

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held in the Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common, on 28th January 2014 at 6.00 pm

A one minute silence was observed in memory of Cllr Benton.

1. Attendance

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

Mrs S Butterworth (Clerk).

9 members of the public including Borough Cllr Dicicco.

2. Apologies

Mr B Brant SMBC, Mr D Felthouse BCVRA and Mr N Gilbert of Duggins Lane.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 January 2014 were confirmed as accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 December 2013 had been confirmed as accurate, and signed by Cllr Benton on 9 January 2014.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere

None.

7. Finance

7.1 Responsible Financial Officer

Following the sad loss of Cllr Benton, Cllr Cambage agreed to take on the role of Responsible Financial Officer as an interim measure. This was seconded by Cllr Lloyd. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Cambage.

7.2 2014/15 Budget Approval

The Budget, which had been discussed at some length by the Working Party, was amended and presented to the meeting by the Chairman. Cllr Hitchcock confirmed the budget had been discussed in detail by the Working Party and he was satisfied with its content. The Chairman stated the adjustments were negligible and it was more a matter of how it was presented and implemented.

Mr A Dymond was dissatisfied with the changes to the church budget and requested a further discussion. The Chairman explained the work would still be undertaken but a grant would be paid rather than invoices being presented for payment.

Cllr Meeson proposed the revised Budget be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Cambage.

8. Future of the Planning Committee

Following the sad loss of Cllr Benton the future of the Planning Committee was discussed. Cllr Hitchcock agreed to join the Committee. Cllr Howles volunteered to retake the Chair – as the Committee should elect the Chair, this would be discussed at the next meeting. The Chairman stated it would be beneficial for Cllr Cambage to join the Committee and therefore he would resign to allow a Planning Committee of five.

9. Planning Applications

9.1 2013/2050 205 Duggins Lane, Berkswell

It was felt the split of housing type was questionable. Cllr Cambage stated it was not unusual to see this type of plan of market sale and affordable properties.

Concerns raised by existing residents:

- Tandem parking allocated to properties will be inconvenient to occupiers, resulting in additional vehicle noise.
- The increase in vehicles and the exit onto Duggins Lane is unsuitable as this is already a busy lane.
- Difficult access for refuse collection vehicles.
- No play area for children.
- For those without a car, accessibility to local shops is restricted by dark lanes.
- Surrounding schools already over-subscribed.
- Problems with existing flooding of surrounding area with negative responses from appropriate representatives.

Correspondence received from several residents.

Cllr Lock asked Cllr Cambage for assistance in persuading SMBC the development is unacceptable and also in approaching the developer to air concerns.

Cllr Howles reiterated planning guidelines and policy statements are available and should ensure applications are considered in response to local need.

9.2 2013/2028 Wood Chipping at Quarry

Concerns raised:

- Inappropriate development within the Green Belt.
- Protected farmland which should not be subjected to this scale of long term industrial intrusion.
- Similar developments around this location have shown no regard for their rural location and been highly damaging to the communities amenity.
- Unregulated and continual use of numerous HGVs, with no acceptable maintenance programme in place, have caused considerable damage to what is and should remain a country lane.

Note: The development was in fact approved without the Parish Council being able to intervene.

9.3 2013/2155 Land Rear of Silver Birch, Kenilworth Road, Hampton in Arden

Cllr Hitchcock confirmed this is green belt and the application should not be considered. Change of use to brown field will result in further buildings.

10. Next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on 13 February 2014 at 7:45 pm in the Reading Room, Berkswell.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Mrs S Butterworth
Clerk to Berkswell Parish Council
The Old Granary
2 Holly Court, Holly Lane
Balsall Common
CV7 7EB

07443 644896

clerk@berkswellparishcouncil.org.uk

13 February 2014