

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre

on Monday 25 April 2022 at 19.30 hrs

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors W Conian (Chair)
 N Taylor
 S Cloughton
 P Fisher
 M Hardinge
 A Foster
 G Stevens

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Councillors G Corry

Officer: T Noakes – Town Clerk (Minutes)

Members of Public: 4 members of the public were present

Absent: Councillor T Porter

Opening Matters and Governance

TE 13/22 To receive **apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor (Cllr) A Peeler.

TE 14/22 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

- (i) Cllr W Conian declared an interest in the 'New Road field access' item on the agenda.
- (ii) There were no written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
- (iii) There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

TE 15/22 To **approve the minutes of the previous meeting** held on 14 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting on the 14 February 2022 were **approved**.

TE 16/22 Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended so that **members of the public might speak**.

- (i) **Castle Street bus congestion** – Two Berkhamsted residents attended the meeting and raised several issues as a result of the congestion in Castle Street caused by the Berkhamsted School buses. The matters raised included:
- a. Pollution resulting from the buses idling, why can't the engines be switched off when the vehicles are stationary?
 - b. The number of buses seem to have increased and other cars/vehicles must drive on the pavement to get around the parked buses.
 - c. Concerns about emergency vehicle access during the peak pickup/drop off times.

Committee agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the Principal of Berkhamsted Schools Group requesting a meeting to address the issues raised by residents. **Action – Town Clerk**

- (ii) **New Road field access** – A resident joined the meeting to raise the matter of the recent closure of pedestrian access to the field between New Road and Whitehill. Committee agreed to support a BCA application (if approved by BCA) to apply to Hertfordshire County Council for a right of way under the 20-year use rule. If another 3rd party (other than BCA) made the application, Committee could approve their support off-line. **Action – Town Clerk**

TE 17/22 Thames Water

- (i) Thames Water representation at T&E will now take place on 30 May 2022. **Action – Town Clerk**

TE 18/22 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

- (i) The latest update from the Castle Trust is attached.

TE 19/22 Hertfordshire County Councillor N Taylor

- (i) Cllr N Taylor gave an update report on the 20mph zone in Berkhamsted. This included the process to add new roads to the zone. There is currently a feasibility study running on the effectiveness of 20mph zones. The study findings will be reported at a future T&E committee meeting.
- (ii) Committee discussed what other areas in Berkhamsted should/could have 20mph speed restrictions and what other 'traffic calming' measures could be put in place. Cllrs were asked to forward suggestions to Cllr N Taylor. **Action - Cllrs**

TRANSPORT

TE 20/22 Vehicle Speeding and Accident-Prone Junctions

- (i) Cllr A Foster introduced a discussion on speeding and line of sight issues at the Cross Oak Road/Shrublands Road/Charles Street junction. It was agreed that information on any incidents/near misses at the junction should be sent to Cllr N Taylor. The information would then be used to discuss with HCC to see what measures could be put in place to make the junction safer. **Action – Town Clerk**
- (ii) Committee asked the Town Clerk to send a letter to HCC to understand more about the road junction strategy within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. **Action – Town Clerk**

TE 21/22 Berkhamsted Bus Service Consultancy

- (i) The final report from TAS Consulting on the Bus Service project was noted by committee. The public transport scrutiny committee will meet to agree the next steps. **Action – Town Clerk**

ENVIRONMENT

TE 22/22 Rural Community Environmental Fund (RCEF)

- (i) The Town Clerk gave an update on the RCEF Grant award. The main update being the change of consultants (from Avieco to Scene) who will complete the feasibility study.

TE 23/22 Environment Agency (EA) - Bulbourne River Consultancy Project

- (i) Cllr G Stevens introduced a proposal to undertake a joint project with EA and others reference the river Bulbourne. Committee agreed to support the cost of the EA project. The Berkhamsted Town Council contribution would be agreed after discussions have taken place with Northchurch Parish Council and DBC. **Action – Cllr G Stevens & Town Clerk**

TE 24/22 Air Quality Survey

- (i) Committee agreed to have a complete review of the project before any cost was incurred. **Action – Cllr W Conian & Town Clerk**

TE 25/22 Climate Action Berkhamsted (CAB)

- (i) The CAB Working Group (WG) terms of reference were **reviewed and approved.**
- (ii) The CAB website design options paper was reviewed, and committee agreed to revisit the options and agree a preferred design. **Action – Cllr W Conian & Project Officer**

TE 26/22 Energy Working Group

- (i) The Energy Working Group held on 6 April 2022 meeting notes were reviewed and noted.

TE 27/22 Thomas Coram Church of England School

- (i) Committee thanked the staff and pupils from Thomas Coram Church of England School, for the valuable feedback raising important environmental issues around town. Letters of appreciation will be sent to the pupils who wrote the letters. **Action – Town Clerk**

TE 28/22 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.07 hours.

Signed

Date