

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

on **Monday 30 January 2017** at **7.30 pm**

MEMBERS:

Councillors: P Matthews (Chairman)
A Armytage
S Beardshaw
E Collins
P Matthews
G Yearwood

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: G Corry
I Reay
G Stevens

OFFICER: Mrs J Mason – Town Clerk

1 member of the public was present

OPENING MATTERS

TE 01/17 Apologies for absence

These were received from Cllr S Bateman and Cllr F Earl.

TE 02/17 Declarations of Interest regarding items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest

TE 03/17 Approval of the **minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2016**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and were duly signed as such by the Chairman.

TE 04/17 The actions taken following the 14 November 2016 meeting, not covered elsewhere on the agenda, were **noted**:

- (i) TE 68/16 ii CIL/ S106 Payments – Although no further projects were advised, those identified at the 14 November meeting were referred to the F & P Committee for inclusion in budget discussions.

- (ii) TE 65/16 ii – Defibrillators in Berkhamsted: DBC’s estates department staff have drafted the licence that will enable a defibrillator to be installed at the front of the Civic Centre. DBC’s Development Control department has also confirmed the Town Clerk’s view that the installation would be permitted development unconstrained by the Conservation Area location;
- (iii) TE 65/16 (iii) – Possible Traffic Survey: Due to pressure of other business the Chairman will pursue the exercise with volunteers in the next Council year;
- (iv) TE 74/16 - Disruption to Traffic Flows through Berkhamsted from Northchurch when the M1 is Blocked or Congested – In an e-mail dated 13 November 2016 the Town Clerk advised Rob Smith (Deputy Director, Environment, HCC) that the Town Council’s assertions regarding the recurrence of the disruption to traffic flows were based on complaints and observations. Mr Smith has agreed to continue to ask ITCC staff to monitor the situation.

TE 05/17 Chair’s Communications

- (i) Chiltern Society Press Release 139 - Housing tidal wave threatens our special Chilterns countryside. (e-mailed to Councillors 23 January 2017);
- (ii) Affinity Water - Water Saving Programme, 5 January e-mail enclosing information about the programme (e-mailed to Councillors 23 January 2017);
- (iii) News from the Wildlife Trust - January 2017 (e-mailed to Councillors 10 January 2017);
- (iv) Hertfordshire and West Essex Sustainability and Transformation Plan, 14 December documents from Tom Cahill, Chief Executive, NHS East and North Hertfordshire CCG (e-mailed to Councillors 19 December 2016) -
Cllr Yearwood undertook to review further the information contained in the above communication and forward his appraisal to Councillors. It would then be decided whether the matter should be referred to a Committee for discussion. Alternatively, it might be necessary to call an extraordinary meeting;
- (v) Hertfordshire Health Walks January – April 2017 (e-mailed to Councillors 19 December 2016);
- (vi) CDA Herts December eBulletin (e-mailed to Councillors 19 December 2016);
- (vii) Hospice of St Francis e-mail update, 2 December 2016;
- (viii) DBC “Conversation Cafe” invitation, 7 December 2016;

- (ix) Hertfordshire County Council approves e-cig policy, press release 24 November 2016;
- (x) Minutes of the Dacorum Environmental Forum quarterly meeting Thursday Nov 10th 2016 (e-mailed to Councillors 21 November 2016);
- (xi) Highways spruce-up passes halfway milestone, press release 21 November 2016 (e-mailed to Councillors 21 November 2016);
- (xii) Community Action Dacorum 1 December 2016 Annual General Meeting invitation (e-mailed to Councillors 21 November 2016).

TE 06/17 Public Participation

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to invite **public participation** on items on the agenda during the course of the meeting.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 07/17 Berkhamsted Castle Update

- i. Land adjacent to main Castle site: It was **noted** that Tim Cockerill of English Heritage has had no further discussions with the land owners and will be making further contact with them.
- ii. Bronze bust of William I: It was **noted** that a location is still being sought to site the bust in the Town. The donor had been kept apprised of Cllr Yearwood's on-going discussions with Beechcroft, the developers of the site on the corner of Kings Road and the High Street. However, Cllr Yearwood had just been advised by Beechwood's Technical Manager that although he was impressed by the sculpture it could not be mounted on the building's facade.
- iii. Castle Site Working Party: It was **noted** that a date is currently being arranged for the first meeting of the working party tasked with making recommendations arising from English Heritage's wish that aspects of site maintenance be transferred to local management. The initial meeting would be a scoping exercise when terms of reference would be agreed. Members of the Castle Liaison Group would be invited to this meeting and as discussions progress representatives from other organisations and appropriate experts would be invited to attend further meetings.

The Chairman suspended standing orders to enable Mr J Waller to speak.

Mr Waller referred to a paper he had presented to the Town Council in February 2003 and provided a copy to the Town Clerk who undertook to issue it to Town Councillors. In that paper he had proposed that the Castle should be under the control of local people. He remained strongly committed to this view and hoped that Berkhamsted Town Council would

take more responsibility for the Castle. He looked forward to attending further meetings on the subject.

Thanking Mr Waller for his contribution the Chairman reinstated standing orders and the meeting resumed.

iv. **Events Committee**

To **note** that a meeting has been scheduled for Friday 17 February at 10.30 am.

It was reported that Herts Cycling, under the auspices of the County Council, had been hoping to hold another event at the Castle as part of a countryside initiative. However, funding problems had been encountered and plans had stalled whilst alternative support was sought.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to an application for Heritage Lottery funding from the Berkhamsted Heritage Hub. Cllr Reay raised the possibility that the group might seek to involve the Town Council at some stage.

TRANSPORT

TE 08/17 Traffic Lights at the Junction of the High Street, Kings Road and Lower Kings Road

In an e-mail exchange dated 29 November 2016 between DBC's David Skinner and the Town Clerk, Mr Skinner had been asked for a commitment to the early implementation of the no waiting/ loading restrictions in Lower Kings Road and the commencement of discussions with HCC in order to achieve the implementation of these restrictions as a matter of urgency. Mr Skinner replied that DBC has been pursuing HCC for the final version of the signed Section 106 agreement that contains the definitive requirements. Once in receipt of the documentation then DBC would commence the consultation process. It was now understood that the s106 agreement was in place. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should contact Mr Skinner to ensure that the necessary actions to implement the no waiting/loading restrictions were underway.

TE 09/17 Parking Forum

- i. Next Parking Forum Meeting: It was **noted** that a meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 1 March 2017 at 7.30 pm.
- ii. To **note** that members have requested that discussions be resumed regarding additional kerbside parking spaces in Charles Street, Park View Road and Cowper Road together with problems caused by existing kerb side parking. These matters were the subject of a Parking Forum report in November 2014.

TE 10/17 Twenty mile per hour speed zones

- (i) Cllr I Reay updated the Committee on Hertfordshire County Council's policy on 20 mph speed zones. He hoped that a scheme might be introduced to Berkhamsted in 2018, funded via the HCC Localities Budget. The proposals were to improve safety on narrow roads and adjacent to schools. He had received representations from members of the public in the area which included Ellesmere Road, George Street, Bank Mill, Chapel Street and Station Road and these streets would form the nucleus of the initial scheme. In time, other roads might also be included. The majority of the roads are adopted, however, those stretches of unadopted highway would have to be subject to a survey of existing vehicle numbers and speeds.

- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed in principle to the introduction of 20 mph zones, subject to detailed proposals and consultation.

TE 11/17 The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....