

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
of Berkswell, held in the Committee Room, Village Hall,
Station Road, Balsall Common,
on Wednesday 15th May 2013 at 7:30 PM**

1. Apologies

None.

2. Attendance

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

Member of the public: Mr Tindall (Balsall Parish).

3. Declarations of interest

Cllrs Burrow and Lock declared a personal interest in item 6.

**4. Confirmation of minutes of Parish Council meeting commenced
on 17 April 2013**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and signed by those chairing the sessions (Cllr Lock page 1, Cllr Howles the remainder).

**5. Confirmation of minutes of Staff Committee meeting held on 12
March 2013**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record by the three councillors present at the meeting (Burrow, Howles, and Lloyd) and signed by the chair, Cllr Howles.

6. Grant to Berkswell Society for Parish Barbeque

Following discussion, it was agreed to make a grant to the Berkswell Society to cover payments to suppliers for the Parish Barbeque on 1 June. However, the payment for the hire of toilets would be made directly, as the amount of reclaimable VAT would be significant. The toilet hire was £216, leaving £584 to be granted to the Society.

**7. To approve drafting of a letter to Mrs Spelman re HS2 tunnel
decision**

Councillors had met HS2 Ltd on 7 May at the Royal British Legion. It was evident that there was little prospect of getting the proposed deep-bored tunnel. At the last Community Forum, a response had been promised by the end of April, but this had not happened.

Councillors were disappointed with the lack of feedback and involvement by Mrs Spelman. Notes of the meeting on 27 November 2012 between the Secretary of State, Mrs Spelman, and Solihull MBC have not been released. It was agreed that the Council should send a strong letter to our MP asking what action she would be taking now that the "mitigation" route had ended in failure. Opposition to the HS2 Preparation Bill would be one recourse. **Cllr Lock agreed to draft a letter.**

The consultation on the draft Environmental Statement was imminent - Cllr Lock had discussed a special edition of the *Bugle* and/ or leafletting. A second letter to Mrs Spelman might be appropriate.

8. Arrangements for Parish Assembly 23 May 2013

Two guest speakers have been arranged by the Berkswell Society. The Berkswell Society AGM would follow on from the Parish Assembly at around 9 pm.

If possible, refreshments will be arranged as last year, and a charity donation of £50 was approved. **Cllr Lock agreed to finalise arrangements.**

9. Financial regulations and RFO

The amended Financial Regulations circulated by Cllr Burrow were approved. It was resolved that Cllr Benton should be designated as the Responsible Financial Officer.

10. Accounts for payment

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

	Cheque	Amount	VAT
J Caffery, 2012/ 13 maintenance	1510	£344.00	
Solihull MBC payroll Jan-Mar 2013	1521	£4357.00	
HS2 Action Alliance, legal fund	1522	£1000.00	
Thistle Loo Hire, parish BBQ	1523	£216.00	£36.00
Berkswell Society, parish BBQ	1524	£584.00	
E.ON standing order p.m. fr 28 May		£200.00	

The subscription of £45.00 to the Open Spaces Society had become due - it was agreed this should be discussed at the meeting on 20 June.

Cllr Benton reported that all the bank mandate forms had now been accepted by the National Westminster Bank. It was resolved to confirm the mandate for all seven councillors to be signatories to the Council's accounts. The Bank has been asked to send statements to Cllr Benton.

11. Next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on 20 June 2013 at 7:45 pm in the Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common, preceded by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 7:15 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Cllr G Lock

Chairman of the Parish Council

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20 June 2013

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