

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

On Monday 23 April 2018 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors: S Beardshaw (Chair)
S Bateman
F Earl
P Matthews
I Reay
G Yearwood

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: G Corry
G Stevens

Officer: J Mason – Town Clerk

OPENING MATTERS

TE 32/18 Apologies for absence

These were received from Cllr T Ritchie.

TE 33/18 Declarations of Interest regarding items on the agenda

None.

TE 34/18 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018

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

TE 35/18 Actions taken following the 19 March meeting and briefing notes on other items on the agenda were set out in the Town Clerk's report attached to the agenda.

TE 36/18 Chair's Communications

- (i) HS2 News from Chiltern Countryside Group: Public Meeting 26 March
- (ii) Walking in Hertfordshire – April

- (iii) Diabetes Awareness: Berkhamsted Joint Practices' Patient Participation Group, have organised a public meeting in Berkhamsted on Monday 30 April from 7pm in the Civic Centre, 161 High Street.
- (iv) CDA Herts eBulletin March 2018
- (v) News from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust - April 2018
- (vi) Springing into action at Rectory Lane Cemetery – newsletter and appeal for volunteers
- (vii) Chiltern Society Spring Newsletter
- (viii) Berkhamsted Young Business Network launch event: 25 April

It was noted that Cllr Beardshaw would be attending in her capacity as Deputy Mayor and would provide Councillors with further information by e-mail after the event.
- (ix) Affinity Water - Draft Business Plan and Water Resources Management Plan

TE 37/18 Public Participation

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

ENVIRONMENT

TE 38/18 Replacement of trees in High Street – update

Preparations had been made at five sites although the pit outside Papa John's still has a tree stump in it and the remains of an unmapped (but dead) electrical cable. That site had recently and surprisingly been covered with tarmac and the Town Clerk would be contacting DBC to find out if this was anticipated as a permanent measure and whether the site had now been deemed unsuitable for planting.

Action Town Clerk

Planting had now taken place at three sites and the reaction from members of the public on planting day had been very supportive. Assurances had also been given to a nearby property owner that the adjacent birch tree was of compact habit and would be kept pruned back from awnings.

Concern was expressed about DBC's watering regime and Cllr Yearwood kindly agreed to water regularly the two trees to the West of the junction and the Town Clerk would seek a volunteer for the third tree on the East side.

Action Cllr Yearwood/Town Clerk

TE 39/18 Play area at Normandy Drive/ Dellfield – update

DBC's officer is in the process of contacting three companies (Wicksteed, Proludic and Kompan) to see if they would like to quote. Once the quotes have been received they will be sent to procurement and a choice made. DBC is

more than happy to send the designs over for the Town Council to review. The next stage would be sorting out the detail of installation dates and such like.

TE 40/18 Requirement for Fencing around The Moor Play Area in Berkhamsted

A letter dated 3 April letter from the Town Clerk to David Austin regarding the fencing around the play area had strongly reiterated the Town Council's arguments and had drawn attention to the impact of additional temporary parking on the East side of The Moor during the construction phase of the new car park. (This matter was also raised with James Deane when he was advised by e-mail of the Town Council's support of the proposal to provide temporary additional parking at The Moor.)

In his 20 April e-mail Mr Austin had said he was minded to support the view of the play area inspection company, namely that the need for fencing was not identified as a significant issue and that he was minded, therefore, to accept their view at the current time. Regarding the temporary parking proposal (which has still to be approved) any such parking would be cordoned/fenced off to minimise the potential conflict between vehicles and users of the open space. Therefore, he did not see this as a justification for the erection of permanent fencing round the play area. He undertook to bring the Town Council's comments on the above to the further attention of colleagues at DBC.

Following a discussion, the Committee agreed that this was not satisfactory and further action was needed. Indeed, Cllr Earl was so concerned about the state of the extant metal fencing between the area and the Bulbourne she was prepared to take action personally to make that particular stretch safe. The difference between a cordon and a fence was also discussed, the first sounding quite inadequate. Clarification was needed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would advise Mr Austin of the Town Council's very serious concerns, reiterate the request for fencing and also seek more information from the car park project team about the fencing/cordon proposals between the parking area and the open space.

Action Town Clerk.

TE 41/18 Castle Site Working Group – updates

- (i) Land transfer event 11 May 2018

It was **noted** that invitations have now been sent out to the event on 11 May to gift the Mallinckrodt land to Berkhamsted Castle Trust;

- (ii) Letter to English Heritage's Chief Executive regarding funding for the Conservation Management Plan

A letter to English Heritage's Chief Executive had been sent on 11 April and a response had yet to be received. The Town Clerk would be chasing this up in the coming week.

Action Town Clerk

- (iii) It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council representatives on the working group should meet as soon as they could with a view to making

recommendations on its own terms of reference and also membership of Berkhamsted Castle Trust. Such recommendation would be made, if possible, to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on 21 May 2018.

TE 42/18 CIL Working Group

- (i) Notes of the meeting held on 13 April 2018

These were **received and approved** subject to it being noted at Cllr Yearwood's suggestion that DBC officers had advised that the CIL funds received could have increased to around £100,000 in total by October 2018 (currently £67,000). He was also disappointed to read that the notes stated that the survey of residents proposed had not progressed as yet and a discussion ensued about the best way to achieve this end.

- (ii) To **consider** future action.

Cllr Yearwood undertook to prepare proposals for the consultation process for which he was thanked. The next CIL Working Group meeting is on 13 July 2018.

Action Cllr Yearwood.

TE 43/18 Hertfordshire Pudding Stone near Heron Place

A local resident had been in contact with a proposal to retrieve the stone which has been revealed following clearing of vegetation at its location near the canal. The resident had suggested seeking permission to remove the boulder to a more prominent and suitable position. He also suggested that an information plaque should be installed about this rare and ancient geological phenomenon.

Following a discussion the Committee **RESOLVED** that before an expensive removal and relocation project was considered, investigations should take into the possibility of protecting the stone in situ, perhaps with an instrument akin to SSI status.

Action Town Clerk

TE 44/18 Japanese Knotweed – Use of Community Protection Orders

Advice from DBC's Legal Governance Team Leader which had been attached with the agenda was **received and noted**.

TRANSPORT

TE 45 /18 Parking Forum Issues

- (i) Multi Storey Car Park – In Cllr Ritchie's absence there was no further update although it **was noted** that a DBC/HCC site meeting was taking place during the week to discuss temporary parking on The Moor during construction.
- (ii) Double yellow lining Chapel Street – recent complaints received by Councillors about newly installed double yellow lines **were considered**.

Cllr Reay confirmed that HCC was currently progressing requests for double yellow lines around Hilltop. The Chapel Street/Riverside lines had been installed by DBC following problems expressed by residents and a lengthy consultation process.

TE 46 /18 Potholes in Berkhamsted

Feedback was **received** from HCC following an enquiry made by the Town Council about the possibility of setting a budget for funding some pothole repairs to supplement HCC activity in Berkhamsted. HCC's Localities Officer has advised that the establishment of a Town Council budget to fund some pot hole repairs was **not possible** because of safety, logistical and contractual reasons. In addition, the funds that could perhaps have been made available would have had very little impact on the overall number of potholes.

TE 47 /18 Winter Gritting Regime

- (i) It was **noted** that on 10 April the Town Clerk had e-mailed Rob Smith at HCC for information about grit spreading from lorries and the apparent absence of any visible grit on occasion;
- (ii) A response dated 19 April had been **received** from HCC's Group Manager, Network Management, Highways. He had explained the process including rates of salt spread depending on the conditions, calibration of vehicles, sensors to checks that salt is being discharged, route planning and instances when the spinner would be turned off. Cllr Yearwood had asked a supplementary question of the group manager as to how the amount of salt being spread on the road is accurately monitored. A further response was awaited.

TE 48/18 Town Council Speed Activated Device

It was **noted** that as a preliminary to the purchase of a device, Cllr Reay has agreed to commission a speed and volume survey to be undertaken at Gossoms End. The cost will be £275 and will be met by the Town Council from the budget allocated for this project.

TE 49/18 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....