

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Berkswell Parish Council held in the Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common, on 4th September 2014 at 7.00pm

1. Attendance

Cllrs. Lock (Chairman), Cambage, Cooper, Hitchcock, Lloyd
 W.Robinson (Minute taker)
 24 members of the public

2. Apologies

Cllr. Howles
 Ward Cllrs Bell, Diccico

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Lloyd declared an interest in agenda item 8 (HS2) as Chair of the HHSG group.

4. Resolve to vote Cllr.Cooper onto the Planning Committee to reduce quorum issues

It was proposed by Cllr. Lock and seconded by Cllr. Hitchcock that Cllr..Cooper be elected to the Planning Committee – **This motion was unanimously agreed**

5. Planning Applications

Application No.	Site	Parish Council response
2014/1433	82 Kelsey Lane, Balsall Common	No comment or representation
2014/1412	The Scout House, The Grove, Church Lane	Proposed Cllr.Hitchcock, and seconded by Cllr.Lloyd that the application be supported – Motion unanimously agreed
2014/1376	The Railway Public House, 547 Station Road	Cllrs.Lloyd and Hitchcock raised concerns about this potential extension. Cllr Hitchcock proposed the application be opposed because of the detrimental effect upon the street scene, this was seconded by Cllr/Lloyd – Motion unanimously agreed

6 Lower Farm Barn

Cllr. Lloyd gave an explanation of the Lower Farm Barn application and a brief history of the site. The response from the planning consultant notes that the building is far from being just amended, and it doesn't seem to follow the current planning regulation in that it is not so much a conversation but rather it is an actual rebuild. It was agreed that the parish council write to the planning officers and the ward Cllrs. pointing out the response of the planning consultant, and forward the actual email from the consultant.

It was agreed that Cllr.Lloyd will forward the email to all concerned

7. Public Opinion

Cllr.Lock gave an outline of the situation regarding the opposition to HC2 thus far, and details of some funding that may be partly utilised to carry this opposition forward. Cllr, Lock then asked the members of the public present for their views on the matter.

After detailed discussions between the public and parish Council members Cllr. Lock pointed out that a consensus seemed to be approaching that the parish Council should utilise its own members to speak to the select committee, it only remained to be determined who that person would be. Cllr.Lloyd then noted that there is merit in using legal representation to make the Parish Council case, through for example a junior barrister. Cllr.Cooper indicated that she has details of such a junior barrister who is well regarded in her field who could provide such representation at a much lower cost than a senior barrister and who has already done work on HS2.

Cllr.Hitchcock asked whether the select committee would look more favourably on ordinary people making their own representation rather than using barristers, reminding the meeting that there is public money involved that must be used wisely

A member of the public pointed out that there should be about 6 issues involved in this opposition response, and when the document is complete then a professional (barrister) could be employed to challenge the document findings to determine their viability

A member of the public asked that where parishioners are making their own representation to the select committee they be supported by the Parish council.

8. To discuss HS2 matters

It was agreed at the meeting that the Parish Council will review all expenses incurred thus far.

Cllr. Cooper noted that the BDB invoice is at such a level that the parish Council should review their contract.. Cllr. Lloyd was also critical of this level of expenditure. Cllr.Lock also

noted that the level was high, but pointed out that this level is where the market is today, and is unlikely to change.

9. To proceed with a meeting in private session

Cllr.Lock noted that where decisions are made in private session, these must be recorded in the public domain, there is no necessity to go to a private session.

In accordance with Berkswell Parish Council Standing Order 11a, a properly signed notice by three Parish Councillors was made that all decisions agreed at Berkswell Parish Council extraordinary meeting of 30th April 2014 would be revisited, and revised as necessary.

Cllr.Lock noted that the minutes of that meeting show that it was agreed that powers would be delegated to Cllr.Lock, and noted that this was an error and should now be rescinded – **This was unanimously agreed with power being retained by the Parish Council**

It was noted that the minutes of that meeting show that it was agreed that a QC will be appointed, this was an error and should now be clarified and replaced by the motion that “The Parish Council will appoint a Counsel” **This was unanimously agreed**

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of Berkswell Parish Council will be on Thursday 18th September 2014, in The Reading Room, Berkswell commencing at 7.45 pm

There being no further business the Chairman, Cllr.Lock closed the parish Council meeting at 10.00pm

Signed..... Date.....

G.Lock

Chairman

Berkswell Parish Council