

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Berkswell, held in the Reading Room, Berkswell, on 6th June 2013 at 7:45 PM**

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Attendance**

Cllrs Benton (SB), Burrow (AB), Hitchcock (DH), Howles (KH), Lloyd (RL), Lock (GL) (Chairman) and Meeson (KM).

Members of the public: Mr Hickin (Berkswell Parish) and Messrs Lucas and Tindall (Balsall Parish).

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **4. Annual return**

SB presented the completed annual financial return form. The Chairman reviewed each item on the check list, and a positive response was approved for each. The form will be submitted to Grant Thornton, the external auditor, by SB.

### **5. Payment of invoices**

It was resolved to pay the following invoices:

Chq no	Supplier	Gross	VAT	Reason
1525	The Bugle	£100.00		Summer edition of Bugle
1526	GR Mowing	£174.00	£29.00	June mowing
1527	2Gee Design	£28.70		Website May 13
1528	WJ Robinson	£145.00		Internal audit
1529	S Benton	£33.64		Stamps & stationery
1530	Aon	£865.20		Insurance renewal
1531	Greenway Trust	£100.00		Membership from 1 July and donation
1532	Zoë's Place	£75.00		See §6 below

Clarification will be sought about a further invoice from Mr Caffery, as this seems to overlap previous payments.

### **6. Donation to Zoë's Place**

It was resolved to make a donation of £75 to Zoë's Place ([www.zoes-place.org.uk](http://www.zoes-place.org.uk)) in acknowledgement of the refreshments provided at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **7. HS2 matters from Parish Assembly**

Members noted the considerable dissent expressed at the Parish Assembly and at the HS2 Consultation Briefing on 5 June in the Fentham Hall. Cllr Lloyd said it appeared the degree of potential damage to the Parish was starting to be recognised by the Borough Council, and that in response to the current consultation on the Draft Environmental Statement, the Council needed to make sure our list of issues was comprehensive, but not necessarily offer solutions.

Cllr Burrow said we needed to get Solihull MBC to do a thorough response to the current consultation, setting out the full extent of the heavy mitigation that was needed in the absence of a below-ground alignment.

Mr Lucas reported that he had written strong letters to our MP and members of the Borough Council, expressing the view that, for us, HS2 was all pain and no gain, and that elected representatives had failed to champion the views of residents. He wanted Borough Councillors to act on behalf of residents, and to be able to show real achievements.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Council should initiate a meeting between the Leader of Solihull MBC, the Chairman of the Solihull MBC HS2 Working Party, and the Chairmen of neighbouring Parish Councils. **Cllr Burrow would approach Ward Councillors, and Cllr Meeson agreed to liaise with neighbouring Parish Councils.**

Given this action, it was agreed the proposed donation to the Berkswell Society to publicise the HS2 consultation was not required at the present time.

## **8. NDP next steps**

Cllr Howles set out the present situation. There was an impasse at present, as the Borough Council would not accept an NDP boundary running through Balsall Common. We were ready to develop a joint plan with Balsall PC covering both Parishes, but Balsall PC was lacking the resources to proceed.

Cllr Lock said he had been advised we could prepare an NDP for our Parish if we restricted it to the single issue of mitigating the effects of HS2. It would be possible to have Addenda at a later date to cover additional neighbouring areas. There was debate about how effective this approach would be in securing mitigation and offset benefits, and it was agreed **Cllr Howles would discuss the concept with the Council's consultant** and report back at the next meeting.

## **9. Exclusion of public**

It was resolved to exclude the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2) because confidential staffing matters were to be discussed.

(Separate confidential section follows, making a total of 3 pages.)

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