

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held via 'Zoom' remote video conferencing,

On Monday 30 November 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 19.46 hrs)

Castle Trust P Matthews (left meeting at 19.56hrs)

Loqi Digital Platform M Lindop (left meeting at 20.24 hrs)

Officer: T Noakes – Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr M Hardinge

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

TE 74/20 Hertfordshire County Councillor I Reay

- (i) Cllr I Reay explained that he had applied for Lower Kings Road to be included in the 20mph zone.

- (ii) The data had been received for the Bridgewater Road no parking extension project and was currently being analysed. The significant reduction in rail commuter volume due to Covid-19 has raised some questions about the likely accuracy of the data at this point in time.

TE 75/20 Berkhamsted Castle Trust

An update was provided by P Matthews as follows:

Despite the lockdown and the weather, people, especially families are coming into the Castle for walks, or in the case of the children running around a lot. The Castle has suffered from low level vandalism and anti-social behaviour but after meetings and vigilance from the PCSO this appears to have stopped.

- (i) Crystal Palace - The first application to register the Crystal Palace as an AVC failed, however BCT has re-applied with a strengthened application to use the Crystal Palace as a Pub and a community centre or visitors centre for the Castle and the Heritage hub. The Committee noted that there has been support from individual councillors for this.
- (ii) Air Ambulance- The site was used as a landing for an air ambulance attending an emergency.
- (iii) Heritage Open Days - Despite COVID restrictions the Trust has managed to run 4 guided tours. These were successful thanks to the excellence of the guide, Ken. Social distancing required a limit of 6 for each of the tours.
- (iv) MP's Visit - The local MP Gagan Mohindra made his first visit to the Castle.
- (v) Calendar Sale - The sale of calendars and other Castle branded memorabilia went well and justified the use of a stall on the Market.
- (vi) Annual Report - The Trust has filed its annual report for 2019 with the Charity Commission.
- (vii) Well Condition Survey - A well condition survey of the Castle's 2 wells was carried out by English Heritage for the first time in a number of years. Discussions are ongoing regarding the repair/replacement of the fencing around the wells and the ironwork. The Trust is keen for the wells to be cleaned and emptied of rubbish.
- (viii) Herts Highway – The Trust has met with Herts Highways about their CCTV survey of the drainage arrangements. The Trust is working with them to design an engineering solution to reduce the flooding by the railway bridge. Councillors asked if this would be a permanent solution.
- (ix) Local Nature Reserve - At the last T&E meeting the Trust asked the Council if they would make an application for the creation of a local nature reserve. This action is still outstanding. The Chair acknowledged this and promised action in the future.

Action – Town Clerk

Opening Matters and Governance:

TE 69/20 To receive **apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr A Peeler.

TE 70/20 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

None reported.

TE 71/20 The **minutes of the meeting** held on 12 October 2020 were approved.

- (i) There was one additional action from the recorded minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2020. Cllr W Conian was to liaise with Berkhamsted School about how the school bus congestion could be eased on Castle Street. This discussion has now taken place.

TE 72/20 **Chair's Communications**

- (i) 'B-Hive' Civic Centre project letter to DBC – Councillors generally supportive and BTC involvement to be endorsed at the next FC 11 January 2021. **Action – Town Clerk**
- (ii) London North Western Railway/HCC railway station developments.
- (iii) Cllrs have seen the photographs of the tremendous work Sarah Garrett has done with the Angle Passage Flower Bed. A letter of thanks is to be sent. **Action – Town Clerk**

TE 73/20 **Public Participation**

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

No members of the public were present.

TRANSPORT

TE 76/20 A presentation to T&E was delivered by Matt Lindop from Berkhamsted start-up Loql, of how their digital platform and EV pilot could help local businesses on our high street. It was agreed that liaising with Berkhamsted Chamber of Commerce could help further communication of the project.

Action – Town Clerk

TE 77/20 **DBC Transport Strategy Response** – A discussion took place and it was agreed that a formal response would be sent to the consultants delivering the DBC transport strategy and a copy to DBC. The letter would raise BTC concerns about the strategy's lack of ambition and failure to tackle the fundamental issue of under capacity in the local transport infrastructure.

Action – Cllr W Conian and Town Clerk

TE 78/20 Covid - 19 Social Distancing Options for Berkhamsted – A discussion took place about the project and the following was noted /agreed:

- (i) Cllrs were informed about a High Street walk through of the potential changes on the 9th December 2020 with BCA and Berkhamsted Heritage.
- (ii) A final proposal with costs will be presented to FC on 11 January 2021.
- (iii) Inform the Parking Forum of the proposals and seek comment.

Action - Cllr W Conian & Town Clerk

ENVIRONMENT

TE 79/20 BTC Climate Emergency Event 2021 – It was agreed that the formation of an event team to plan the 2021 event was required. A note would be sent to Cllrs asking for volunteers. **Action – Cllr W Conian & Town Clerk**

TE 80/20 Habitat Projects Update – An update on the Greene Field Road, the Moor and Bulbourne/Canal projects was given by Cllr W Conian. Progress on all projects will be included in future external communications. Cllrs would like to register their thanks for the assistance provided by Fran Donaldson and the Berkhamsted Garden Society and Transition Town Berkhamsted.

TE 81/20 Environmental Grants Scheme Proposal – A review of the draft environmental grant’s proposal as an addition/alternative to the current model of environmental project delivery had taken place by Cllrs. There was an agreement that it met the BTC Climate Emergency strategy. Points raised included:

- (i) Governance/Grant review will require a 2-step approval process. Town Clerk to review. **Action – Town Clerk**
- (ii) FC will need to agree the total Environmental Grant fund for 2021/22 as part of the budget process. **Action - FC**

TE 82/20 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.23hrs

Minutes approved at remote meeting on

Signed

Date

T&E Committee Minutes Actions – 30 November 2020

Reference	Action	Complete	Outstanding - Responsibility
75/20	The Council will make an application for the creation of a local nature reserve at the Castle.		Town Clerk
72/20	BTC involvement in the B-Hive Civic Centre project to be endorsed at the next FC, 11 January 2021.		Town Clerk
72/20	A letter of thanks is to be sent for the work completed at the Angle Passage Flower Bed.		Town Clerk
76/20	Forward contact details of the BDCC to Matt Lindop.	✓	Town Clerk
77/20	Response to DBC Transport Strategy to be sent.		Cllr W Conian & Town Clerk
78/20	Final proposal for High Street parking changes to be ready for FC 11 January 2021.		Cllr W Conian & Town Clerk
79/20	Note to Councillors requesting support for 2021 Climate Emergency event.		Town Clerk
81/20	Propose Environmental Grant review process		Town Clerk
81/20	FC need to agree the Environmental Grant Fund total for 2021/22.		FC