

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held at the Civic Centre

on Monday 11 October 2021 at 19.30 hrs

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors W Conian (Chair)
N Taylor (Vice Chair)
S Cloughton
G Stevens

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Councillors P de Hoest (part of meeting)

Officer: T Noakes – Town Clerk (Minutes)

Absent: Cllrs M Hardinge, A Peeler and T Porter

Members of the Public: One member of the public attended

Opening Matters and Governance

TE 41/21 To receive **apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr P Fisher.

TE 42/21 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were received.

TE 43/21 To **approve the minutes of the previous meeting** held on 7 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting on the 7 June 2021 were **approved**.

Previous Minutes Actions – 7 June 2021

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
35/21	Ward Councillors were asked to forward any tree notices they receive to Officers.	Yes	
36/21	Committee decided to send a letter to Thames Water to raise concerns about the level's sewerage discharge into the Bulbourne		Town Clerk (Item on agenda)

38/21	BTC to get involved in the specification of the new playground equipment at Canal Fields.	Yes (Cllr was involved in final stage of process)	
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TE 44/21 Chair's Communications

- (i) Berkhamsted Great Big Green Week event 2021.

The Chair thanked the Project Officer and Town Council staff for organising the event. There was a 'wash up' meeting arranged for the following week and output from the meeting would be communicated at the next T&E meeting.

Action – Project Officer/Town Clerk

TE 45/21 Public Participation

To suspend Standing Orders so that **members of the public might speak**.

TE 46/21 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

Standing Orders were suspended to enable members of the public to speak.

Mr Peter Matthews gave an update on recent matters from Berkhamsted Castle Trust. Items raised are in the note attached.

In addition to the items already presented, it was to be noted that to date, the depth of topsoil at the Castle had always been thought to be very shallow. Recently English Heritage had confirmed for the record, that it was up to 4 feet deep. This was much deeper than originally thought and might widen the scope of events to be held at the Castle.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

TE 45/21 (Cont'd) Bulbourne River briefing/update

Standing Orders were suspended to enable members of the public to speak.

Susan Holmes gave a very thorough update about the River Bulbourne and in particular the number of sewerage releases into the river south of Bank Mill. There had been 861 spills into the Bulbourne during 2020. It was noted that some sewerage release conditions were lifted in September 2021 due to a national shortage of chemicals.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Committee agreed to write a letter to Thames Water to complain about the amount of sewerage being released and to seek information about their plans to prevent this in the future.

Action – Town Clerk

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

TE 47/21 Hertfordshire County Councillor N Taylor

- (i) Cllr N Taylor gave an update on HCC matters as follows:
- Work on White Hill had commenced. It is hoped the road will be reopened this year.
 - Fieldway will have a full gulley clearance and deep clean to improve the runoff of rainwater.
 - Cllr Taylor confirmed that his two areas of focus for the next year would be drainage issues and anti-speeding/traffic calming measures across Berkhamsted.
 - Cllr Taylor gave an overview of the Highways locality budget for 2022/23.

TRANSPORT

TE 48/21 Traffic Calming in Berkhamsted

- (i) Reducing speed limits and SIDs
- The application for a grant from Hertfordshire PCC for two SIDs was successful. Highways will now carry out a location feasibility survey to confirm if the locations requested by BTC can be allowed. More information will follow.
 - The Kingshill Way/Kings Road traffic lights have recently been rephased, in an attempt to establish priority of the vehicles coming from Kingshill Way into Kings Road over vehicles turning right turn into Shootersway from Kings Road.

TE 49/21 Installing additional EV chargers in Berkhamsted - Cllr P de Hoest

- (i) Cllr P de Hoest delivered an update on EV Chargers across Berkhamsted. EV Charging strategy papers had still not been published by DBC/HCC. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Waitrose asking for their plans for EV charging at the Berkhamsted store.

Action – Town Clerk

ENVIRONMENT

TE 50/21 Air Quality Survey at Key Locations across Berkhamsted

Committee agreed to proceed with an air quality survey at key locations across Berkhamsted. These surveys would be in addition to the statutory monitoring conducted by DBC. The plan to deliver the survey would include the purchase

of mobile measuring devices and possible partnering with local community groups concerned with air quality across Berkhamsted.

Action – Town Clerk & Project Officer

TE 51/21 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.13 hours.

Signed

Date

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
44/21	Berkhamsted Great Big Green Week event 2021 – ‘Wash-up’ feedback		Project Officer/Town Clerk
45/21	Letter to Thames Water to raise concerns about the level’s sewerage discharge into the Bulbourne		Town Clerk
49/21	Contact Waitrose to find out what plans they have for EV charging at their Berkhamsted Store		Town Clerk
50/21	Air quality survey to be progressed		Town Clerk/Project Officer