

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held in the Reading Room, Berkswell, on 13th February 2014 at 7.45pm

1. Attendance

Cllrs Cambage, Hitchcock, Howles, Lloyd, and Lock (Chairman).

Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk).

Mr R Singh, Solihull Community Housing.

12 members of the public including Mr Dymond, Mr Felthouse BCVRA, Mr Hubbard, Mr Mansur and Borough Cllr Bell.

2. Apologies

Mr M Hickin, Mr K Tindall.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 28 January 2014 were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere

None.

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

Cllr Bell reported on the Duggins Lane development. 100% affordable housing to meet the Borough housing need would not be supported on this remote brownfield site.

A resident expressed concern that Coventry City Council had been informed and asked for their views on the development. Cllr Bell confirmed this was normal where such a boundary divide existed.

Cllr Bell confirmed the square footage of the development was greater than the previous building. As the development is in greenbelt an objection should be submitted. **Cllr Howles to submit an addendum to the Parish Council objection.** A further 31 objections were submitted following submission of the Parish Council objection.

Cllr Bell proposed that the Parish Council should have a representative at the Planning Committee. Cllr Diccico and Cllr Allsopp can address the Planning Committee but Cllr Bell cannot. **Chairman to ask Cllr Diccico to represent Parish Council at Planning Committee.**

Cllr Hitchcock commented on the poor condition of roads, in particular Coventry Road and Lavender Hall Lane, and the flooding on the Kenilworth Road close to the Mercedes Showroom.

Cllr Bell reported there had been some unsatisfactory works completed by contractors and this had resulted in a backlog of repairs. Cllr Bell agreed to contact Mr Bruce Brant.

Mr Stapleforth reported damage to road signage on Truggist Lane/Spencers Lane. **Mr Bruce Brant to be alerted to this and the damage to fingerpost sign at Berkswell crossroads.** Also, drains are blocked at the Malt House and the Chairman confirmed works being undertaken on the Berkswell Estate to divert water should remedy this.

7. Address by Mr Raj Singh, Solihull Community Housing re Anti-Social Driving

Mr Singh addressed the meeting, confirming the main priority is to identify the offenders of anti-social driving. Offenders can then be interviewed and warnings issued. Local police can be involved in the interviews. Nuisance in car parks etc can be controlled by dispersal orders. As a last resort, cameras can be made available. Nuisance should be reported on 101 or to the local police. **Mrs Butterworth to invite police representation at future Parish Council meeting.**

8. Planning Applications

8.1 2014/52 5 Brickyard Close, Balsall Common

Single storey side and rear extension. No objection.

Cllr Howles confirmed a Planning Committee should be established as a matter of urgency.

9. HS2

9.1 Council Response to Environmental Statement Consultation

Cllr Lloyd reported the HHAG response of 50 pages has been prepared and this could be amended to become the Parish Council response. He welcomed public contribution and the Chairman suggested the response should be made available to the public on the HHAG website. Mr Felthouse (BCVRA) offered to make available as a link on their website.

9.2 Report on Meeting with HS2, 6 February 2014

The Chairman reported HS2 are negotiating to reduce petitions. There should be no negotiation regarding the tunnel and the Council should petition on this.

Cllr Hitchcock commented on the health and safety issues associated with the speed of trains and the wind hazard.

Cllr Lloyd stated there will be a 3 week petitioning period around May/June 2014 and the Council needs to be prepared, having held public forums.

9.3 Appointment of Consultant to Aid Submissions/Petitions

The Chairman confirmed money has been set aside in the budget to appoint a consultant. **It was agreed the Chairman would set up a meeting with BDB (SMBC appointed consultants).**

Cllr Lloyd suggested the agent should be presented with 1 or 2 grievances to work on, to allow the Council to assess their efficiency.

Mr Stapleforth requested public meetings be held to raise awareness of the petitioning procedure.

10. Neighbourhood Development

10.1 Roman Catholic Recreation Area, Meeting House Lane – update

Mrs Butterworth to provide an update at the next meeting.

11. Correspondence

11.1 G R Mowing Ltd

Mrs Butterworth to contact Mr Hughes and Mr Brant to clarify contract.

11.2 Cllr & Mrs Hitchcock

Mrs Butterworth to write to SMBC on behalf of Cllr & Mrs Hitchcock.

11.3 Pound Close

The area has been cleared. Future of area to be discussed at next meeting.

12. Heritage and Community

12.1 Grass Cutting

Liaise with G R Mowing. **Mrs Butterworth to forward Mr Dymond a copy of letter sent to St John's Church.**

12.2 Pound Close Play Area

Discuss at next meeting.

12.3 Parish BBQ

It was agreed **Cllr Howles and Mrs Butterworth would liaise with the Parish Fête organisers.**

12.4 Museum

The Chairman confirmed he had met with the Museum Committee. It was no longer viable for the Museum to remain open. This would be re-assessed after the Summer and the lease would return to the Charities.

13. Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Ian Geddes - Website	001628	£312.90
WALC – Clerk Training	001629	£40.00
S Butterworth – Laptop & Stationery	001630	£303.94
S Butterworth – Flowers	001631	£40.00
Balsall Common Bugle	001632	£100.00
SMBC – Speed Visor Batteries	001633	£1268.46

Cheque stubs to be signed by Cllr Howles at next meeting.

14. Administration

14.1 Agree Councillors' Allowances Reimbursement

Cllr Cambage and Mrs Butterworth to discuss and present at next meeting.

14.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was agreed to appoint Mr Bill Robinson as Internal Auditor.

14.3 Update of Committees and Representation with External Bodies

Discuss at next meeting.

14.4 Clerk Availability to the Public at Berkswell Village Tea Room and Balsall Common Library

The Chairman reported that Mrs Butterworth would be available to meet with the public at the following times in March (on a trial basis): 10.00am-12.00pm, Mondays – Berkswell Village Tea Room, Tuesdays – Balsall Common Library.

Mrs Butterworth to prepare 'Issues List' and email Councillors regarding meeting times.

15. Next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on 27 March 2014 at 7:45pm in the Jubilee Centre, Station Road, Balsall Common, preceded by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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27 March 2014