

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

On Monday 13 August 2018 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors: T Ritchie (Chair)
S Bateman
D Collins
G Corry (substituting for Cllr F Earl)
G Yearwood

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: G Stevens

Officer: J Mason – Town Clerk

OPENING MATTERS

TE 67/18 To receive **apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Earl, Cllr P Matthews and Cllr I Reay.

TE 68/18 To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda

None.

TE 69/18 To approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 11 June 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and were duly signed as such by the Chair.

TE 70/18 Actions taken following the 11 June meeting

The following items were noted as set out in the Clerk's report attached to the agenda:

TE 58/18 Plastic Free Berko: Cllr Janice Marshall had met with several members of the group at The Forum on 19 July. The group's leader reported back that "the main issue was how local authorities right up to the County Councils could identify a stream of refuse that includes genuinely compostable forms of plastic".

A volunteer to join the steering group was still being sought from Town Councillors although it was understood that Cllr B Newton would be interested. The Town Clerk would follow this up with Cllr Newton. **Action Town Clerk**

TE 59/18 Play area at Normandy Drive/Dellfield: Work started on 6 August and is progressing well according to the installers on site. Prior to commencement the Town Warden circulated a note from the Town Council to Normandy Drive residents alerting them to the fact that work would be starting and that there would be a storage container located on the green in their road for the duration of the work; the surfacing material might also be prepared there. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has also been alerted as such sites can sometimes attract vandals.

TE 63/18 Winter gritting regime – Cllr Yearwood had contacted Cllr Reay with the data for further analysis by HCC.

TE 71/18 Chair's Communications

- (i) Chiltern Conservation Board - annual review and magazine
- (ii) Visit Herts | Our News and Activity
- (iii) LLATVCC News Sheet, Newsletter 50, July 2018 regarding the expansion of Luton Airport
- (iv) Rectory Lane Cemetery news bulleting July 2018 entitled "Rectory Lane Cemetery Project - Transformation truly underway"
- (v) Herts County Council – Walking in Herts bulletin August 2018
- (vi) Herts County Council - July edition of Public Health eNews
- (vii) HAPTC Bulletin July 20th
- (viii) Chilterns Heritage Festival
- (ix) HAPTC Bulletin July 27th
- (x) Fairtrade Berkhamsted closure – e-mail from the Fair Trade Foundation (forwarded by Mr C Talbot-Ponsonby) advising of a year's grace, with effect from 11 July 2018. During the year the Berkhamsted Group could be reconvened if volunteers should come forward.

TE 72/18 Public Participation

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

There were no members of the public present.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 73/18 Play streets – Encouraging outdoor play

- (i) To **receive** an update on this initiative from Cllr Stevens

Cllr Stevens advised that he had been motivated to raise this issue by a recent article about the benefits of play streets in a recent Waitrose newsletter. He was also aware of successful schemes in both Tring and St Albans. The necessary road closures for play street events would be facilitated through HCC. The Town Clerk had been in touch with the Tring organisers who had provided a wealth of useful information and were willing to be of further assistance. The introduction of such a scheme in Berkhamsted would depend on the level of local interest and volunteers coming forward.

- (ii) To **consider** how take up of the scheme might be encouraged in Berkhamsted

Following a discussion it was **agreed** that views on the possible introduction of play streets in Berkhamsted would be sought via the forthcoming newsletter. School governor bodies/PTAs would also be consulted. In the meantime further information would be collated on the practicalities of implementing the scheme. It was also **proposed** that Cllr Ritchie and another member of the Committee should visit Tring to meet with organisers.

Action: Town Clerk; Cllr T Ritchie and AN Other.

TE 74/18 Disused football changing room in Gossoms End

- (i) To **receive** a report from Cllr Bateman on the state of the changing room following his recent correspondence with a member of the public

Cllr Bateman advised that he was in agreement with the member of the public about the state of the changing rooms which he described as being equally disgusting when he had played football at the fields some 50 years ago. Cllr Corry added that the matter had been raised before and that the building was a magnet for anti-social behaviour. During discussion it was established that the fields were well used by teams at weekends and it would be beneficial to players and neighbouring residents if the facilities could be open and serviceable during matches.

- (ii) To **consider** and agree steps that might be taken to improve the building and surrounds.

It was agreed that Cllr Collins would make enquiries at DBC (who ran the facility) regarding bookings, capacity, why the building was in such a bad state of repair and what might be done to rectify matters, with a view to making the building available during matches. **Action Cllr D Collins**

TE 75/18 Berkhamsted School – Volunteering

- (i) To **receive** an update from the Town Clerk on recent discussions with the Community Service Coordinator for Berkhamsted School

Kathryn Tomlin, Community Service Coordinator and English Teacher, Berkhamsted School, had met with the Town Clerk on 27 June and had prepared a brief explaining the objectives of Berkhamsted School's Community Service initiative which is set out below:

- My role is to promote / organise / facilitate pupil volunteers in actions that support the local community (Berkhamsted town but also further afield: we have supported projects in Hemel and Watford)
- We aim to instil in our pupils the school value of serving others and be a useful resource for the town
- I am looking for more placements for Year 13 (age 17 and 18) volunteers in the local community for one hour a week between mid-November and April.
 - o Year 13 pupils are already volunteering in charity shops, primary schools (including 2 special needs schools in Hemel), St Francis Hospice, Ashlyns Care Home, Sunnyside Rural Trust, Open Door Community Space
 - o Placements for Year 13 volunteers need to assure that an adult is present at all times and sign a health and safety check-list
 - o References for pupils can be provided if necessary
 - I am looking for opportunities for small groups of younger pupils (between age 11- 17) with volunteering opportunities in the local community at one-off events (i.e. litter picking after an event, serving refreshments at events, envelope filling or distributing, providing company or entertainment for senior citizens).
 - o Depending on the timing and duties undertaken, we may be able to provide a member/s of staff as the adult present. If pupils are not in the public view a DBS check may be needed for supervising adults.

- (ii) To **express** support for the volunteering initiative

The Committee **gave its unanimous support** to the initiative

- (iii) To **suggest** possible volunteering opportunities to feed back to the Community Service Coordinator

It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk should progress discussions on the opportunities already raised (eg Festival of Light). In addition Councillors would also raise the matter with other organisations of which they were members and then feedback any other volunteering suggestions to the Town Clerk, for forwarding to Ms Tomlin.

Action Town Clerk; Councillors.

TE 76/18 Neighbourhood Policing Stall Saturday 18 August 2018

It was **noted** that the local police will be staffing a stall at the market on Saturday 18 August 2018 to advise on crime prevention action that individuals can take to avoid being victims of criminal activity such as pick pocketing and card fraud.

A number of councillors had received feedback from concerned members of the public, some of whom had been victims of crime, so this initiative was welcomed. Indeed, the Town Council had agreed to pay the stall hire cost to demonstrate support.

TRANSPORT

TE 77/18 Parking Forum Issues

Multi storey Car Park project update (Cllr T Ritchie)

The main update concerned the planning application for the additional temporary parking on The Moor during the construction of the multi storey car park in Lower Kings Road. The application had been received during the previous week and would be considered by the Town Planning Committee at its meeting on Tuesday 28 August 2018. The 21 day consultation period closes on 29 August. As this is a Dacorum Borough Council application it will not be decided under delegated authority but will be discussed at the Development Management Meeting, scheduled for 6 September 2018. It was noted that members of the public would need to be reassured that use of The Moor was temporary and the site would be reinstated to park land as soon as possible. Statements by WYG in their documentation about Berkhamsted being well endowed with green space is a little misleading as it had been well established that the Town is short of publicly accessible open space.

Huber's access to the Lower Kings Road site is scheduled at this stage for 8 October. WYG would be responsible for the discharge of all planning conditions.

TE 78/18 Parking in disabled bays by market stall holders

To **receive** and **consider** proposals from Cllr Corry

Cllr Corry reported that this issue was still a problem despite previous representation to Berkhamsted Market Fund and the market manager and assurances received that the situation would be remedied. She also noted that there was a sign outside WH Smith's advising that there should be no loading at any time. Clarification was needed on what could and could not be done in terms of parking and loading. Cllr Collins had also undertaken some investigations and had been advised that the disabled parking bays were advisory and so could not be enforced. The possibility of installing yellow, enforceable lining around the bays could be a possibility but this would involve a costly consultation process. Cllr Collins would make further investigations in this respect.

Action: Cllr Collins

It was agreed to ask Cllr Reay and one other councillor to meet with Colin Witt in an effort once again to escalate the matter. **Action: Cllr Reay; AN Other**

TE 79/18 Displays of produce and goods outside premises in the High Street

To **receive** and **consider** proposals from Cllr Corry

Given the proliferation of tables, seating, A boards and goods outside premises along the High Street, Cllr Corry requested that clarification be sought as to whether the appropriate permissions had been sought be they through the planning process, an HCC café licence or the Market Fund. She pointed out that pedestrians could be impeded by such items, which could be particularly problematic for blind or partially sighted residents and those with buggies or disability scooters.

A fine balancing act was needed to achieve an obstacle free yet thriving High Street. It was **agreed** that details of what areas of High Street activity required permissions from which organisations would be sought for further discussion at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Corry/Town Clerk**

TE 80/18 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....