

## BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the

### TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

On Monday 1 April 2019 at 7.30 pm

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Councillors:** T Ritchie (Chair)  
G Corry (substituting for Cllr I Reay)  
F Earl  
G Yearwood

**Ex officio** Cllr S Beardshaw, Town Mayor

#### ALSO PRESENT:

**Councillors:** G Stevens

**Officer:** J Mason – Town Clerk  
15 members of the public

*All present stood to observe a minute's silence following the news of the tragic death of former Town Councillor Janette Dunbavand, who had also served as Town Mayor in 1984 and 1985.*

**TE 19/19** To receive **apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Collins, Cllr P Matthews and Cllr I Reay.

**TE 20/19** To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

None.

**TE 21/19** To approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 4 February 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2019 were approved as a correct record and duly signed as such by the Chair.

**TE 22/19** Actions taken following the 4 February meeting. The following update was given:

**TE 06/19 Public Participation:** Matters raised by J Battye re Dacorum Borough Council's tree policy and lack of replacement trees. The issue was

referred to the Town Planning Committee for noting and reference when considering applications.

The Town Clerk will also be arranging a meeting with DBC's tree officer to discuss a number of related issues eg festive lights in trees; replacement trees in residential roads eg Upper Hall Park as raised by a member of the public; application of DBC's tree policy and trees in the High Street.

**TE 07/19 Ashridge Estate Woodland Management Plan Consultation:**

The feedback form was completed by Cllr Earl and the Town Clerk and returned to the Ashridge Estate by the closing date, 8 February 2019.

**TE 09/19 Replacement of trees in Upper Hall Park:** Cllr P Matthews undertook to ask for the application of the tree policy and failures in this respect to be discussed on the agenda at DBC's Planning and Environmental Scrutiny Committee. Feedback is awaited.

**TE 10/19 Street cleaning in Charles Street and rubbish in Cowper Road:** Complaints about grit, mud and other debris on Charles Street which did not appear to be subject to the same street sweeping regime as previously has been raised with the Clean, Safe and Green team.

Rubbish in Cowper Road, following opening of the new bakers on the corner with the High Street. Following the meeting the Town Warden did inspect the area on a regular basis and carried out routine litter picks. He did not note an increase arising from the new shop.

**TE 12/19 Berkhamsted Castle -** The meeting between Cllr P Matthews, the Town Clerk and Mr T Cockerill, Free Sites Partnership Manager, English Heritage, took place Friday 1 March 2019 at 10 am. The outcome was reported to Full Council on 18 March 2019. Minute FC 27/19 refers.

**TE 13/19 Station Road / Lower Kings Road – concerns and solutions:** A meeting is due to take place to discuss the concerns raised by a member of the public (subsequently arranged for 16 April).

**TE 16/19 Parking in Bridgewater Road:** The possibility of the Town Council funding a further consultation arising from displacement parking was referred to the CIL Working Group meeting on 20 February 2019.

**TE 17/19 Pedestrian crossing at Billet Lane:** The Deputy Town Clerk contacted the member of the public to explain the outcome of the discussion and the reasons why a new crossing could not be installed.

**TE 23/19 Chair's Communications**

- (i) Latest opportunities for tourism and business – Update from Visit Herts
- (ii) Notification of BCA AGM Wednesday 27 March
- (iii) Confirmation of Fairtrade Berkhamsted Closure following correspondence from Mr C Ponsonby-Talbot stating that volunteers are

very unlikely to come forward before the Fairtrade Foundation deadline of 10 July 2019

- (iv) Berkhamsted and District Chamber of Commerce – notification that the closing date for entries for Berkhamsted Business of the Year 2019 is 31 March 2019.

## **TE 24/19 Public Participation**

It was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended during the course of the meeting so that **members of the public might speak**.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**TE 25/19 Climate Change** - to consider a response to the following statement and questions raised at the Annual Town Meeting on 14 March 2019 by Ms S Hampton and others:

*“In response to the 6th IPCC report and the subsequent declaration by the UN Secretary General that humanity faces an existential threat, and to the demands of striking schoolchildren across 112 countries and counting, will Berkhamsted Town Council - like 27 District and Borough Councils and 10 Town and Parish Councils so far - declare a Climate Emergency and develop an action plan to ensure that our town is carbon neutral by 2030? In addition, will the Council press Dacorum Borough Council and Herts County Council to make the same commitment?”*

In welcoming and thanking members of the public for their attendance, Cllr T Ritchie, Chair, confirmed the restrictions on council decision making and publicity in the pre-election period. He was aware that those wishing to speak would be raising matters relating to the above and other practical issues that would help to improve the environment. He explained that whilst no decision could be made at this evening’s meeting, he would be only too happy to afford the opportunity to speak to those who wished so to do and gave an undertaking that the issues would be revisited at the next T & E meeting after the election.

Cllr Ritchie then suspended standing orders so that members of the public might speak.

Ms S Hampton, a local resident, sought support in achieving the actions set out above. Referring to initiatives in other towns and cities, she hoped that the Town Council would be able to develop an action plan and work with other organisations to achieve a carbon neutral town by 2030. Ms Hampton understood that many other organisations had a vital role to play, including national government, transport networks and businesses, and hoped that at a local level the Town Council would forge partnerships in the area and help to influence the appropriate policies and plans that would deliver the objectives outlined.

Ms A Haeri supported the above and also referred to concerns she had raised at the Town Meeting about air pollution and the measurement methodology employed in the town. She was particularly concerned about the installation

height of the monitors which at around 2m would fail to capture the pollution experienced at buggy level where particulate matter would be more concentrated. A further serious concern was that of cars keeping their engines idling when stationary and she hoped that a campaign could take place to stop this practice amongst drivers. In conclusion, she referred to the need for more electric charging points for vehicles in the town.

Thanking members of the public for their contribution, the Chair reinstated standing orders. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the point regarding idling was well made and, although illegal, Cllr Ritchie was aware that only a handful of prosecutions had ever been made. On the issue of electric charging points, Cllr G Stevens undertook to forward a link to a DBC scrutiny committee report to the Town Clerk which would be of help in future discussions. In the meantime, it was **agreed** that the Town Clerk should include an item to consider the points raised above at the next T & E Committee meeting.

**Action Cllr G Stevens/Town Clerk**

#### **TE 26/19 CIL Working Group**

It was **noted** that there will be a meeting of the group on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 4 pm. The actions following the 20 February meeting were discussed and the importance of the resident survey on CIL projects was emphasised by members of the working group. It was equally important to influence and lobby DBC on how their proportion of CIL funds should be spent in the town. During discussion, Cllr G Stevens requested that the possibility of a speed activated device, in the Hall Park area of the A4251, be added to the list of possible projects.

**Action Town Clerk**

#### **TE 27/19 Heritage Hub Questionnaire**

The Town Council's response to the feedback questionnaire on the Hub Context and Options Report previously received **was approved** subject to members of the Committee forwarding any further comments to the Town Clerk by close of business on Friday 5 April. The Town Clerk would then forward the response to the Heritage Hub project team.

**Action Town Clerk**

### **TRANSPORT**

#### **TE 28/19 Parking**

- (i) Report on the Parking Forum Meeting held on 6 March 2019

Cllr Ritchie **reported** that DBC's Project Manager had attended the meeting and had presented plans and drawing previously requested by Parking Forum members together with responses to specific questions similarly raised about the project. The Huber site manager has proved helpful to date on day to day concerns and a meeting between the Chair of this committee, the Town Clerk and the Town Warden would be arranged in May.

- (ii) Any other updates on the Multi Storey Car Park project

It was **noted** that construction is taking place during a 32 week period and that the problems with flooding at the temporary car park at The Moor have now been resolved.

Since the last meeting Cllr Ritchie had also obtained a copy of the s106 agreement relating to improvements to the traffic lights at the High Street/Kings Road and Lower Kings Road junction and the construction of a mini roundabout at the entrance to the car park in Lower Kings Road. The s106 monies had already been paid to HCC by DBC and this reinforced the Committee's view that the work should be commenced at the earliest opportunity. (See TE 29/19 below.)

It was further **noted** that there would be no car park full signs nor any signs to indicate the availability of spaces to users. It was **agreed** that the Committee's concerns about this lack of signage should be referred to Dacorum Borough Council as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, it was no longer the case that the car park would be open at 7 am and close in the evening. It was now the intention that the car park would be open for 24 hours. Nor was it clear what the intention was regarding the installation of shuttering on the top two decks. Concerns about anti-social behaviour were raised and these issues would similarly be raised with DBC.

**Action Town Clerk**

- (iii) Request from market traders for additional parking provision during the MSCP construction period

Cllr Earl reported that the market manager had enquired whether any parking spaces might be made available at the Civic Centre to Wednesday market traders. It was agreed that this request should be referred to Dacorum Borough Council as owner and operator of the Civic Centre.

**Action Town Clerk**

**TE 29/19      Phasing of traffic lights at the High Street/Lower Kings Road/High Street junction and implementation of waiting and loading restrictions in Lower Kings Road**

- (i) It was **noted** that HCC has already agreed in principle to a meeting to discuss the traffic lights and the restrictions in Lower Kings Road;
- (ii) To **note** that the above meeting had been deferred pending sight of the s106 agreement which Cllr T Ritchie has now obtained and circulated (see TE 28/19 (ii) above);
- (iii) It was **agreed** that the meeting with HCC should now be arranged.

**Action Town Clerk**

**TE 30/19**

**Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....