

**BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the**

**TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted**

**on Monday 2 May 2017 at 7.30 pm**

**MEMBERS:**

Councillors: P Matthews (Chair)  
A Armytage  
S Beardshaw  
E Collins  
F Earl

Ex officio: Cllr T Ritchie

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillors: G Corry  
I Reay  
G Stevens

Officer: Mrs J Mason – Town Clerk

No members of the public were present

**OPENING MATTERS**

**TE 27/17 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Bateman and Cllr G Yearwood.

**TE 28/17 Declarations of Interest regarding items on the agenda**

None.

**TE 29/17 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and were duly signed as such by the Chair.

**TE 30/17 The following actions arising from the 13 March 2017 meeting that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda were noted:**

**TE 21/17 - Graham Greene Birthplace Trust Special Meeting 22 March 2017:**

The Trust Chairman has been advised of the Town Council's support of the proposed amendments to the Trust's constitution.

TE 22/17 - Traffic Light Phasing at High Street, Kings Road and Lower Kings Road Junction: The Town Clerk had passed the Committee's concerns to HCC and had asked that the phasing be adjusted and that smart lights be installed to improve traffic flow throughout the day. Rob Smith, Deputy Director, Environment (Highways) had apologised in an e-mail dated 28 April for previously giving incorrect advice. He explained that unfortunately the works planned earlier had not taken place due to proposed resurfacing works later in the year following which the loops would be replaced. In the meantime some tweaks had been made to the timing. In response to a further e-mail from the Town Clerk he had agreed to raise the possibility of installing smart lights so that traffic flow at quiet times as well as peak hours would be optimised. The Town Clerk will follow up progress on this proposal.

TE 22/17 – No waiting/loading restrictions Lower Kings Road: DBC remain of the view that this issue will be considered once the outcome of the judicial review has been determined.

TE 25/17 - Shootersway/Kings Road Junction Crossing: Andrew Freeman, Strategic Programme Manager, HCC, has advised that the scheme has just gone out to tender. The improvements will include intelligent signal control on all arms together with new controlled pedestrian crossings and carriageway and footway widening. Definitive programme dates will be finalised with the successful contractor but work will take place over the quieter summer period aiming to finish before the autumn term starts. Once the scheme is complete pedestrians will be able to cross the junction safely and traffic flows optimised via the introduction of upgraded software that will allow traffic demand to modify the signal controls. The implementation of a controlled junction will provide more certainty on traffic movements and queues from Shootersway which currently fluctuate during peak periods.

It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk should forward the various school holiday dates to HCC and request that completion of the work be targeted on the Ashlyns autumn term start date rather than on the later Berkhamsted School date.

## **TE 31/17 Chair's Communications**

- i. CPRE Hertfordshire's Rural Living Awards. Last call for nominations from CPRE volunteer Liz Hamilton;
- ii. "Become a Local Council Charter Branch" NALC Bulletin dated 24 March 2017

It was **Resolved** that the Town Council should sign up as a Local Council Charter Branch;

iii. Water Resource Update Affinity Water 24 April 2017

It was **noted** that rainfall from January to March 2017 had been 50% - 70% below average for the time of year. Aquifer and river levels have therefore dropped. The update will be sent to members of the Allotment Management Team for information.

It was further **noted** that Berkhamsted Golf Club will be commissioning the drilling of a bore hole to alleviate future water supply problems.

**TE 32/17 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**TE33/17 Parish Paths Partnership Projects 2017/18**

It was **noted** that applications are being invited for funding of projects.

It was **Resolved** that this item would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 12 June 2017 with a view to then calling a meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership working group which would propose possible projects.

**TE 34/17 Blue Plaque Heritage Trail**

It was **noted** that stocks of this popular leaflet are running low. Before a reprint is ordered it would be necessary to review the content. For example, plaque 20 The Bridewell, is currently in storage pending completion of the redevelopment on the former site of the police station. The Town Clerk is in discussions with English Heritage and the developers about the possible refurbishment of the plaque prior to its reinstatement on the new building. Councillors also mooted the possibility of proposing a blue plaque at the St Peter's cemetery site.

It was **Resolved** that the Town Clerk should ask the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society to review the content of the leaflet with a view to putting forward recommendations to a future meeting of the Committee.

**TE 35/17 Memorial Bench Outside Library**

This bench will have to be relocated prior to the demolition of the library. It was **agreed** that on a temporary basis it could be stored by the Town Council. The memorial plaque has disappeared and it is uncertain to whom the bench is dedicated. If anyone has any information they should let the Town Clerk know. Once a new site has been found it would be fitting to discuss this with friends or family of the person the bench commemorated.

## TRANSPORT

### TE 36/17      **Parking in disabled bays by market stall holders**

Cllr Corry reported that although the regular markets held in Berkhamsted contribute to the commercial vitality and vibrancy of the Town centre, there were often complaints about market stall holders blocking disabled bays adjacent to the stalls. She cited particular examples and was of the view that the responses given by market organisers to various complaints were inadequate. The issue of shop owners blocking the pavements with their goods was also mentioned although it was agreed to limit these discussion to the specific agenda item.

It was **Resolved** that

- i. Enquiries should be made through Mr N Brown at Dacorum Borough Council regarding the order of precedence governing the charter rights of the market stall holders and the statutory duties of parking enforcement officers. He would also be asked to clarify the significance of the white lining around disabled bays;
- ii. A meeting to discuss the issue would be arranged between two members of the T & E Committee, the market manager and the Chair of the Berkhamsted Market Fund. The two committee members will be nominated at the next meeting which is 12 June 2017.

### TE 37/17      **Parking Forum**

- i. The Committee **received and considered** a response dated 13 April 2017 from Rob Smith, Deputy Director, Environment (Highways) following the Town Clerk's 12 April e-mail to him regarding the Parking Forum's proposal that reports from 2014 be reconsidered. The reports include proposals to increase on-road parking spaces, improve traffic flow and prevent dangerous parking.

Mr Smith had advised that the reports would require careful consideration and he had therefore asked officers from SW Herts Highways Group to contact DBC to discuss the matters raised in the reports. He anticipated that they would contact local County Councillors to seek their views after the County Council elections on 4 May 2017. The Town Council would then be contacted to identify how the issues would be considered. The Town Clerk will contact Mr Smith regarding the outcome of these actions early in June and include an item on the agenda for the 12 June meeting of the committee.

- ii. Report from the Parking Forum meeting held on 29 March 2017

Cllr Matthews reported verbally that the Parking Forum's terms of reference had been reviewed at the meeting and these would be circulated for consideration and, if appropriate, agreement at the 12 June meeting of the committee. He apologised for previous confusion about

attendance at the meeting and subsequent delay in circulating the notes and revised terms of reference.

**TE 38/17 Wycombe Air Park - Airspace Change Proposal Consultation**

- i. It was **noted** that the consultation documents were forwarded to councillors on 13 March 2017;
- ii. The key considerations arising from the consultation document were discussed. It was **Resolved** that in view of the limited impact of the proposals, the Town Council would not submit any comments. (The closing date for submissions is 7 June 2017.)

**TE 39/17** The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

**Signed**.....

**Meeting**.....