

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held via 'Zoom' remote video conferencing,

On Monday 15 June 2020 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors W Conian (Chair)
 N Taylor (Vice Chair)
 S Cloughton
 P Fisher
 P de Hoest (substitute for M Hardinge)
 T Porter

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Councillors Cllr G Stevens (Town Mayor)

HCC Councillor Cllr I Reay (left meeting at 8.35pm)

Officer: T Noakes – Town Clerk
 J Harley – Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr A Peeler

There were 2 members of the public present via 'Zoom' remote video conferencing.

Opening Matters and Governance:

TE 20/20 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transport & Environment Committee for 2020/21.

Cllr S Cloughton proposed and Cllr N Taylor seconded that Cllr W Conian be nominated as Chair of the T&E Committee.

There being no further nominations, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr W Conian be elected as Chair of the T&E Committee for the Council year 2020/21.

Cllr S Cloughton proposed and Cllr P de Hoest seconded that Cllr N Taylor be nominated as the Vice-Chair of the T&E Committee.

There being no further nominations, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr N Taylor be elected as the Vice-Chair of the T&E Committee for the Council year 2020/21.

TE 21/20 Apologies for absence.

Received from Cllr M Hardinge.

TE 22/20 Declarations of Interest.

None reported.

TE 23/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2020.

Approved.

TE 25/20 Public Participation

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

Mr Erik Renander (Berkhamsted resident) spoke about the possibility of making Berkhamsted an eco-mooring zone. They created one in Islington to cut down on canal boats burning wood in the city. I think it requires gas stoves or stoves with lower emissions. We live on the canal and when you get a few boats going with the wood fires it is quite a bit of smoke coming into your house.

Cllr W Conian explained that the Town Council did not have jurisdiction on the canal or for the boats using it for travel or mooring purposes.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write formally to the Canal and River Trust on behalf of the resident to seek clarity on the points raised – **Town Clerk**

Standing orders continued to be suspended to discuss and respond to an email received from Mr Patrick Hutton:

Hello,

If it is okay I would like to put in a question at the Transport and Environment committee on the 15 June.

I realise that parking isn't at the top of the agenda at the moment, but I wanted to put forward an observation.

Due to a lack of permit parking in Berkhamsted, in normal times the town centre is rammed with station commuter cars, Berkhamsted school student cars, shoppers cars, high street workers cars etc etc. People become territorial over spaces and residents don't want to use their cars for fear of not getting another space upon returning. But these problems have eased significantly since lockdown, highlighting that the residents can fit on the space available if permits became the policy.

I realise this is a controversial issue, and there is a divide in opinions between people who live outside the centre, and those who live inside the centre, but ultimately should the people who actually live in the town centre not get a stronger say....

So my question is, **why is Berkhamsted the only town in Dacorum that hasn't got parking restrictions around its train station?**

Thank you

Patrick Hutton

Cllr's discussed Mr Hutton's question and sympathised with the circumstances he had raised. It was mentioned that there have been previous Car Parking Zone (CPZ's) consultations across central Berkhamsted. In each case a CPZ for residents had been rejected. The new Multi Storey Car Park is due to open in the next few weeks. It was expected that no further consultation would be effective or could take place until the impact of its opening and a return to normal traffic/commuting was experienced. The cost of a further consultation project had not been approved.

Action – **Town Clerk** to write to Mr Hutton

Standing orders were resumed by the Chair

TE 34/20 A41 Northchurch/Berkhamsted Crossing Closures

Cllr P de Hoest spoke about the draft motion he had raised, referencing the papers he had previously published with the agenda. The HCC proposal to permanently close 4 pedestrian crossings across the A41, considered to be unsafe and not fit for purpose. HCC claim that no rights of way exist. Cllr P de Hoest suggested that many Berkhamsted residents would be disadvantaged by the closure and alternative solutions need to be found. A new footbridge was one suggestion.

Standing Orders were suspended by the Chair

Mr Paul Crosland, Vice-Chair of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association, spoke and stressed the importance of rights of way for residents and supported the motion. He agreed with the suggestions to improve the crossings including a new footbridge.

All Cllr's raised concerns about the safety of the current crossings and discussed a range of potential solutions.

Standing Orders were reinstated by the Chair

The motion was formally proposed by Cllr P de Hoest and seconded by Cllr S Claughton.

Action – **Motion approved.**

TE 26/20 Hertfordshire County Councillor I Reay

Cllr I Reay gave the following update:

- Bridgewater Road - revised parking, post change review delayed until volumes return to normal.

- 20mph zones in place – would welcome suggestions for other areas.
- Awaiting support costs for Station Road refurbishment. Cllr I Reay confirmed he had not received official notification of the £10K allocation from BTC. A discussion took place about the understanding of the £10K award. It was granted only on the basis that DBC would also allocate a further £10K.

Action – **Town Clerk** to review previous minutes and inform Committee.
Cllrs – Suggestions for any further 20mph zones should be sent to Cllr I Reay.

TE 36/20 Covid-19 Social Distancing Options for Berkhamsted

Cllr I Reay mentioned that the Berkhamsted Chamber of Commerce had requested the High Street become a pedestrian precinct on Saturday's market day. This had been sent to HCC. Cllr G Stevens said that the 7.5t limit on Castle Street would be a problem for diversions (also an issue for Festival of Light).

Cllr W Conian confirmed that a meeting with HCC will be taking place to follow up on the letter sent to Mr Rupert Thacker (sent with agenda). Date to be confirmed.

Cllr I Reay left the meeting at 8.35pm.

TE 24/20 Actions taken following the 17 February 2020:

TE88/18, (also TE 69/19 & TE 57/19) – work on traffic lights at High Street/Lower Kings Road junction to convert to "Puffin" installation – Project completed on 29 May 2020.

TE91/19 Flooding around Victoria School – The Town Clerk was meeting the Executive Head at Castle Federation, Victoria School on the 16 June 2020 to progress the matter.

TE 94/19 (B) Air quality monitoring – trial diffusion tubes – The Town Clerk will liaise with ITP Energised to understand more about mobile monitoring carried out in Berkhamsted. Current DBC monitoring data should be accessed earlier so that a proposal paper can be presented to the next T&E.

Action – **Town Clerk**

TE 27/20 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

An update from the Berkhamsted Castle Trust was given by the Town Clerk. The detail accompanied the agenda to the meeting.

TRANSPORT

TE 28/20 Parking Forum

Cllr G Stevens gave a verbal update on the MSCP:

- Ringway on site until 4 July 2020.
- Commissioning begins 19 June 2020.
- Snagging begins the end of June 2020 for 3 weeks.
- Mr Stevenson will be helping with snagging list
- Opening – end of July 2020.

Cllr P de Hoest raised his concerns about the quality of build as a result of Mr Stevenson's (Chartered Structural Engineer) observations. All Cllrs had previously raised concerns about the MSCP quality of build. Cllr W Conian raised a particular concern about the width of the footpath around the MSCP.

TE 29/20 Wildflowers in Verges

Action - **Cllr W Conian/Cllr I Reay to progress**

TE 30/20 Gulley Clearance Policy- Berkhamsted Town Council 19/HCS/859

A meeting would be arranged with HCC to progress.

Action – **Town Clerk**

TE 31/20 Kings Road/Kingshill Way/Shootersway junction safety concerns regarding the left turn from Kings Road into Shootersway

Town Clerk has approached HCC to gain access to HCC Signals team post installation safety review. Matter remains outstanding.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 32/20 Tree issues

Cllr S Cloughton gave an update on Tree replanting across Berkhamsted.

- DBC had a plan to plant 1000 more trees across Dacorum over the next 2 years. The target for 5 years was 4200 new trees. Cllr S Cloughton said that Chelmsford had planted 5000 trees in 2 months, for comparison.
- Central Tree Database – the **Town Clerk** has started a list of new tree planting locations, as suggested by local residents.

TE 33/20 Climate Change Steering Group and Working Groups

The minutes from the recent Climate Change Steering Group on the 8 June 2020 had been sent out before this Committee were **received** and **adopted**.

TE 35/20 BTC Climate Emergency Event October 2020

Cllr W Conian confirmed that the dates for COP 26 are 1 – 12 November 2021. The projected date for our BTC Climate Emergency Event will be in early October 2021.

TE 37/20 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

Minutes approved at remote meeting on

Signed

Date