

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

**1. Attendance**

Councillors G Lock (Chairman), K Howles (Vice Chairman), A Cambage,  
S Cooper, D Hitchcock, R Lloyd  
Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk)  
Nine members of the public  
Borough Councillors D Bell and T Diccio

**2. Apologies**

Mr K Tindall, Mr M Hickin, Mr B Brant (SMBC)

**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 13 November 2014 confirmed as accurate by all present, and signed by the Chairman.

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

Cllr Lock reported on the anticipated return of funds from FEDCOG. Apologies had been received from Mr Stableforth, Trustee, as the federation was experiencing difficulties in extracting the funds from the bank.

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

- Councillors were praised on their efforts and commitment given to the HS2 petitioning process and presentations. It was suggested archives be kept to retain the information in the history of the parish.
- Cllr Hitchcock had the Tree Wardens' HS2 presentation available for interested parties to read.
- Cllr Diccio provided an update on the continuing work of the Balsall Common Airport Action Group.
- Cllr Hitchcock had attended a recent Jubilee Project Committee meeting. He confirmed all monies shown in their accounts was accounted for and stated they had requested that the annual grant be paid by the Parish Council.

**7. Planning Applications**

- **2014/2090 – Spencers End, Spencers Lane**  
*Single storey and part two storey extensions to existing dwelling*  
Cllr Howles confirmed no objection necessary. All agreed.

**8. Highways and other SMBC issues**

Thanks conveyed to Mr Brant who had provided a report on all outstanding issues.

***205 Duggins Lane – New Road Name***

Cllrs had submitted road name suggestions to Mr Gamwell but no response had been received.

***Bear Inn car park***

Clerk had obtained a Land Registry Plan which confirmed ownership of the land by The Bear (Chef & Brewer). There had been an informal, historic parking arrangement which had lapsed over time. Clerk to visit The Bear to discuss community relationships.

***Flooding***

Cllr Lloyd stated he would welcome a site visit with Mr B Brant re flooding at Carstins and the Lavender Hall Park monument. Cllr Hitchcock agreed to speak to Carstins regarding the problem.

***Greenway***

Cllr Lloyd referred to reassurances previously made. Cllr Bell agreed to investigate further. Cllr Lloyd suggested a site visit with Mr Brant.

***School parking issues / Traffic calming in Berkswell Village***

Cllr Lock confirmed a consultant had been appointed and would be available in the New Year. Cllr Bell stated an amount of £200 would be made available from SMBC before the year end.

***Hedge trimming on A452 (in particular Marsh Lane area)***

An update had been received from Mr Brant. Cllr Lloyd suggested a site visit with Mr Brant.

**9. Heritage and Community**

***Berkswell Museum***

A meeting with all interested parties to be arranged in the New Year. Parish Council to discuss further at Budget Meeting in January.

***Commemorative Poppies***

Berkswell Society had requested a contribution towards the cost of the poppies. Carry forward pending Budget Meeting.

***CCTV***

Balsall PC had requested a contribution towards maintenance. Carry forward pending Budget Meeting.

***Grass Cutting***

Cllr Cambage was in the process of arranging a meeting with Mr A Dymond. Cllr Bell offered to provide details of a contractor (Greenline).

***Land at Meeting House Lane***

It was suggested there was uncertainty regarding the intentions of the Diocese. Cllr Lloyd suggested there should be discussions between the Parish Council and Mr Scanlon and suggested writing to Mr Scanlon.

***Meriden Garden City***

Carry forward.

***Neighbourhood Development Plan***

Borough Cllrs offered their assistance. Cllr Lock confirmed Cllr Howles had been appointed the NDP representative and that this had been budgeted for over recent years. Cllr Howles confirmed she would be attending a meeting with Mr Barlow the following week and was in communication with Cllr L Macdonald (Balsall PC).

***Pound Close***

Letter to be sent to Mr Parry confirming the Parish Council's intention not to renew the lease.

***Reading Room***

Cllr Cambage reported Berkswell Charities had agreed a contribution of £20000 towards repairs to the roof.

***RHS Britain in Bloom Report 2014***

Carry forward.

***Spinney Maintenance***

Cllr Hitchcock stated there was no further update as the contractor was away in France. A suggestion had been made to take up the offer from Warwickshire for a team to carry out works. Cllr Hitchcock to look at the way forward within current budget and provide an update at next meeting.

*Cllr Lock left the meeting at 8.38pm, handing over proceedings to Cllr Howles.*

**10. External Representative Reports**

***Airport***

Cllr Cooper requested an update from Cllr Diccico on reassurance for the community against Option 5. Cllr Diccico confirmed Option 6 was more acceptable and pressure would be put forward. If Option 5 was taken, residents should take action. A meeting with the Airport was scheduled for January.

*Cllr Cooper and Borough Cllr Bell left the meeting at 8.42pm.*

Cllr Lloyd stated financial provision should be made in the 2015/16 precept in case of judicial review. He suggested Hampton-In-Arden should be leading on this argument.

***Jubilee Project***

Cllr Hitchcock reported an additional youth worker had been appointed. Joint initiatives with schools had been set up and more juniors had created an extra burden on finances. He stressed the Parish Council should consider the request made by the Project for an increase to the annual grant. Cllr Lloyd proposed the annual grant of £4000 + the increase of £1000 be paid. Seconded by Cllr Hitchcock.

*Cllr Diccico left the meeting.*

**11. HS2**

***Berkswell Parish Council Presentation - Update on Progress***

Cllr Cooper reported on her attendance at the Hearing, which she felt had been well received.

Cllr Lloyd confirmed there had been multiple representation from Berkswell and felt the village had been well received 'and remembered'.

Cllr Cooper stated she was unhappy with the comment made at the Hearing regarding the Parish Council's use of a barrister. Cllrs Lock and Lloyd had acted as witnesses and reported on the success of the barrister in presenting the case.

Cllr Lock reported on the lack of consultation by HS2 and the inadequacies in the report. A report had been received from SMBC detailing the inadequacies and Cllr Lock had discussed the way forward with Mr W Bailey. The report in its title was less than conclusive, i.e. Balsall Common/Berkswell Report not including Burton Green. The new report should be in conjunction with Warwickshire.

Mrs C Spelman was to make an appearance as a final petitioner and would include the tunnel request.

Cllr Hitchcock praised the work put in by Councillors and thanked Cllr Lloyd for his assistance at the Tree Warden's Hearing.

Cllr Lock stated each Councillor should look at the HS2 Action Points and request assistance from L Felton, Solicitor. The old conservation area of 1968 had been used and footpaths shown as at 1974. HS2 had promised to report back to the PC on this, which may result in an Additional Provision.

The Parish Council had secured the opportunity for an Additional Tunnel Study.

***Meriden Parish Council - £3000.00 donation towards HS2 petitioning***

A cheque for £3000 had been received from Meriden PC towards the HS2 petitioning process. Cllr Lock suggested a letter of thanks be sent or attendance at Meriden PC's meeting on 15 December.

**12. Accounts for Payment**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mrs S Butterworth (Oct & Nov)	001689	204.89
G R Mowing (Dec-Feb)	001690	522.00
Ian Geddes (Oct & Nov)	001691	21.70
J Caffery (17 June-8 Dec)	001692	442.00
Poppy Fund Berkswell (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wreath for 9.11.14)	001693	25.00
Berkswell Village Stores & Tea Room (Expenses-HS2)	001694	16.63

**13. Correspondence**

***A Hodge (WALC), Retirement Donation***

Decision regarding donation to be made at next meeting. Clerk to check whether Balsall PC would be making a donation.

***Open Spaces Society – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal***

It was not considered appropriate to contribute to the Anniversary Appeal as the PC paid an annual fee.

***Nat West Balsall Common & Berkswell Branch Closure***

It was the intention of the PC to switch to an alternative bank in the New Year.

**14. Administration**

***Berkswell PC Bank Accounts***

Cllr Cambage to consider alternative banks and consolidate to one account.

***Councillor Vacancy***

Cllr Howles advised the meeting of the current vacancy and encouraged interested parties. Thanks expressed to Mrs J Slatter for her interest in the vacancy.

Cllr Cambage stated councillors should be elected rather than co-opted to ensure power of competence.

**15. Next Meeting**

Ordinary Meeting of the Council, Thursday 8 January 2015 at 7.45pm, The Reading Room, Berkswell.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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11 December 2014