

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2016 AT 8PM AT STONYCROFT, 9 SHRUBLANDS ROAD, BERKHAMSTED

Present: Susan Johnson (Chairman)
Gordon Bluck (Vice Chairman)
Miranda Cummins (Hon. Secretary)
Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Paul Crosland
Lindy Foster-Weinreb
Tony Statham

Apologies for absence were received from Katy Brookes-Duncan, Jude Egan, Rita Jones, Jenny Habib, Christine Manning and Elaine Mercer. Susan was thanked for her hospitality for this and all previous meetings.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2016 were agreed and signed.

2. Matters arising not appearing under an agenda item

NHS – Closure of Gossoms End Community Hospital: Susan had received a reply from West Herts Hospital NHS Trust. They are still saying that this is a temporary measure and that discussions are ongoing. They did have staffing problems and still don't know about their future funding.

Dacorum Borough Council's revised Statement of Community Involvement: Susan felt that it was not necessary to respond to this. It was acknowledged that technical language was a barrier to the public commenting on planning matters.

Local by-election: Gordon Yearwood, Liberal Democrat, was elected to the Town Council with a majority of over 100.

Continuing education in Berkhamsted: Rita had written to Dacorum Further Learning. They replied saying they would love to hold classes in Berkhamsted but there was nowhere to hold them. She has replied with suggestions of possible venues.

3. Chairman's Report

The Co-operative Bank/Britannia Building Society: is to close, leaving an important local building temporarily empty.

Former Haydon's shop in Lower Kings Road is being refurbished.

The **Swan Youth Leader** was leaving on 11th March and interviews are being held for a replacement.

The **Ashlyns School Governors** have resigned en masse and a new board will be elected next week.

4. Map: Christine would talk to Bill Willett after the AGM about the future production of the Footpath Map. Lindy said that there were several boxes of canal maps at the Civic Centre. It

was suggested that some should be taken to the History Society and BCA AGMs. These maps are free of charge. CM/SJ

Gordon had been to the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre to discuss the Footpath Map. They seemed interested but there has been nothing further from them. We could let them and the Complete Outdoors have some canal maps.

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

TASC

The minutes of meetings on 9th December 2015 and 19th January and 16th February 2016 were adopted. There were only three people at the February meeting. Planning matters discussed included: 29 Shrublands Road: no objection; Heron Place: objections on several counts; 38 Kitsbury Road: consider design; 6 Londrina Terrace: some concerns; multi-storey car park off Lower Kings Road: objections to mass and height, signage and several concerns regarding maintenance, opening hours, etc.; Dacorum's decision based on outdated traffic data; amended plans were due. Development of housing at Ashlyns Farm has had outline planning permission granted on Appeal.

Changes to canal mooring: The consultation by C&RT had just finished.

Section 106: a new Town Council working group had been formed and it would need a representative from the BCA. TASC would put one forward. GB

Environment Award 2013: Mariners had still not put up their plaque. The Association would not pursue this any more.

ACTIVITIES & PUBLICITY

Thursday 4th February – British Film Institute, in the Great Hall. Very good talk. The film shown about Northchurch belongs to the Northchurch Society and will be available from the BFI in June/July.

AGM: Thursday 17th March (see Item 6)

Hustings for the European Election: Ask Elaine if she can arrange this. [*Town Hall/Great Hall since booked for Wednesday 8th June.*]

Thursday 14th April – Rectory Lane Cemetery “**Dead Place to Living Space**”

Sunday 19th June – **walk**

6. **AGM:** The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Elaine Collins, will attend in place of the Mayor and Susan is arranging a speaker from Dacorum. Paul will produce papers (80), Tony will organise a projector and sort out wine and Miranda will get soft drinks and nibbles. SJ/ TS/ MC

7. **Newsletter:** Susan and Christopher produced the newsletter. Another good issue.

8. **Publicity and Website:** AGM papers will go on the website. Susan will do a press release for the Gazette. SJ

9. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Berkhamsted Arts Trust: David Guest is taking over producing the Green Sheet. He will either be paid by BAT or seek sponsorship.

Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust: The Cowie chairs are nearly ready.

Festival of Light: Susan will attend the wash-up meeting on 2nd March as Acting Town Clerk and also represent the BCA, as Miranda is unable to attend. **SJ**

Friends of St. Peter's: They are interviewing for a Project Manager for the cemetery project. Tokens can be 'posted' in the box at Tesco to raise money for a cemetery seat's restoration.

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust: Next meeting on 3rd March. They need a new Trustee.

10. Membership Report

358 member households. 33 subscriptions due. Two people joined at the BFI talk and another one today.

11. Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report as Christine is away. The accounts are with the Examiners.

12. Any other business

We have to be prepared to pay experts for IT advice.

13. Dates of next meetings:

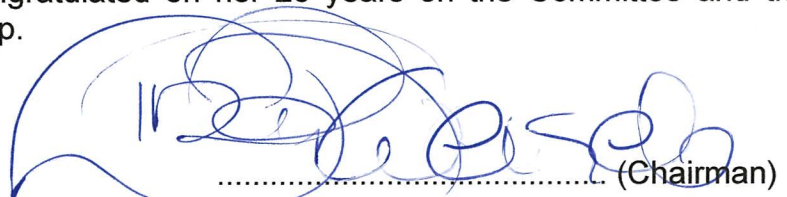
Thursday 17th March – AGM.

Thursday 7th April at The Warehouse, Castle Wharf, Ravens Lane (Lindy)

(Paul will be away)

Susan, as retiring Chairman, was congratulated on her 25 years on the Committee and the completion of six years of Chairmanship.

The meeting ended at 9.41 p.m.


..... (Chairman)
7.04.16
..... (Date)

Agenda for next meeting on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 8 pm

1. Minutes of the meeting on 1st March 2016
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Footpath Map – report
5. Reports from TASC and Activities
6. AGM report
7. Newsletter
8. Publicity and website
9. Reports from representatives on other bodies
10. Membership report
11. Treasurer's report
12. Any other business
13. Dates of future meetings