

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

On Monday 12 November 2018 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors: T Ritchie (Chair)
D Collins
P Matthews
I Reay
G Yearwood

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: A Armytage

Officer: J Mason – Town Clerk
3 members of the public

OPENING MATTERS

TE 92/18 To receive **apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Earl and Cllr G Corry.

TE 93/18 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

None.

TE 94/18 To approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 24 September 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and were duly signed as such by the chair.

TE 95/18 Actions taken following the 24 September meeting. The following points were reported:

TE 84/18 Actions arising

(TE 70/18) Plastic Free Berko – Cllr Newton's nomination as the Town Council representative to attend Plastic Free Berko Group meetings was ratified at Full Council on 22 October.

(TE 73/18) Play Streets – Feedback received from the recently published "Update" newsletter had been supportive.

TE 85/18 Correspondence

- (i) Berkhamsted Raiders – The meeting with Cllr Ritchie has not yet been offered to the football club representatives.
- (ii) Tree Policy – a renewed impetus will commence hopefully before the end of the year once a full staffing quota is in place.

TE 88/18 Parking Forum Issues/Temporary Parking at The Moor

Interventions by Cllr Ritchie and others had resulted in a revised planning application with an amended access point to the temporary car parking on The Moor. This would obviate the need from tree felling.

TE 89/18 Parking in disabled bays by market stall holders

The Town Clerk has asked DBC's parking manager to take enforcement action after the unloading and loading periods as offered in his recent e-mail. The Town Council has also advised the Market Fund Chair and requested that the civil enforcement officers are treated respectfully.

In addition Cllr I Reay has raised parking in disabled bays by farmers market stall holders with Ian Hall who has alerted the manager. Cllr Reay will also raise the matter at the Berkhamsted Market Fund AGM, under any other business.

TE 90/18 Displays of produce and goods outside premises in the High Street

Cllr Corry was unable to attend the 12 November meeting and has asked that the item be deferred. The Town Clerk has collated some information from the Market Trust, HCC and DBC.

TE 96/18 Chair's Communications

- (i) Herts Valley CCG - Help us help you this winter - flu vaccination campaign. The campaign started on 8 October 2018.

The Committee deplored the sporadic and varying availability of flu vaccines both locally and nationally.

- (ii) Information about NALC Spring Conference 2018
- (iii) Dacorum Heritage Trust Newsletter No. 92 & Annual Review Y/E 2018
- (iv) Three Rivers, Dacorum and Hertsmere Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy – information dated November 2018 about a jointly commissioned audit and assessment by Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should complete the survey enclosed. **Action Town Clerk**
- (v) Rectory Lane Cemetery Project – Further information and detail about work to trees commencing January 2019 including a Q & A sheet about the work.

TE 97/18 Public Participation

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended during the course of the meeting so that **members of the public might speak**

ENVIRONMENT

TE 98/18 Disused football changing room in Gossoms End

To **receive** feedback from Cllr D Collins following his enquiries made of DBC officers. (TE 74/18 and TE 87/18 refer.)

Cllr Collins reported that the changing rooms had been decommissioned and as such were without plumbing or electrics. The building was currently let to a local football club. This information was **noted**.

TE 99/18 Angle Passage Flower Bed

Committee members reviewed the Annual Report and photographs on Angle Passage Flower Bed prepared by local resident and volunteer gardener Mrs S Garrett.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should to Mrs Garrett thanking her for her work on behalf of the Town and for the beautiful floral displays achieved throughout the seasons.

TRANSPORT

TE 100/18 Petition from Berkhamsted Youth Town Council

- (i) It was **noted** that Berkhamsted Youth Town Council have collected signatures and letters of support and wish to see implementation/installation of the following:
- a. zebra crossing at Hilltop Road & Chesham Road junction;
 - b. safe bus stop on opposite side of Chesham Road from Ashlyns School;
 - c. speed limit reduction to 20 or 30 mph from the roundabout at the top of Chesham Road.

The Chair suspended standing orders to enable two members of the Berkhamsted Youth Town Council to speak.

EW & JR had collected a petition of nearly 600 signatures in support of the above proposals which were also supported by the Head Teacher of Ashlyns School. His letter and other documentation had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. All three elements were required on safety grounds. The Hilltop Road/Chesham Road junction was a difficult crossing point on a very busy road and drivers failed to slow down to allow pupils to cross. The bus stop was also very busy and a larger, sturdier structure was needed to replace the previous shelter which had been damaged in a traffic accident. Winter was approaching a safe, dry, secure shelter was required with level access for

pedestrians rather than the current muddy ramp. Finally, the speed limit on the road just past the school to the roundabout at the top of Chesham Road should be reduced to 20 or 30 mph. This part of the road formed part of many pupils' route to school and the current speed limit was excessive, especially so in the light of the move nationally to have 20 mph speed limits adjacent to schools.

Thanking EW and J for their contribution the Chair reinstated standing orders.

(ii) To **discuss** the above and **agree** what action should be taken.

Following a detailed discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council endorses the concerns expressed by the Youth Town Council and the remedies proposed. The road safety of students on their route to school and outside the school grounds is very important. The school now caters for pupils from year 7 onwards and this younger demographic reinforces the need for a safe environment. Therefore, the Town Clerk should liaise with EW and JR to prepare a document for submission to Hertfordshire County Council for consideration. The Head Teacher's letter referred to above should also be sent with the submission together with details of the petition. HCC would be asked to give consideration to the following:

1. A zebra crossing at or adjacent to the Hilltop Road & Chesham Road junction. If the location was not deemed suitable for such a crossing HCC should consider the installation of a smart lights crossing similar to that installed at the Kings Road/Shootersway/Kingshill Road junction;
2. Installation of a safer, larger bus stop opposite the school. Other locations could also be considered if they were deemed more suitable. For example, in the crescent at the entrance to the school. It was acknowledged that land ownership issues would have to be investigated and that the school would also have to liaise with parents who currently use the crescent as a drop off/pick up point;
3. A reduction in the speed limit to 20 or 30 mph from the roundabout at the top of Chesham Road. This popular route to school should be made safer in keeping with prevailing policies throughout the country to introduce 20 mph limits around schools.

It was further **resolved** that the draft of the document should be circulated by e-mail to councillors prior to submission to HCC. If necessary the document could be referred to the next meeting of T & E for ratification.

Action: Town Clerk

TE 101/18 Phasing of traffic lights at the High Street/Kings Road/Lower Kings Road Junction *(item referred from Full Council 22-10-18 FC 104/18 refers)*

(i) It was **RESOLVED** that despite assurances made in early 2017 by Herts County Council, the phasing of the traffic lights at the above junction causes unnecessary delays and does not reflect the varying traffic flows throughout the day and week;

- (ii) It was further **RESOLVED** that a meeting should be called with HCC's Mike Younghusband, Environment (Highways), with a view to discussing HCC's plans for the crossing and measures to improve the situation. (The installation of smart lighting has previously been raised by the Town Council with his colleagues.)
- (iii) The above discussions led to questions about when the waiting and loading restrictions were going to be implemented in Lower Kings Road arising from the construction of the multi storey car park. Construction was about to begin and still nothing had been implemented. Cllr D Collins undertook to raise this matter at a forthcoming meeting with the MSCP project team members at DBC who will have been liaising on this issue with officers at HCC. **Action Cllr D Collins**

TE 102/18 Parking Forum issues and multi storey car park update.

The Chair suspended standing orders to allow Mr C Birch, a Parking Forum member, to speak.

Mr Birch stated that he was pleased to see that the 20 mph zone was being extended to various roads in the town centre (see TE104/18 below). He hoped that the area around Charles Street would be next for such zoning. On the issue of the multi storey car park, he noted that the service diversion works on the site had fortuitously delayed the construction phase until after Christmas which would be a relief to traders and other businesses. He hoped that the waiting and loading restrictions in Lower Kings Road would be implemented before Christmas and that the phasing of the traffic lights at the Kings Road/Lower Kings Road/High Street junction would be remedied as soon as possible. He asked that a Parking Forum meeting be called at the earliest opportunity to discuss not only multi storey car park issues but also to progress work on releasing up to 50 car parking spaces already identified at various pressured locations in the town centre, particularly those south of the High Street. In conclusion, he also requested urgent responses to the 17 questions about the implementation and operation of the multi storey car park which he had submitted in the early summer to the Parking Forum.

Thanking Mr Birch for his contribution the Chair reinstated standing orders.

Cllr Ritchie advised that he had delayed calling a meeting of the Parking Forum until a decision had been reached on the revised application for the temporary car parking arrangements at The Moor. This application had now been approved. In response to a question previously put by Mr Birch, Cllr D Collins advised that car parking charges would reflect those charged elsewhere in the town and would be collected at meters on site. It was now appropriate to address the questions of detail asked by Mr Birch and it would therefore be Cllr Ritchie's intention to call a Parking Forum meeting in early December. In preparation for this meeting Cllr Collins undertook to seek responses to the questions previously asked by Mr Birch from the MSCP project team manager.

Actions: Cllr T Ritchie and Cllr D Collins.

TE 103/18 Displays of produce and goods outside premises in the High Street

To receive an update the following action agreed at the T & E meeting held on 13 August 2018 (TE 79/18 refers):

“It was **agreed** that details of what areas of High Street activity required permissions from which organisations would be sought for further discussion.”

Action: Cllr Corry/Town Clerk

In Cllr G Corry’s absence this item was deferred (see TE 95/18 above.)

TE 104/18 The Hertfordshire (Various Roads, Berkhamsted) 20 mph Zone Order 2018

It was **noted** that a copy of the draft order is available for inspection at the Town Council offices. The closing date for objections to the proposals is 14 November 2018. Such objections must be in writing to the road traffic order team at County Hall.

The above project has been supported by the Town Council. A donation of £6,440 was made to the public engagement stage.

TE 105/18 The Hertfordshire (Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted) (Restriction of Waiting) Order 2018

It was **noted** the a copy of the Public Notice, Plan(s) and the Statement of Reasons relating to the proposal had been received. The closing date for objections is 7 November 2018. Such objections must be in writing to the road traffic order team at County Hall.

The above project has been supported by the Town Council. A donation of £2,350 was made towards the public engagement stage.

TE 106/18 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....