

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell,  
held in The Jubilee Centre, Station Road, Balsall Common on  
16 October 2014 at 7.15pm**

**1. Attendance**

Cllrs S Cooper, A Cambage, D Hitchcock, K Howles, R Lloyd, and  
G Lock (Chairman)  
Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk)  
Borough Cllr D Bell  
Mr L Kaye (UKIP)  
Mr K Tindall, Mr B Lupton, Mr A Burrow, Ms C Sullivan, Mr J Cairns,  
Mr M Hickin, Mr P Bray, Mr R Hubbard

**2. Apologies**

Mr D Felthouse

**3. Declarations of Interest**

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

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 September 2014 confirmed as accurate by all present, and signed by the Chairman.  
The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2014 confirmed as accurate by all present, and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere on this Agenda**

None.

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

Mr Leslie Kaye introduced himself as the UKIP nominated candidate to stand in the 2015 local election for the Meriden Ward. He explained he would be standing for UKIP to oppose HS2 and green-field housing developments such as Babb's Mill Nature Reserve and the Garden City planned to be built on green belt in the Meriden gap. He wished to attend the meeting to better inform himself of local issues and would be pleased to be available to answer any questions. He shared his contact details with those present. Cllr Cooper requested he add the airport to this agenda.

Mr Hickin advised the meeting he would be meeting with the Clerk and other interested parties to discuss the Parish Fête, Commemorative Poppies and the RHS Britain in Bloom Report. He asked would the Parish Council endorse these items and requested they appear as regular agenda items. Mr Hickin was requested to submit updates. Cllr Hitchcock reported work on the oval in The Spinney Car Park was in progress. Cllr Lock stated other areas within the parish in need of works should also be considered.

Mr Tindall reported SMBC Planning Committee had deferred the decision on the Solar Park and asked could the Parish Council make representations regarding this issue. He asked Cllr Bell for his advice. Cllr Bell suggested writing to Mr G Palmer

and each councillor on the Planning Committee. He stated the item had been deferred and would likely be recommended for refusal. He advised not much more could be done in addition to what had already been said. Cllr Lloyd confirmed the Parish Council would put forward one Councillor to speak before the Committee on 29 October. Cllr Lock agreed.

Cllr Bell reported briefly on the Kenilworth Road development.

## **7. Planning Applications**

### ***2014/1647 – Truggist Hill Farm, Truggist Lane, Berkswell***

#### ***Retrospective planning application for a 130m connecting track and earth landscaping bund 45m x 8m x 2m high***

Cllr Cooper confirmed she had submitted an objection.

Cllr Lloyd stated the Parish council should continue to oppose the application based on changes of use and flooding of the Greenway. SMBC representatives had recently met with the Greenway Trust to assess the flooding. If it was agreed there was a flooding problem each application would need to be taken into consideration. There had been no planning application for the previous change of use, resulting in lorries on lanes, loss of amenity, damage to the Greenway and the physical impact of the bund.

Cllr Lock suggested seeking the advice of the Planning Consultant to provide advice at a 'higher level'. Cllrs Lloyd and Cooper agreed. Cllr Lloyd advised the Parish Council to brief Mr Keith Williams as soon as possible. Clerk to submit a request.

Cllr Howles agreed to object but stated the likelihood of the planning committee opposing something which was already there and temporary, was small. She advised not to spend money on advice from the consultant.

Cllr Bell advised that Cllr Diccico could submit an objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Lock encouraged as many residents as possible to submit objections. Mr Burrow said he had photographic evidence of tree felling on the Greenway.

## **8. Highways and other SMBC issues**

Cllr Lock advised Cllr Bell on the absence of Mr Brant from recent Parish Council meetings. It was suggested the Clerk submit a list of outstanding issues to Mr Brant and maybe secure a meeting.

### ***Repair to fingerpost – Berkswell crossroads***

Request update from Mr Brant.

### ***Traffic calming in Berkswell Village***

Cllr Lock advised the meeting that relevant officers had recently undertaken a study and concluded there was not a problem. Cllr Lock suggested there was a problem. There had been three accidents recently at the crossroads. Mr Prior had accepted there was a problem. A meeting was to be convened between Cllr Lock, Cllr Bell and Mr Prior.

Mr Tindall suggested inviting Mr Allsopp, as traffic calming was included in his campaign.

### ***School parking issues***

Cllr Lock confirmed a meeting had taken place between the Parish Council, SMBC and school representatives. A decision had been made for the school to request SMBC to employ a lollipop person, but no further action had been taken.

The Bear Inn had offered parking but parents were reluctant to park away from the school and cross the road. It was agreed to write to the school regarding staff and parents parking on Church Lane.

***Greenway***

Mr Hickin reported there would be a clear up that weekend and requested volunteers meet at Crackley Wood. He stated the need to resolve the access point was high on the agenda with SMBC and praised the Parish Council for its work on this.

***Street cleansing in Berkswell Village***

Cllr Hitchcock reported on the problem of dogs fouling footpaths. Recently a dog walking company had parked in the village and the dog walker was in charge of five dogs on leads and three running loose and was also carrying a baby. There must be licensing in place to regulate the number of dogs.

Cllr Lock reported street cleaning had taken place early that morning. He thanked the Clerk for liaising with SMBC regarding this. He stated if it was known when the cleaning would take place the street could be cleared of cars.

***The Bear Inn car park***

An update had been received from Mr Brant stating the land was not the responsibility of SMBC. Cllr Howles believed part of the land to be the responsibility of Solihull Community Housing.

***Truggist/Hodgetts Lane condition of island***

It was noted this item should refer to the island at Back Lane. Mr Hickin was liaising with SMBC regarding this issue.

***Truggist/Hodgetts/Spencer's Lane damaged road signs***

Clerk to contact SMBC.

***Baulk Lane road signs***

Clerk to contact SMBC.

***Wooden bollard posts – Berkswell Village Green***

A response had been received from Mr Brant confirming funding for x3 bollards. Mr Tindall questioned the SMBC policy of no street furniture. Mr Burrow stated the Parish Council maintained the grass, not SMBC. Cllr Lock to liaise with Clerk to agree the position of the bollards and Clerk to report to Mr Brant.

***Flooding***

Cllr Lock reported work recently completed on the old gullies had been unsuccessful and he had reported this to SMBC. There was an issue with land to the rear of the Reading Rooms with water flooding onto neighbouring properties. The landowner was prepared to try to resolve the problem. Cllr Cambage to discuss with The Lant Trust.

***Other outstanding items***

Clerk to follow up the repair to two lampposts on Meriden Road.

Cllr Lloyd reported on the ongoing problem with A452 trimming at Marsh Lane and other areas. Work was carried out but not sufficient cutting back. Add to Agenda.

Cllr Lock informed Cllr Bell that enforcement matters are not followed up and requested they be tracked to conclusion.

**9. Heritage and Community**

***Berkswell Museum***

Mr Hickin reported on discussions between the Church and other interested parties.

- Coventry Metal Detecting Group had expressed an interest, so a meeting would not take place until their decision was known.

- Concerns had been raised regarding the Constitution moving away from Berkswell Charities.
- Suggestion made to write to Berkswell Charities with a view to setting up a meeting with all concerned.
- Storage of artefacts to remain in the Museum with the Church acting as host.
- The Church had suggested they would be happy to host visitors to the museum, by appointment. Volunteers are available but projects need to be managed.
- Mr Hickin requested power be delegated to him, i.e. Berkswell Society, to initiate the necessary meetings.
- Cllr Hitchcock stressed the need to put forward a business plan and the importance of scheduled organised events. Cllr Hitchcock has experience with museums, artefacts and those who have knowledge of them.
- Cllr Lock agreed to continue with negotiations with others.

#### ***Grass Cutting***

Cllr Cambage reported she had been in contact with Mr Dymond and would be speaking with Mr A Daintith and Mrs J Roberts to tender for works. Current mowing and maintenance contracts to be reviewed.

#### ***Berkswell Telephone Box***

Mr Hickin reported Mr Thomas (The Lions) was looking at the installation of a defibrillator.

#### ***Land at Meeting House Lane***

Discussions still taking place. No current update. Carry forward.

#### ***Spinney Maintenance***

Cllr Hitchcock reported work was in progress to overcome the problem with holly. There had been no cost to date as work had been incorporated as part of a 'tree course'. Mr Hickin informed the meeting that the RHS competition had highlighted there were young volunteers available. Cllr Hitchcock declined the offer at this stage of the work and confirmed a professional tree surgeon was undertaking the work.

#### ***Berkswell Hall Tree Felling***

This issue would be discussed by the Planning Committee on 29 October. A letter had been received from SMBC stating the Parish Council would not be consulted. Cllr Cooper had submitted an objection and suggested replacement large root balled trees. Cllr Lloyd questioned whether there should be a retrospective planning application to enable responses. Cllr Bell suggested writing to Mr G Palmer submitting concerns. Cllr Lock referred to SMBC Charter and would have expected consultation. Residents had asked for help but the Parish Council felt powerless as SMBC had not consulted. Cllr Bell confirmed the Parish Council could request the opportunity to respond at the meeting.

Cllr Lock proposed writing to the Head of Planning, and D Merry re Charter misuse. Cllr Cooper offered to write the letter.

#### ***Remembrance Sunday***

Cllr Hitchcock reported the event would be organised by the British Legion on 9 November 2014. Cllr Hitchcock would purchase a wreath from the British Legion on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council would be present at Berkswell Church at 10.30am.

#### ***Christmas Tree***

Cllr Lock confirmed Mr Caffery had this in hand. Clerk to contact Mr Caffery to confirm.

## 10. External Representative Reports

### *Airport*

Cllr Cooper had spoken in favour of the motion to 'Support Fairer Flight Paths for take-off and arrival of aircraft at Birmingham Airport to minimise the impact of aircraft noise on communities' before the Full Council Meeting in Solihull on 14 October 2014 and had passed her presentation to the Clerk, for uploading to the Parish Council website. The motion had been passed unanimously for fairer flight paths.

Cllr Lloyd confirmed there should be a consultation on representation and proposed a working group should be set up. The Parish Council should be involved in the formation of consultation. Cllr Bell confirmed he was on the Working Group and would feed this through.

Cllr Lock stated the next course of action for the Parish Council should be for Cllr Lloyd to write to Mr Lee Stevenson to request when consultation would commence. Cllr Bell suggested writing to Mr B Sleigh, c.c. Mr L Stevenson.

## 11. HS2

### *Preparation for Select Committee Hearing*

- Cllr Lock confirmed the Parish Council had appointed a barrister, Ms Annabel Graham-Paul. Cllrs had spent a day with the barrister to familiarise her with the parish.
- Cllr Cooper raised concern regarding papers submitted by HS2 Ltd at an earlier meeting as these showed different dates to those submitted today. Cllr Lloyd confirmed the Promoters Response Documents would refer to most up to date papers.
- Cllr Lock reported that the recommendation for the strategy of the case to be presented had not yet been seen and he believed the barrister would submit suggestions of winnable points. Cllrs Hitchcock and Lloyd did not agree and stated that the Parish Council should submit documents as soon as possible. Cllr Cooper agreed to contact the solicitor to confirm documents needed.
- Cllr Cooper complimented Ms Sullivan on her excellent petition and suggested this should be heard first.
- Cllr Cooper asked Cllr Bell for his views on the confidentiality agreement signed between SMBC and HS2 Ltd. Cllr Bell was unaware of this and suggested speaking to Walter Bailey.
- Cllr Lloyd displayed the Berkswell PC Select Committee Hearing document to the meeting as a point of reference and confirmed he had produced a spreadsheet showing 'who had submitted what'. It was important to determine who would be best to speak on which issue.
- Cllr Lloyd stated it would be necessary to inform the solicitor that the barrister had been given a spreadsheet on a memory stick containing maps of the area etc. and the solicitor should obtain a copy from the barrister. The solicitor had received and acknowledged receipt of the Sequence of Local Hearings from Cllr Lloyd.
- Cllr Lloyd displayed a map (to be submitted to solicitor) showing the HS2 route, key features, community facilities etc. Cllr Cooper suggested large paper maps be available should computers fail. Mr Hickin offered to provide large copies.
- Cllr Lloyd confirmed photographic evidence would be provided by residents.
- Mr Burrow said he had a written presentation on 'noise' and Cllr Lock suggested supporting this and adding Parish Council views.

- Mr Hickin suggested the Parish Council should nominate a representative for each category to work together with residents.
- Cllrs Cooper and Lock offered to be Councillor witnesses to work with Ms Sullivan and Mr Hickin respectively to ensure their respective presentations complemented each other. A Councillor would be required to work with Mr Burrow on Noise, and a resident would be required to work with Cllr Lloyd on Construction & Highways.
- Ms Sullivan suggested each petitioner should prepare their presentation and present to all. She disagreed with using the barrister and expressed the urgency to 'get on with it'.
- Mr Tindall suggested a meeting of petitioners, together with a Parish Council spokesperson. Date to be confirmed.
- Cllrs Howles and Cambage confirmed they supported Cllr Lloyd in submitting documents to the solicitor.

***BDB – Representation/Fees***

Carry forward.

**12. Accounts for Payment**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

<b><i>Payee</i></b>	<b><i>Cheque</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
Mrs S Butterworth (Expenses Aug & Sept)	001677	116.47
G R Dawson (July, Aug, Sept)	001678	684.00
Grant Thornton (2014 Annual Return)	001679	360.00
Bircham Dyson Bell (1 Aug – 12 Sept)	001680	1,170.00
This payment was not approved.		
Berkswell Village Stores (Use by Clerk)	001681	200.00
Mr J Ebbans (Annual Contribution to Village Store)	001682	500.00

**13. Correspondence**

***Balsall & Berkswell Jubilee Project***

A request had been received for an increase of £1000 for the 2014/15 annual grant. This was questioned and it was agreed to carry forward to the next meeting.

**14. Administration**

***Berkswell PC Asset List – Maintenance of PC Assets***

Carry forward.

***Maintenance of PC Assets***

Carry forward.

***Community Asset List***

Clerk to follow up with Jim Butler.

***Berkswell PC Bank Accounts***

In hand, carry forward.

***Councillor Vacancy***

Carry forward.

***Clerk – Weekly Working Hours***

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's weekly working hours from 10 to 12 with effect from 1 September 2014 to 31 March 2015.

***Storage***

Carry forward.

**15. Next Meeting**

Ordinary Meeting of the Council, Thursday 13 November 2014 at 7.45pm, The Reading Rooms, Berkswell.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Mrs S Butterworth  
Clerk to Berkswell Parish Council  
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13 November 2014