meeting was reconvened.

FC 24/15 Public Opening Hours

Councillor Matthews proposed, Councillor Laws seconded and it was a unanimously **RESOLVED**:

To change office opening hours, to close to the public on Friday afternoons from 12.00 noon to the 4.00pm closing time. **Action: Town Clerk**

FC 25/15 Town Council Recognition for the Inns of Court and City Regiment

Full Council considered a proposal from Councillor Warren that the Town Council recognises or honours the Inns of Court and City Regiment; and discussed the forms that the recognition might take.

Following discussion, Councillor Reay proposed, Councillor Ashbourn seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

That the Town Council agrees in principle to an honour or recognition for the Inns of Court Regiment; and that proposals be developed by a small group of Councillors, in discussion with the Regiment and the Borough Council.

Action: Councillor Warren

FC 26/15 Berkhamsted Health Hub

Full Council considered a request from local surgeries to meet with the Town Council to discuss potential sites for a facility that brings together existing surgeries into a 'Health Hub' for the town.

In discussion, concerns were raised about using the letter from the surgeries for political purposes. Recognising that the Borough Council is the planning authority, Councillor Handy proposed, Councillor Reay seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

That a small group of Councillors meet with the Lead Partners of the Surgeries to discuss proposals; and that the Borough Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration be invited to that meeting.

Full Council noted the restrictions on publicity that would take effect through the election purdah period from 30 March 2015.

STANDING COMMITTEES

FC 27/15 Transport and Environment Committee

It was **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the Transport and Environment Committee meetings held on 1 December 2014 and 23 February 2015 be received and adopted.

FC 28/15 Finance and Policy Committee

Full Council noted that the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on 16 January 2015 had been cancelled and **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 16 March 2015 be received and adopted.

FP 29/15 Statement of Internal Control

Councillor Stevens proposed, Councillor Ritchie seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

To approve the Statement of Internal Control for 2014/15.

FC 30/15 Town Planning Committee

It was **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the Town Planning Committee held on 26 January 2015, 16 February 2015 and 9 March 2015 be received and adopted.

FC 31/15 Conservation Strategy

Full Council unanimously **RESOLVED**:

To approve the Town Council's response to the Borough Council's draft Conservation Strategy.

WORKING GROUPS

FC 32/15 Canal & Riverside Partnership

Full Council noted that application to register the totem pole in Alsford Wharf as a community asset has been made to Dacorum Borough Council.

The Borough Council has advised that it cannot consider the application as the general public has no formal access to the totem pole site, as it is on a predominately private residential location.

Full Council asked for further investigation to determine if there is any duty of care such as a covenant or obligation on the residents of Alsford Wharf to maintain the totem pole. **Action: Town Clerk**

It was **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the Canal and Riverside Partnership meeting held on 3 March 2015 be received and adopted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

FC 33/15 PCSO Report

Full Council noted the PCSO report for January to February 2015

FC 34/15 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.07pm