

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held via 'Zoom' remote video conferencing,

On Monday 12 October 2020 at 19.30 hrs

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors W Conian (Chair)
 N Taylor (Vice Chair)
 S Cloughton
 P Fisher
 T Porter

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Councillors Cllr G Stevens (Town Mayor)

HCC Councillor Cllr I Reay (left meeting at 20.35 hrs)

Officer: T Noakes – Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr M Hardinge
 Cllr A Peeler

Opening Matters and Governance:

TE 55/20 To receive **apologies for absence**

None received.

TE 56/20 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

None reported.

TE 57/20 To approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 17 August 2020

T&E Committee Minutes Actions – 17 August 2020

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
41/20	Respond to residents' letter about hazards on Shootersway	✓	Town Clerk met with resident and had lodged issues with Highways
48/20	Wildflowers in verges		Town Councillors
45/20	Air Quality Monitoring – Liaise		Town Clerk was referred by

	with Chesham TC and prepare costed proposals		Chesham TC, to Buckinghamshire Council.
47/20	MSCP – liaise with DBC ref Mr Stephenson’s snagging list		DBC has chased Huber car park systems, the Design & Build
49/20	Climate Change working group chairs to update 2020/21 budget figures. Details to Cllr W Conian by 14 September 2020.	✓	
52/20	Licensing requirements t’s & c’s	✓	Town Clerk
53/20	Update project register	✓	Town Councillors

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020 (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and as such could be duly signed by the Chair.

TE 58/20 Chair’s Communications

- (i) Castle Street access for HGV and buses – the road has a 7.5t limit for HGV’s. Buses are allowed but congestion was getting worse, particularly at school drop off & pick up time.

Action – Cllr Conian to liaise with Berkhamsted School

TE 59/20 Public Participation

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

- (i) Mr GC addressed the Committee with some ideas he had for enhancing Berkhamsted's public open spaces. Current amenities including, the Moor, Canal Fields and Butts Meadow were not up to the standard expected and Berkhamsted residents were travelling elsewhere to enjoy other local open spaces.

Action - Cllrs will review and propose improvements

- (ii) Mr AR joined the meeting and stated that there were now dropped kerbs around the station area apart from one area. Cllr Reay confirmed that this part of the pavement was Network Rail. Cllr Reay will ask the Highways team to contact Network Rail and see if they will complete this. Mr AR also mentioned concerns about drainage at Bridgewater/Brownlow Rd junction. The area was still flooding after the recent resurfacing.

Action – Cllr Reay

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

TE 60/20 Hertfordshire County Councillor I Reay

Cllr Reay gave a comprehensive update of HCC matters across Berkhamsted. This included:

- (i) Station Road update – There was only a small stretch of pavement resurfacing remaining (post meeting – now complete). Cllr Reay thanked the Town Council for their contribution to the funding.

- (ii) Kings Road/Shootersway junction - Cllr Conian had forwarded a photograph of a near miss at the junction earlier in the month. Cllr Reay had forwarded to Highways but there is still no intention to change the junction layout. Cllr Reay has proposed to Highways the introduction of additional signage at the junction.
- (iii) Lower Kings Road bridge refurbishment – this essential work to the 100-year-old bridge will begin on the 26 October 2020 and go through until 31 March 2021. There will be traffic signal one-way traffic for most of the refurbishment period. This will cause extensive disruption in the area.

TE 61/20 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

Mr P Matthews gave the committee a verbal update of matters at Berkhamsted Castle Trust, including:

- (i) Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust completed a report on the Ecological survey of the Castle. Amongst other comments it was noted that the wetland environment of the moat is considered a key habitat for biodiversity and there are arguments that it should be classified as a site of Special Scientific Interest based on the significant area of reed swamp. A suggestion was made that Berkhamsted Town Council members should form a group liaising with the Castle Trust to apply for Local Nature Reserve status. **Action – Town Clerk**
- (ii) Berkhamsted Castle has won a 2020 TripAdvisor travellers' choice award placing the Castle in the top 10% hospitality and tourism businesses worldwide.
- (iii) Berkhamsted Castle has featured on BBC Radio 4 “Castles: Britain’s fortified history. It is on iPlayer at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b04t6n19/castles-britains-fortified-history-1-instruments-of-invasion>
- (iv) The Castle Trust has printed calendars for 2021 featuring seasonal photos of the Castle. They will be on sale with the first copies being sold on the 24th October market.
- (v) Awaiting fence repair through insurance for the damage caused by the recent car accident.
- (vi) Trustees are currently preparing the 2019 annual report.
- (vii) Visitors continue to be most welcome to the Castle grounds during opening times.

TRANSPORT

TE 62/20 Parking

- (i) MSCP – All operational. A note of thanks should be sent to Mr S who helped the Town Council and DBC with feedback and snagging.
Action - Town Clerk
- (ii) High Street Parking update included a reference to the final layout having gone to HCC for review. Any final proposal would require local consultation and FC approval for associated costs.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 63/20 Air quality monitoring – Project Proposal

A presentation was given by Bio Global Industries about how mobile air quality monitoring devices could be used in a pilot across Berkhamsted. T&E committee had previously approved a pilot scheme. Cllrs were invited to attend the company site at Asheridge/Bucks.
Action – Town Clerk

TE 64/20 Trees in Berkhamsted

The Town Clerk gave an update on the list of new sites for tree planting across Berkhamsted. The requests had been received from residents over the last 12 months. It was agreed that the next stage was to send the requests with full details to DBC for consideration. It was also agreed that BTC would consider incurring costs to ensure new trees were planted.
Action – Town Clerk

TE 65/20 Climate Change Steering Group and Working Groups

Working Group Terms of Reference **were approved.**

TE 66/20 Pavement and Street Licensing

The Town Clerk gave an update on his discussion with DBC about the current process and Covid-19 licensing regime across Dacorum. Committee discussed current examples across Berkhamsted, in particular, two businesses, one being dealt with by DBC and the Town Clerk was asked to contact the other business to discuss the matter.
Action – Town Clerk

BUDGET PREPARATION

TE 67/20 2021/22 Budget

Cllr Conian asked committee to review current project proposals so they were considered by F & P and Full Council during budget and precept discussion. F&P the following week would be the start of the 2021/22 budget/precept setting process.

TE 68/20 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.30hrs

Minutes approved at remote meeting on

Signed

Date

T&E Committee Minutes Actions – 12 October 2020

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
48/20	Wildflowers in verges – nominations for sites		Cllrs
59/20	Better use & enhancement of Berkhamsted's open spaces		Cllrs
59/20	HCC to liaise with Network Rail about dropped kerb at station	✓	Cllr Reay
62/20	Note of thanks to Mr S reference snagging list assistance for MSCP	✓	Town Clerk
63/20	Coordinate visit to Bio Global industries for Cllrs		Town Clerk
64/20	New trees in Berkhamsted, list and details to DBC		Town Clerk
66/20	Licensing requirements – discussion with a business		Town Clerk