

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in The Reading Room, Berkswell on Thursday, 14th February, 2013 at 8.15 pm

Apologies: Received from Cllrs Howles and Lloyd

Attendance: Cllr Lock was in the Chair and present were Cllrs Benton, Meeson, Hitchcock, & Burrow together with District Cllr Bell, Mr Malcolm Hickin and Mr S. Tidy (Hornets Football Club)

Declarations of Interest– None received.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were signed as a true record of the meeting held on 9/1/13
Public Opinion It was proposed and agreed that the meeting go into Public Opinion and District Councillors Report.

To receive reports from Mr S. Tidy, representing the Hornets Football Club and Mr M. Hickin – Village Gateways report.

Mr Tidy gave the meeting a comprehensive report on the running and future projects of the Hornets Football Club. They paid rent to SMBC, who owned the land, and this rent may rise - They were hoping to build a Clubhouse and have the land drained whilst at the moment they also used other pitches in the area. The Council suggested that they either try and buy the land or have a longer lease. A grant by the Parish Council would be considered at the beginning of new financial year. Mr M. Hickin gave the Council an update on the completed Gateways in Berkswell and were hoping to replicate the pillars at other 'entrances' to the Village. The name plates 'Berkswell' had now been attached to the pillars. Before any further plans for these went ahead speed check by SMBC would be awaited.

Further matters raised in Public Opinion

1. Mr Hickin reported that 'litter' i.e. magazine drops were not being put through letter boxes and just thrown into doorways – Cllr Bell said he would take this matter up.
2. Mr Hickin said that now the flowerboxes around the Parish were self-funding, he asked the Council if they would support more planting of bulbs etc. and get the School etc involved. This was thought to be a good idea and the Council would support such a scheme.
3. It was reported re the dangers of the large lorries turning in and exiting the A452 at Lincoln Farm Café – Cllr Bell would take this matter up with SMBC Highways.
4. It was reported that the verges on Coventry Rd and Broad Lane had become very narrow and the deep ditches at the side of the road were dangerous if a car went onto the verge for any reason – the same had happened in Hodgetts Lane adjacent to the deep ditch opposite Carol House – this would be taken up with Highways.
5. Cllr Bell reported that the LDF was half way through and nearing completion.

The meeting went back into Council Business

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a) To receive update on the closure of Berkswell Station waiting room – London Midland would still not open the waiting room unless the ticket office was open – this hardly ever happened due to Staff shortages. Cllr Bell would continue to pressurise London Midland and said that SMBC was also doing the same - Cllr Bell suggested that going to the press might help.
- b) To adopt report and recommendations of Finance working party following interim audit report
It was proposed and agreed that this be adopted
- c) To adopt Mr Robinson as Internal Auditor – This was agreed by the Council and approve Mr Davison's assistance to the clerk for the end of year accounting for the External Auditor. Agreed.
- d) To discuss expenses re Speed Visor Maintenance – the invoices for this maintenance were very high and discussion took place as to how these costs could be reduced – the clerk was asked to contact Street Lighting again to discuss if there were any practical ways of reducing the maintenance costs.
- e) To agree and adopt Council's IT Policy – Cllr Lock had not been able to produce his report on this so it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

f) Health and Safety Risk Assessment process – It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk contact SMBC to ask if they had an Officer who could advise this Council on Risk Assessments. To employ an outside expert would no doubt be costly.

g) To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan (KH) There was no report – it was proposed and agreed to hold a working party meeting with the Planning Consultant. Cllr Lock would consult with Cllr Howles.

h) Financial Regulations update - approve and adopt draft already circulated. It was proposed and agreed that this updated version be adopted by the Council.

Precept for year 2013/14 - Cllr Benton asked for the following statement to be added to the Minutes regarding the Precept meeting held in December to be noted: A precept meeting was held in December and past and present spending was discussed, together with the Council's plans for the year 2013-14 and as such a precept of £52,405 was set – this was then reduced by the information SMBC were passing on in full the Government Grant to Parish Councils , that being £1296.00 and so the Council agreed to take £409.00 from reserves to cover the shortfall. Agreed by the Council that this statement be added.

i) To confirm dates for this year's meeting. The clerk to circulate list of dates and venues booked. It was agreed to use the Jubilee Centre for some of the meetings

HERITAGE AND THE COMMUNITY

a) Footpaths – Report by RL- No report in Cllr Lloyd's absence.

b) To receive update report on HS2 (RL/DH) discuss Public Meeting re HS2 on Saturday 16th February, The Jubilee Centre Balsall Common - 10.00 – 1.00 pm (GL) Cllr Lock reported that this meeting had been publicized and he had obtained maps – An on-line survey would go on the Website for members of the public to respond to.

c) Hodgetts/Waste Lane accidents (AB) It was proposed and agreed that the clerk write to Mr Lechmere at SMBC and ask for an improvement to the signage at this dangerous junction – Cllr Burrow said that the installation of the speed visor would not help – larger signs were required.

d) Report from Cllrs Howles re Neighbourhood Plan

VILLAGE AND PARISH SIGNS

a) To discuss update re meeting re road signage at Carol Green and Tanners Lane (AB) Cllr Burrow reported that a further site meeting with MrTovey had taken place and matters were progressing and we would get two fingerpost signs (but not the expensive cast iron ones) – one on the Godcake in Truggist Lane and the second at Spencers lane / Truggist Lane junction, and with finials saying 'Carol Green' - but as yet he had no actual confirmation.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:1.To approve accounts for payment - It was proposed and agreed that the following be Paid and the list added to the Minutes of previous chequespaid.

WALC Course for Councillor	488	39.00
Mrs Wyldbore-Smith Printer cartridges	489	70.99
SMBC Salary costs and Cllrs Allowances	490	2,007.62
Ian Geddes Website update	491	72.44
GR Mowing Contract	492	174.00
WALC Half day Course for Councillor	493	20.00
Stansgate Planning Consultants	494	1,450.80 (VAT £241.80)
SMBC Speed Visor Maintenance	495	1,338.00 (VAT £223.00)
The Bugle – Spring insertion	497	100.00
BerkswellCharities - Rent of Museum	498	5.00
BerkswellEstate - Rent of play space	499	5.00
Jubilee Centre Hiring fee for room for HS2	500	15.00

Invoices paid to be added to the Minutes

Ian Geddes	Website	411	£26.40		26.40
GR Mowing	Mowing	412	174.00	54.00	228.00
G. Dawson	Mowing	413	555.00	111.00	666.00
J. Caffery	Maintenance	415	200.00		200.00
GR Mowing	Mowing	426	145.00	29.00	174.00
Thistle loo Hire	BBQ	427	180.00	36.00	216.00
Ian Geddes	Website	428	18.65		18.65
EON Elec Museum		430	778.57	156.71	934.28
BT Phone line		431	39.58	9.89	49.47
Open Spaces Soc. Sub		433	40.00		40.00
G. Davison	Internal Auditor	435	200.00		200.00

2. To approve Clerk's payment in arrears, for use of home as office 2012-13, process for payment for 2013/14. It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman write to payroll and instruct them to pay the clerk this fee.

3. To discuss and approve grant to Hornets Football Club – A grant to the Hornets would be considered at the beginning of the new Financial Year.

4. Grant to Scouts (GL) - this would be considered in the next Financial year.

5. To authorise payments for Planning Consultants in the future if required. No decision was recorded re this matter.

6. The new quotation had been received from GR Mowing showing an increase of £10.00 per month – Cllr Burrow said this was too high and it was agreed that the clerk ask them for a revised price reflecting current inflation.

COUNCILLORS AREA REPORTS : To receive observations from Parish Councillor's

1. Cllr Lock said that a public meeting for residents would be held re the management of the Conservation Area now that it had been extended.

In Private Session – Report from Staffing Committee – This matter was not discussed

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Thursday 14th March, 2013 Jubilee Centre Station Rd. Balsall Common
Planning meeting 7.15 pm - Parish Council 7.45 pm**

G. Lock Chairman14th March, 2013

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