

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held in the Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.15pm**

### **1. Attendance**

Cllrs Cambage, Hitchcock, Howles, Lloyd, and Lock (Chairman).

Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk).

10 members of the public including Mrs S Cooper, Mr D Felthouse (BCVRA),  
Mr M Hickin (Berkswell Society), Mr K Tindall, Mr R Hubbard, Mr Stan Green.  
Mr Bruce Brant (SMBC).

### **2. Apologies**

Borough Cllrs D Bell and T Diccio.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Lloyd declared an interest as Chair of the Local Action Group HHAG.

### **4. Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 13 February 2014 were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 March 2014 were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chair of the Planning Committee.

### **5. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere**

None.

### **6. Public Opinion, Borough Councillor's Report and Councillors' Opinion**

Mr Tindall discussed the condition of Green Lane, Balsall Common. The road is unadopted and the road surface is in very poor condition. It was suggested SMBC could be approached to carry out repairs but the cost would be the responsibility of residents.  
**Mr Brant to follow up.**

A request was made for BCVRA to be included in circulation list for agendas and minutes. **Clerk to action.**

Mr Green thanked the Parish Council for the provision of the informative noticeboard by Green Lane.

Cllr Bell provided the following written statement – ‘I understand that we are still pressing for a connection to the Greenway at Berkswell Station but no success as yet’.

Cllr Lloyd raised concern regarding the positioning, away from properties, of estate agency signs. Mr Brant reported this is currently under discussion. The offending companies are contacted and if signs are not removed, SMBC arranges removal.

## 7. Highways and other SMBC issues

- ***Replacement direction signs at Carol Green***  
Cllr Lloyd stated the signs are aesthetically suitable but are to pedestrian standard only. Agreement had been reached regarding the positioning of the signs and the Parish Council had budgeted for, and offered to pay for, proper standard, not ornamental, signs. **Mr Brant to advise on the missing Burton Green fingerpost sign and the size of lettering.**
- ***Regulation of street works***  
Mr Brant confirmed the New Roads & Street Works Act 1991 provided the authority to close roads. The 'Charter for better working between SMBC and Parish Councils' should ensure better communication of such works.  
The poor condition of Coventry Road was discussed. Mr Brant confirmed that due to problems with certain contractors, sub-standard repairs had been made, but this was marked for works to be carried out within the next 24 hours.
- ***Speed restriction signage approaching Berkswell crossroads***  
The need for safer provision for pedestrians is the main priority. Mr Brant confirmed Mr Ashley Prior is looking into this. Item to be carried forward to next meeting.
- ***Lorry traffic and planning enforcement – Truggist Hill Farm***  
Mr Brant confirmed enforcement is in progress and the police have been advised. **Mr Brant to provide timetable of events at next meeting.**
- ***Street cleaning, hedge trimming***  
A452 at railway bridge – trees growing across highway.  
Marsh Lane footpath – insufficient trimming.  
Meeting House Lane – broken glass outside drinks shop.  
Baulk Lane – a dumped tree.  
Nailcote Lane – previously reported asbestos still present.  
**Mr Tindall to 'walk about' and report problems to SMBC.**
- ***Proposal to restrict parking in lay-bys on A452***  
The one hour parking limit time will prevent walkers from parking. **Mr Brant to provide timetable of events at next meeting.**
- ***Proposed diversion of footpaths M217 and M229 at Cornets End***  
Cllr Lloyd reported footpath M217 is not closed and the sign should be removed. **Mr Brant to follow up.**
- ***Footpath flooding problems on M192 and M210***  
Mr Brant read a report to the meeting. Cllr Lloyd disagreed with the findings and stated this is a perennial problem.  
The landowners should be approached as cattle have destroyed the path.
- ***Kenilworth Greenway***  
Mr Brant reported the new land owner has been written to and a response is awaited. Mr Hickin requested a meeting with Mr Brant.
- ***Flooding – SMBC response***  
Mr Brant has a written response which can be made available to the Parish Council. Cllr Lloyd reported drainage from Carstins is entering the field. **Mr Brant to respond.**
- ***Noticeboard near the British Legion***  
Noticeboard and Village Green bollards are included in the Plan for next year.

Mr Stan? reported damage caused to verges on Station Road near to the shops. Mr Brant responded that enforcement should be the course of action, not additional street furniture. **Mr Brant to inform next meeting of the number of notices issued.**

## 8. HS2

Cllr Lock reported on the non-conclusive new information received regarding viability of the tunnel. Concerns were raised regarding the report and its cost and whether disapproval could be lodged.

- ***Reiterate formal opposition to HS2 to enable participation in the petitioning process***

Cllr Lloyd resolved that the Parish Council should oppose the High Speed Rail Bill and deposit a petition seeking relief for our residents from the adverse effects of the proposed railway. Seconded by Cllr Cambage. Motion supported by all five Councillors.

- ***Agree possible petitioning issues***

A list of possible issues and analysis was presented to the meeting. The analysis shows the extent to which Berkswell will be affected. Motion passed to adopt and submit a provisional list of issues to Parliamentary Agent. Motion supported by all five Councillors.

- ***Appointment of Parliamentary Agents BDB to aid submission/petitions***

The agent will advise on the best way forward. Substantial funds will be needed and a budget of £13500 is available for HS2 related issues. Substantial funds are also available in Reserve.

Balsall Parish has released £4000 for HS2 issues and has appointed Liz Macdonald to liaise with other parishes. Meriden Parish has released £5000. SMBC refused funding for local petitioning information events but will be holding its own event during the first week in April.

Berkswell Parish Council to hold a petitioning information event on 23 April 2014 when the Parliamentary Agent will be available. Further communication to be issued.

**Cllr Hitchcock to pass issues raised by Tree Wardens to Clerk for submission to Agent.**

## 9. Neighbourhood Development

- ***Roman Catholic Recreation Area, Meeting House Lane – update***

Trustees have put a hold on proceedings and it could be months rather than weeks before an answer is available. Negotiations with the Diocese should be reactivated. Carry forward to next meeting.

## 10. Heritage and Community

- ***GR Mowing***

Carry forward to next meeting.

- ***Pound Close play area***

A proposal was made to give notice on the lease and return the land to Berkswell Estate. A Notice of Intention should be made available to residents. Carry forward to next meeting.

- ***The Spinney Plan***  
Cllr Hitchcock reported a copy of the Plan is held by the Chairman. It is proposed to open up the woodland area and remove the holly. Two men will complete the work with shredders over two days, at a cost of £480/day.
- ***Fingerpost sign, Berkswell crossroads***  
Mr Caffrey to remove the concrete base from the sign. SMBC to be contacted re repair of the sign.
- ***Berkswell Parish Fête and BBQ***  
Good progress has been made with arrangements.
- ***Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom***  
Mr Brant provided application forms.

## 11. External Representative Reports

- ***Airport***  
Trials of the two proposed routes to be confirmed.
- ***Balsall & Berkswell Jubilee Project***  
Currently in the process of recruiting another youth worker and there is the possibility of a second youth night.
- ***Solihull Area Committee and WALC***  
Next meeting 10 April. WALC cannot petition but they could facilitate member councils.
- ***Solihull Tree Wardens Group***  
Cllr Hitchcock reported, four Tree Wardens recently met with Midlands Tree Wardens re Packington Estate. The Tree Wardens meet monthly, all are welcome.

## 12. Accounts for Payment

A query was raised re T Mousley & Sons invoice. The work had been authorised and it was agreed to pay the invoice.

Mr Felthouse questioned payment regarding repair to stocks as The Bugle also made a contribution. **Clerk to follow up.**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

| <b><i>Payee</i></b>                                | <b><i>Cheque</i></b> | <b><i>Amount</i></b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Balsall Common Village Hall                        | 001634               | £12.00               |
| Balsall Common Village Hall                        | 001635               | £14.00               |
| The Berkswell Society (plants for plant boxes)     | 001636               | £450.00              |
| The Berkswell Society (repair of stocks)           | 001637               | £420.00              |
| Warwickshire Training Partnership (Clerk training) | 001638               | £40.00               |
| GR Mowing Ltd (lawn mowing Mar-May 14)             | 001639               | £522.00              |
| T Mousley & Sons (tree work)                       | 001640               | £2196.00             |
| Solihull MBC (Councillors' allowances Oct-Dec 13)  | 001641               | £995.02              |
| Ian Geddes (Jan-Mar 14)                            | 001642               | £59.33               |

## 13. Administration

- ***Update of Committees and Representation with External Bodies***  
Carry forward to next meeting.

- ***Agree schedule of costs to be recharged in respect of Berkswell Parish Council for Oct-Dec 2013***

To be discussed at Accounts Meeting 2 April 2014. Carry forward to next meeting.

- ***Clerk Availability to the Public at Berkswell Village Tea Room and Balsall Common Library***

Clerk reported the sessions had been successful. It was agreed to extend availability through April and May. £250 has been budgeted for use of the Tea Room. Future arrangements will be discussed with the owners.

#### **14. Next meeting**

Berkswell Parish Assembly, 8 May 2014 at 7.45pm, The Reading Room, Berkswell.

#### **15. Exclusion of public**

It was resolved to exclude the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2) to discuss confidential correspondence.

(Separate confidential section follows, making a total of 6 pages)

#### **16. Any other business**

Cllr Howles requested £750 for a swing band at the Berkswell Village Fête and BBQ. As the total budget is £750 this was considered excessive by the majority. Additional funds towards the cost of the swing band will be sought from elsewhere.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

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8 May 2014