

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held
in the Jubilee Centre, Station Road, Balsall Common on
12 February 2015 at 7.15pm**

1. Attendance

Councillors G Lock (Chairman), A Cambage, D Hitchcock, R Lloyd
Borough Cllr D Bell (8.45pm)
Mr J Cairns, Mr P Bray, Mr B Lupton, Mr R Hubbard, Mr K Tindall,
Mr A Burrow, Mr D Felthouse, Mr M Hickin, Mr M Longfield
Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk)

2. Apologies

Councillors K Howles and S Cooper
Mrs J Slatter, Mr L Bradley

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The pagination of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 November 2014 had been amended, confirmed as accurate by all present, and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 January 2015 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. SMBC Care Act Consultation

Presentation by Joanne Rouse, SMBC Care Act Implementation Project Manager.

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

Mr M Longfield, Chairman of the Jubilee Centre, thanked the Parish Council for its contribution and Cllrs Lloyd and Hitchcock for their continued support.

Mr Longfield reported on a meeting of the Museum Committee held on 11 February. There were concerns that no-one present at the PC meeting had been aware of this meeting. Cllr Lock stated the PC would be interested to hear a conclusion and how the PC could assist. Mr Longfield advised the meeting of interest shown by the Midlands Metal Detecting Group in occupying an area of the Museum. He thanked the Parish Council for its support in paying for electricity and asked whether the PC would be in a position to fund an alarm. Mr Hickin confirmed all stakeholders needed to meet as soon as possible to discuss the future of the Museum.

Mr Burrow expressed concerns re the expense of the Museum and suggested it should be removed from the budget.

Clerk to arrange a meeting of all interested parties.

8. Planning Applications

Application No.	Application Date	Site	Proposal	21 Day Response Date
2015/139	3.2.15	Rosedene Bradnocks Marsh Lane	Remove existing rear extension and replace with new ground floor rear extension – No comment	24.2.15

9. Highways and other SMBC issues***205 Duggins Lane – New Road Name***

Various emails had been exchanged with suggested names. Cllr Lloyd expressed a preference for Eagle. Mr A Burrow suggested Benton, in memory of, and in recognition of Cllr Sandra Benton's services to the Parish Council. The Benton family would have to be consulted beforehand. Concerns were raised with regard to using personal names.

Bear Inn car park

Cllr Cooper had expressed concerns re the condition of the car park. Carry forward.

Benton Green Lane

Cllr Hitchcock reported on problems with trucks dumping semi-industrial waste and then covering. Also fly tipping in verges. Add to SMBC outstanding issues list.

Enforcement

Cllr Lloyd questioned when an update would be available. Parish Council to produce a list of long outstanding issues and submit to new Chief Executive.

Flooding

No update available.

Greenway

Cllr Lloyd reported WCC contractors had carried out extensive works and trees planted by the Greenway Trust had been wrongly removed. Mr Hickin said he would request Marlene to send Clerk regular updates.

Hedge trimming on A452 (in particular Marsh Lane area)

Cllr Lloyd reported that some works had been undertaken but to such a minimum it was a waste of time. Works carried out on Lavender Hall Lane by Network Rail were used to provide an example of the extent of works required.

Public Footpaths

Cllr Lloyd provided an update on outstanding problems. Parish Council to write to Mr Nick Parry.

Traffic calming in Berkswell Village – update/contribution from SMBC

Cllr Lock informed the meeting a consultant had been appointed. A public meeting would be held on 15 April 2015 in the Reading Room at 6.30pm.

Cllr Lock advised the meeting a follow up meeting with Mr Nick Page would be held on 27 March 2015, 9.30am-12.30pm. Cllr Lock asked Clerk to request Cllr Howles, as NDP representative, to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Another representative tbc.

Mr Hickin suggested representatives should attend - x2 Berkswell Society, x2 BCVRA, x2 Balsall PC, x2 Berkswell PC + community and SMBC representatives.

Cllr Bell confirmed his attendance at the meeting.

A contribution of £200 towards the project cost had been received from SMBC.

10. Heritage and Community

Berkswell Museum electricity

The Parish Council had not budgeted for Museum electricity for 2015/16. Archives would also be affected by this decision. Cllr Cambage agreed to write to the Museum Treasurer advising of this decision. Electricity costs would be transferred not disconnected.

Commemorative Poppies/Red & Black Night

Mr Hickin stated he was collecting payment for tickets for the Red & Black Night. Cllr Lock requested Councillors to confirm attendance and pay. Clerk to advise Mr Hickin who would be attending.

Mr Hickin advised the meeting Berkswell Society had purchased 38 ceramic poppies. A showcase would be made and the poppies displayed in the Reading Room. The poppies would be available for use at future events. A donation from the Parish Council had been requested and it was agreed this should be considered alongside other requests. Carry forward.

CCTV

Balsall PC had requested a contribution towards costs. Total cost £23,000. Cllr Hitchcock suggested one third of the total cost should be considered. As above, formula for contributions, grants etc to be agreed. Carry forward.

Mr Tindall suggested such issues should be discussed jointly by both Parish Councils. Cllr Lock confirmed all parties should be included in all initial discussions. It was agreed to write to Balsall PC re formula, as above.

Cllr Lock requested Cllr Cambage to look at a policy addendum to the Standing Orders. Resolution to be passed at next meeting.

Grass Mowing Contracts

A Schedule of works had been received from GR Mowing. It was suggested to accept the contract for 3 months initially, to be reviewed. It was also agreed to write to Mr A Dymond regarding the 50/50 split of costs re church mowing as the PC was not in agreement.

Land at Meeting House Lane

Mr Hickin provided an update. He believed the Diocese was not prepared to proceed as they had received a letter from the Parish Council terminating its interest. Cllr Lloyd confirmed the matter of purchasing the land had been discussed with Charities and Diocese but PC withdrew its interest as Charities agreed to ensure the land would be kept for community use.

PC to write to Diocese/landowner as matters had not progressed with other parties and stating it would like to re-engage in discussions re use of land for community.

Meriden Garden City

Consultation closed. Carry forward.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Carry forward.

RHS Britain in Bloom Report 2014

Mr Hickin reported the focus was now on projects for 2015 and he would continue to provide updates.

Spinney Maintenance

Cllr Hitchcock provided an update on works in progress. He had produced plans and advice for works to be carried out on the island, at an estimated cost of £250. Cllr Lock confirmed this had been budgeted for and work should continue as necessary. Cllr Hitchcock suggested the noticeboard on the island should be updated to provide an information board. Clerk had emailed Mrs N Caunt as the trees requiring immediate attention were the responsibility of the Diocese.

Mr Hickin advised the meeting the Britain in Bloom Report 2014 had recommended information boards. Cllr Lock asked Cllr Bell to make an enquiry with Mrs K Hemming regarding a contribution from SMBC.

Clerk had contacted Mousley and Glendale requesting a quote for works to potentially dangerous trees.

War Memorial Project - Birmingham Workshop 17 January 2015

Mr L Bradley had attended the workshop and had provided an update by email. Carry forward. It was noted the project included roll call memorials.

11. External Representative Reports

Airport

a) *Airspace Change*

Cllr Lloyd provided an update on airport space changes. There had been suggestions that Option 6 may be adopted as a result of pressure put upon the airport. Carry forward.

b) *Future Structure of Consultative Committee*

Cllr Lloyd had drafted responses and circulated to Councillors. The consultation had been extended by two weeks. All agreed with response and agreed for Cllr Lloyd to submit.

Cllr Lloyd informed the meeting of a vacancy on the Consultative Committee and agreed to forward further information to interested parties. Cllr Lloyd asked Mr Tindall if BCVRA would be interested – Mr Tindall had not been aware of the vacancy.

12. HS2

Update

Cllr Lloyd informed the meeting of the next Working Party meeting to be held on 19 February. Reference was made to an email providing the Agenda but also an addendum giving individual petitioners the opportunity to speak.

Cllr Lock confirmed he would not be available to attend but offered to provide a written statement. Cllrs Lloyd and Hitchcock agreed to attend. The purpose of the PC attending would be to thank those who had assisted but to encourage them to continue.

Mr Burrow advised the meeting he would be speaking to encourage SMBC to continue to assist and to ensure the opportunity for community engagement. Mr Hickin would also be attending the meeting.

Cllr Lock commented on the draft letter to Mr Syms. Cllr Lloyd suggested adding – ‘The study should take account of the various new matters raised before the Committee which had not been taken into account in the original study’.

Correspondence received from Mr F Mitchell

The Parish Council had acknowledged receipt of correspondence received from Mr Mitchell regarding proposals to be put forward to HS2 Ltd.

13. Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Ian Geddes (Website Dec 14 & Jan 15)	001698	26.78
Mrs S Butterworth (Expenses Dec 14 & Jan 15)	001699	147.99
Marie Zizzi (Retirement – A Hodge WALC)	001700	25.00
Fortune Green Legal Practice Limited (Counsel’s Fees-HS2)	001701	2790.00
Bircham Dyson Bell (Charges 1.8.14-12.9.14 – HS2)	001702	1007.28

WALC (Clerk Training 7.3.15)	001703	47.00
WALC (Cllr Cambage Training 16.6.15)	001704	40.00
GR Dawson (Maintenance Oct-Dec 14)	001705	684.00
Solihull MBC (Salary/Allowances Oct-Dec 14)	001706	2268.85
Mr D Hitchcock (Travel Expenses-HS2-12.12.14)	001707	32.00
Mr R Lloyd (Travel Expenses-HS2-9.12.14)	001708	48.85

14. Correspondence

Nailcote Hall – Premises Licence Application

Representation to be made by 18 February. Cllr Lloyd commented on the levels of entertainment, alcohol sales, noise etc and the impact on the surrounding residential area. Clerk to submit objection.

National Planning Policy Framework

No comment at present.

Overview & Scrutiny Work Planning 2015/16

Cllr Lock asked for advice from Cllr Bell. Submissions to be made by 20 February. Clerk to forward email received from Mr R Eaton to Cllr Bell. The PC would complete the table provided. Mr Tindall reminded the meeting that the HS2 Working Party had been formed as a result of O&SWP.

Scout House – Application for Funding

A request had been received for £10,000 towards the Berkswell Scout House Appeal. £200,000 had been contributed by Berkswell Charities. Cllr Cambage commented that the request for £10,000 had been received after the 2015/16 budget had been set and as mentioned previously, the PC needed to apply a formula for such contributions. Cllr Cambage had liaised with Mr B Robinson re the formalities for Standing Orders. PC to respond advising that the request would be considered when a formula had been formalised.

15. Finance

Budget

The Budget for 2015/16 had been established.

Precept

Precept of £52,400 had been agreed. Support Grant of £995.00. Band D charge of £34.70, being a 1% increase on 2014/15.

Expected Expenditure 2015/16

No large bills were anticipated.

Donations/Support to Local Groups

As discussed above.

Section 137

As discussed above.

Berkswell PC Bank Accounts

Cllr Cambage suggested postponing the transfer of bank accounts until after the elections in May 2015. All agreed.

16. Administration

Elections

Clerk awaiting documentation.

17. Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Council, Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7.45pm, The Reading Room, Berkswell.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

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12 March 2015