

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

on **Monday 14 November 2016 at 7.30 pm**

MEMBERS:

Councillors: P Matthews (Chairman)
A Armytage
S Beardshaw
E Collins
F Earl
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 62/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Bateman.

TE 63/16 Declarations of Interest regarding items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

TE 64/16 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2016

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

TE 65/16 The actions taken following the 22 August 2016 meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda were **noted** as set out below:

- i. TE 47/16 (iv) - Replacement of Mature Trees in High Street: The DBC officer has now met with a representative from HCC to look at sites and checks are being undertaken for underground services;
- ii. TE 39/16 (v) – Defibrillators in Berkhamsted: DBC’s estates department are looking at the Town Clerk’s request that the defibrillator be installed at the front of the Civic Centre. Development Control and Conservation Team staff at Dacorum Borough Council have confirmed that the installation would be permitted development unconstrained by the Conservation Area location;
- iii. TE 47/16 (vi) – Possible Traffic Survey: The exercise with volunteers has still to be arranged. The Chairman undertook to make enquiries of a local group who had organised a similar exercise using volunteers;
- iv. TE 48/16 (viii) Chiltern Conservation Project Documenting Rights of Way – A response is awaited.

TE 66/16 Chair’s Communications

- i. Hertfordshire County Council: Hertfordshire’s health walkers walk five times around the world. 4 October 2016 news release.
- ii. Herts Valleys Voices October 2016 from Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (to Councillors 10 October 2016);
- iii. Herts County Council - Can you help us stop rogue traders targeting vulnerable people in Hertfordshire? (to Councillors 14 October 2016);
- iv. Dacorum Highways Locality Meeting agenda 1 November 2016 (to Councillors 24 October 2016): Cllr Stevens reported that attendees had been informed that arising from the A1416 Water End HGV ban, a link between the A5 and the M1 is scheduled to be opened in the spring which should in theory reduce vehicles over 7.5 tonnes entering the town from the Leighton Buzzard direction.
- v. New action plan to tackle fly-tipping from Keep Britain Tidy (to Councillors 26 October 2016);
- vi. Invitation to Meeting Hertfordshire's Challenges event - Thursday 1st December 2016 from Herts County Council (to Councillors 31 October 2016);
- vii. BCA Event - Wednesday 16th November – “Love Berkhamsted” (to Councillors 4 November 2016);
- viii. Steve Backshall is our new ambassador- from Keep Britain Tidy to Councillors 31 October 2016);
- ix. Feedback on public presentation at Civic Centre about the local hospital provisions (e-mailed to Councillors 20 October 2016);
- x. War memorial at St Michael and All Angels Church, Berkhamsted: Notification 1 November 2016 of Designation Decision from Historic England (listed Grade II);
- xi. Berkhamsted War Memorial, Corner of High Street and Church Lane, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire – Notification from Historic

- England dated 1 November 2016 awarded Listed Building Status (listed Grade II);
- xii. Inns of Court Officers Training Corps Memorial, Berkhamsted Common, Junction of New Road and Potten End Road, Berkhamsted Golf Course, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire – Notification from Historic England dated 1 November 2016 awarded Listed Building Status (listed Grade II);
 - xiii. Hertfordshire County Council Local Bus Budget Issues together with a copy of note to Dacorum members – October 2016 (to Councillors 2 November 2016);
 - xiv. Site for Breast Screening Unit – The Town Clerk advised that she had been in correspondence with staff at Luton and Dunstable University Hospital who are having difficulty finding a site to locate the unit in the Town for a screening programme early in 2017. The Committee agreed that the car parking spaces previously rented to the NHS and adjacent to Lagley Meadow Youth Centre might possibly be an appropriate site. LDUH staff will be invited to visit the site to assess suitability;
 - xv. Proposed Junction Improvements, Kings Road, Shootersway Consultation – The consultation letter to local residents and businesses from HCC dated 14 November 2016 had been circulated to Councillors and will be discussed at the Town Planning Committee meeting on 21 November 2016. The closing date for comments is 9 December 2016.

TE 67/16 Public Participation

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

The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

ENVIRONMENT

TE 68/16 CIL / S106 Payments:

- i. It was **noted** that £8,131.50 has now been received from DBC in CIL payments collected from the period 1 April - 30 September 2016.
- ii. Possible projects were discussed in the light of the CIL Guidance Notes for Town and Parish Councils which had been circulated with the agenda and the previously advised indications of the CIL payments anticipated. New play equipment for the site adjacent to Dellfield allotments and repairs to the astro turf mini pitch, goal ends and fencing at Lagley Meadow should be included in a schedule of schemes.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors should e-mail any further suggestions to the Town Clerk within the next week. She will then draw up a schedule which would be presented to the

Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 5 December 2016 during budget discussions.

TE 69/16 Berkhamsted Castle

- i. To **note** the resolution agreed at Full Council on 26 September 2016 that the Town Council:
 - a. Would express an interest in accepting ownership of land adjacent to the main castle site
 - b. Would enter into further discussions with appropriate parties
 - c. Seek appropriate legal advice. (FC 99/16 refers);

- ii. Castle Site: Cllr Beardshaw presented an update on issues relating to the land containing outer earth works adjacent to the Castle and future management of the Castle site. The donation of the additional strip of land would be a great opportunity for the Town. Future upkeep of the site would be costly and maintenance should be based on the results of an ecological survey.

- iii. As agreed at Full Council on 26 September 2016 it was **RESOLVED** that a working group be established by T&E Committee to make recommendations arising from English Heritage's wish that site maintenance be transferred to local management. (FC100/16 refers.) Membership will be drawn initially from the Castle Liaison Group; The Chiltern Society; Friends of St Peter's / Rectory Lane Group; the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Council members will be Cllr Matthews and Cllr Beardshaw. The Chairman and Clerk will compose and issue invitations. The Clerk will also update Tim Cockerill of English Heritage.

Action: Chairman/Town Clerk

- iv. To **receive** an update from the Town Clerk following recent discussions with Tim Cockerill of English Heritage

It was reported that Mr Cockerill has been in further discussions with the owners of the additional strip of land. Future grounds maintenance costs were now being considered and the need for an ecological survey.

- v. Bronze bust of William I: To **consider** the following outdoor sites for the bust which have been suggested by the donor:
 - i. the grassy area between the school and the Church in Castle Street;
 - ii. the Moor by the canal towpath.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Susan Johnson, the Berkhamsted Citizens' representative on the Castle Liaison Group stating that the first site was inappropriate whilst the Moor site, although less contentious, would be open to theft. Jenny Sherwood of Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society had also e-mailed and expressed the view that both sites seemed inappropriate. The Society will consider other sites at their next meeting in a few weeks' time.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that both sites were problematic in terms of security and potential vandalism. Additionally, the site adjacent to the school and church would require permission from the Church of England and/or Berkhamsted School. The Town Clerk was asked to advise the donor of this decision and inform him that other sites would be considered. In the meantime, Cllr Yearwood agreed to speak to the developers of the site at the junction with the High Street and Kings Road to see if there might be an opportunity to position the bust within the new development in a position that would be visible from the outside of the building

Action: Town Clerk/Cllr Yearwood

TE 70/16 Events Committee

It was **noted** that:

- i. No further meetings had been held.
- ii. A meeting is being planned for early in the New Year to discuss the programme for the Castle.

TE 71/16 The Annual Report on Angle Passage Flower Bed

The report prepared by Mrs Sarah Garrett was **received**. The accompanying photographs illustrated the excellence of the work Mrs Garrett carries out on behalf of Berkhamsted residents. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Mrs Garrett and thank her for tending the flower beds and maintaining such high standards.

TE 72/16 Birtchnell's Copse

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on recent maintenance at the copse. A Sunnyside Allotment Society working party had spent a day working on site the weekend before last. Tasks undertaken had included the clearing of sycamore saplings, hazel coppicing and general clearance. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should send a letter of thanks to the Association.

TRANSPORT

TE 73/16 Traffic Lights at the Junction of the High Street, Kings Road and Lower Kings Road

A letter dated 4 November 2016 from Rob Smith, Deputy Director – Environment (Highways), Hertfordshire County Council was **received**. This was in response to the Town Clerk's 19 October letter in which two issues had been raised.

First, the problem with the phasing of the traffic lights at the junction. It had been requested that the phasing be corrected as soon as possible and should not be left until adjustments resulting from the new car park were necessitated. Mr Smith advised that part of the equipment and monitoring system which controls the signals needing replacing. These works should have taken place by the end of November. As a result of this work the timings of the signals will be adjusted to minimise delays where possible.

The second issue was also associated with the car park project; as part of the plan to reduce congestion on Lower Kings Road, new 'no waiting/loading' restrictions are to be implemented. It would be helpful to undertake these as soon as possible irrespective of any construction. Mr Smith had advised in his 4 November letter that HCC had no objections to this proposal subject to the necessary consultation and arrangements being in place. In a subsequent telephone conversation Geoff Bailey had advised the Town Clerk that in order to proceed, the Town Council would have to secure the commitment of Dacorum Borough Council as they are the promoters of this work.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman would raise the matter with the Portfolio holder at DBC the following day to seek support for the proposal. He will advise the Town Clerk of the outcome of these discussions. In any event, the Town Clerk will then write to DBC to ask them to liaise with HCC to implement the proposals.

TE 74/16 Disruption to Traffic Flows through Berkhamsted from Northchurch when the M1 is Blocked or Congested

- i. A letter dated 24 October 2016 from Rob Smith, Deputy Director – Environment (Highways), Hertfordshire County Council was **received** in response to the Town Clerk's 19 October letter.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should respond to Mr Smith's request for further evidence supporting the claim that traffic is diverted through Berkhamsted when the traffic M1 is blocked. She will explain that the evidence is based on complaints and observation.

TE 75/16 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....