

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held
in The Reading Room, Berkswell on 8 January 2015 at 7.45pm**

1. Attendance

Councillors G Lock (Chairman), K Howles (Vice Chairman), S Cooper,
D Hitchcock, R Lloyd
Borough Cllr Bell
Mr L Bradley, Mr P Bray, Mr D Felthouse, Mr L Kay, Mr J Cairns. Mr K Tindall
Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk)

2. Apologies

Mr M Hickin, Cllr A Cambage

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 11 December 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 stated the deadline for the Meriden Garden City Consultation was the end of January. A drop-in would be held in Meriden on 10 January. Councillors were encouraged to attend.

Cllrs Howles and Hitchcock had attended a recent meeting in Meriden. Cllr Bell had asked the question on how our best interests would be looked after. Cllr Hitchcock expressed concerns regarding presentations and felt the Meriden Garden City was a foregone conclusion. Mr Felthouse stated Ian Court's presentation gave no consideration to the inevitable ripple effect. Cllr Cooper stated questions should be asked regarding Arup's involvement.

Cllr Lock confirmed the Council should respond, expressing concerns on the predetermined points. Councillors to feed information to Cllr Howles who would produce a response.

Cllr Lock stated Elections should be an agenda item.

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

Cllr Bell questioned SMBC's signing of a Confidentiality Agreement with HS2. He also questioned the temporary roundabout at Park Lane being permanent. Cllr Lock confirmed this was for safety reasons. Cllr Bell advised all to oppose this now. Cllr Lloyd confirmed the Council had opposed and it was now the decision of the Select Committee. Cllr Lock suggested SMBC should consult the community.

Cllr Lock proposed the Council write formally to Anne Brereton, Director for Places, SMBC, referring to its petition regarding the roundabout and requesting the Council and other petitioners are consulted.

Mr Cairns stated 'Land at Meeting House Lane' was not on the agenda. Cllr Lock referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014 where Cllr Lloyd suggested there

should be discussions between the Parish Council and Mr Scanlon, and had suggested writing to Mr Scanlon.

Mr Cairns asked the question whether draft minutes could be made available before the next meeting. Cllr Lock suggested draft minutes could be displayed on noticeboards.

7. Discussion re SMBC Care Act Consultation

Joanne Rouse, Care Act Implementation Project Manager, SMBC was unable to attend. Due to the tight timescale of the consultation, Cllr Lock requested Cllr Bell respond, requesting a public meeting rather than attendance at the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to forward relevant emails to BCVRA, Cllr Bell and Balsall PC.

8. Highways and other SMBC issues

205 Duggins Lane – New Road Name

Clerk to phone R Gamwell as no email response had been received.

Clerk to forward relevant emails to Cllr Bell.

Bear Inn car park

Car park had been inspected and considered to be in an acceptable state. Cllr Cooper disagreed with the condition of borders etc.

Flooding

It was agreed to approach Mr B Brant for an update.

Greenway

It was agreed to approach Mr B Brant for an update on flooding on the Greenway. Cllr Hitchcock agreed to investigate this and flooding at Carstins.

Cllr Lock asked Cllr Bell to comment on the lack of willingness by SMBC to enforce. Temporary help on the Enforcement Team had been put in place and an improvement should be seen.

Cllr Lock requested Enforcement to be a regular agenda item.

Hedge trimming on A452 (in particular Marsh Lane area)

Clerk to arrange meeting between Cllr Lloyd, Mr Brant and Clerk.

Public Footpaths

Cllr Lloyd reported on the poor condition of several areas. In particular Footpaths M192 and M210. These to be added to PC Issues List for Highways Department.

Traffic calming in Berkswell Village

Carry forward. Clerk to approach K Hemming re accessing SMBC fund during this financial year.

9. Heritage and Community

Berkswell Museum

A response had been received from Mr R Jones. A final decision was proposed by the end of February.

Clerk had contacted EON – there was a considerable amount of credit on the account, to be taken into account when setting next year's budget.

Commemorative Poppies

Berkswell Society organising fund raising 'Red & Black Night' – 7 March 2015 at Reading Room. 4 tickets had been allocated to Parish Council. Cllr Hitchcock offered to contribute to a military display. Cllrs Howles, Hitchcock and Lock, and Clerk to attend. Cllr Cambage to confirm attendance.

CCTV

Cllr Lloyd confirmed Balsall PC had received the specification – anticipated cost £23000. Cllr Hitchcock proposed Berkswell PC should contribute towards the cost. To be discussed further at Budget Meeting. Clerk to liaise with Balsall PC to establish other liabilities and costs involved.

Grass Cutting

Meeting arranged between Clerk and Mr A Dymond on 26 January at Village Tea Room. Provision to be made in budget.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Howles confirmed Balsall PC was ready to proceed. Berkswell PC needed to agree its requirements. Cllr Lock offered help to Cllr Howles from other Councillors, if needed. Clerk to arrange meeting between Cllr Howles and Macdonald and Clerks.

Pound Close

Remove from agenda.

Reading Room

To be discussed further at Budget Meeting.

RHS Britain in Bloom Report 2014

Carry forward.

Spinney Maintenance

Cllr Hitchcock had liaised with WCC who would provide a team to remove holly, clear damaged trees, plant replacement trees, and agree an action plan for improvement of the island. Objective was to open up land and relieve darkness. Email had been received from Mr B Brant re condition of certain trees. £500 had been allocated to the work. Cllr Lock suggested a professional assessment should be carried out by Mousley. Cllr Hitchcock agreed to request WCC to carry out an assessment immediately and would advise Clerk of timescale. All agreed.

War Memorial Project - Birmingham Workshop 17 January 2015

Cllr Lock informed the meeting of the workshop. Mr Bradley offered to attend. Clerk to forward information to Mr Bradley.

Bugle

Mr Hickin had requested help for distribution in the Bradnocks Marsh area. Cllr Howles had offered help and would follow up. Cllr Lock asked for other volunteers to contact Mr Hickin.

10. External Representative Reports

Airport

Cllr Cooper had no further update. The next meeting was scheduled for 5 February 2015 and an update would be given at the next PC meeting. Balsall Common Airport Action Group continued to meet.

11. HS2

Cllr Lock asked Cllr Bell to ascertain the date of the next SMBC Working Party.

Cllr Lloyd commented on the numbers of people affected who had not petitioned. Noise assessments had been inadequate. Cllr Lock felt the Committee had been aware of the over-confidence of HS2 Ltd.

Mr Tindall commented on his personal petition and QC responses.

Cllr Hitchcock stated the Tree Wardens' Petition, and other petitions, should be preserved in the parish archives.

Cllr Lock stated the contents of Berkswell Museum and Parish Council archives were soon to be discussed and solutions needed to be found.

Cllr Cooper raised concern re bungalows owned by Berkswell Charities in Burton Green. Cllr Lock stated these were not the responsibility of Berkswell Parish Council. Clerk provided Cllr Cooper with a copy of a letter from Berkswell Charities (Feb 2014) to the Department of Transport regarding the bungalows.

12. Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mr D Hitchcock (Travel Expenses - HS2 - 9&10.12.14)	001695	80.85
Fortune Green Legal Practice Limited (HS2 Select Committee Hearing)	001696	5,162.16
Balsall & Berkswell Jubilee Project (Grant 2014/15)	001697	5,000.00

13. Correspondence

A Hodge (WALC), Retirement Donation

Cllrs Lock and Howles proposed a donation of £25. Cllrs Hitchcock and Lloyd disagreed. A final decision was reached to contribute £25.

Fête and BBQ

Date of Fête confirmed as Sunday 21 June 2015. It was agreed to hold the BBQ on Saturday 20 June 2015.

14. Finance

2015/16 Budget Planning

A meeting had been proposed for 13 January. This date was not suitable for all - Clerk to arrange alternative date. Arrange Extraordinary Meeting for 2015/16 Budget Approval.

Berkswell PC Bank Accounts

Carry forward.

15. Administration

Dates for Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Council Meeting

The following dates were agreed:

Annual Parish Assembly – 26 March 2015 – Reading Room.

Clerk to confirm with Mr A Burrow, Berkswell Society, and check timings re use of room by Brownies.

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 14 May 2015 – Jubilee Centre.

Elections to be held on 7 May 2015. End of nomination period – 4pm on 9 April 2015.

Clerk to receive and distribute documentation, and gain indication from Councillors of their intentions.

Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Lock thanked Mr Bradley for his interest shown in the vacancy. Applications would be considered before or during the election process.

Storage of PC data - 'The Cloud'

Mr Bill Robinson had provided a contact re storage of data. Cllr Lock suggested using 'Dropbox'. It was agreed to review the Parish Council's IT Policy.

16. Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Council, Thursday 12 February 2015 at 7.15pm, The Jubilee Centre, Station Road, Balsall Common.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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8 January 2015