

BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

Reports and Minutes of a Meeting of the TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted
On Monday 7th November 2011 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Councillors: | R Cowie | Chairman |
| | P Matthews | Vice Chairman |
| | Mrs E Collins | |
| | I Reay | |
| | Fiona Macdonald | |
| | G Stevens | |

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: J Lythgoe
T Ritchie

CO-OPTED MEMBER:

Andrew Calderwood Birtchnell's Copse

43/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

44/11 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

45/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 5th September 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

46/11 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of a letter sent to Royal Mail by the Conservation Area Resident's Association regarding the closure of the Berkhamsted Sorting Office has been received.

A letter has been received from Dacorum Borough Council stating that Canal Fields is one of six playing fields within the Borough nominated

by them to be selected for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. Voting within Dacorum commenced on 18th October 2011 and lasts for four weeks. To vote go to www.qe2fields.com

Notification has been received of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Hall Trust to be held at 8.00 pm on Thursday 24th November 2011 in the Sessions Hall. All are invited.

The Annual Dacorum Town and Parish Conference will be taking place at Dacorum Borough Council, Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead between 09.30 am and 02.30 pm on Friday 25th November 2011. All Councillors and Clerks are invited.

47/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

TRANSPORT

48/11 TRANSPORT POLICY

- i. Berkhamsted and Northchurch Transport Plan – Next meeting 26th April 2012. This was noted.

49/11 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. Traffic Management

- i. Highways Locality Budget for Berkhamsted

Councillor Reay introduced the paper circulated prior to the meeting with his suggested proposals, following consultation with other interested parties. If all the works were carried out it would cost over £230,000. The proposed works were estimated at just under £80,000, from a budget of £90,000, leaving a small balance for additional works throughout the year.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Paul Trustram from Hertfordshire Highways to answer a number of questions. Mr Trustram confirmed that the difference in unit costs for the various works was due to the amount of work involved. In one instance it was merely replacing a top layer, in another; it was removing and replacing the base layer and top layer. Mr Trustram confirmed that the proposed work in Ravens Lane was to replace the low kerb stones with higher ones preventing further damage from vehicles driving over them.

The meeting was reconvened.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

To accept the proposals for highways work under the Highways Locality Budget as detailed in the agenda paper.

Action Councillor Reay

- ii. Measures to discourage parking on the footway outside Turner Court (Councillor Stevens)

Councillor Stevens stated that vehicles parking on the verge / footpath outside Turner Court had become a problem. There were wooden bollards on the opposite side of the road to prevent such parking, but it was not practical on the side of the road adjacent to the flats. There was ample parking for residents at the rear of the flats and measures should be looked at to prevent parking on the verge / footpath.

Following discussion it was agreed that if vehicles were parking unlawfully and / or causing an obstruction, it should be dealt with. The Town Clerk was requested to write to the local Police Team and ask them to investigate and take action as necessary.

Action Town Clerk

- ii. Hertfordshire Highways Winter Service 2011-12 Salt Bin Re-allocation Project

Councillor Reay referred to the paper circulated with the agenda. As a County Councillor he was being consulted regarding proposals to remove or redeploy salt bins currently located adjacent to priority treated roads. A reply was required by 15th November 2011.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mrs Susan Johnson to state that the location of salt bins should be looked at holistically.

The meeting was reconvened.

Following discussion it was agreed:

That a Working Group consisting of Councillors Reay and Stevens should further examine the proposals and come forward with suggestions.

Action Councillors Reay and Stevens

That Councillor Reay should contact Mr Twigg from Hertfordshire Highways to request an extension to the reply date to allow further examination of the proposals.
Action Councillor Reay

b. Parking

- i. Residents Parking Zones. Progress report - Councillors Handy, Laws, Macdonald & Reay

Councillor Macdonald updated the meeting. Work was still progressing on the two proposed Resident Parking Zone areas. There continued to be detailed discussions with officers from Dacorum Borough Council. There would need to be further discussions / consultation with the residents of some roads where the response had been inconclusive. Work was progressing as quickly as possible.

c. Pedestrian routes and footways

- i. Footpaths in Canal Fields, The Moor and Velvet Lawn (Standing item) There was nothing to report
- ii. Parish Paths Partnership - Minutes of meeting 29th September 2011. Minutes of meeting 2nd November 2011

The minutes were received and adopted. The Town Clerk was thanked for his hard work in pulling the various strands of the projects together.

- d. Roads (Standing item –Nothing to report)
- e. Cycling (Standing item – Nothing to report)
- f. Rail Services (Standing item – Nothing to report)
- g. Bus Services (Standing item – Nothing to report)
- h. Dacorum Access Group (Standing item – Nothing to report)
- i. High Street Pavements Working Group

Councillor Ritchie referred to his paper circulated with the agenda and presented the High Street fault mapping boards prepared by the Town Warden to display and track reported faults. The number of paving slabs in need of repair was substantial. This was work in progress and it was anticipated that there would be an update on faults / work at subsequent

meetings. The links forged between Hertfordshire Highways and the Town Council were extremely beneficial.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Paul Trustram from Hertfordshire Highways to state that the reporting and monitoring of defects was helpful as the reporting went directly into the seven day repair programme. This was still work in progress.

The meeting was reconvened.

The report was noted and the Town Warden thanked for his hard work.

ENVIRONMENT

- 50/11 a. Town Projects – (Standing items)
- i. Millennium Garden
 - ii. Gateway Garden
 - iii. Gossoms End Flower Beds
 - iv. High Street Hanging Baskets

There was nothing to report

- b. Birtchnell's Copse, Ivy House Lane

The Warden, Mr Calderwood, was present to answer any questions. His report, submitted prior to the meeting, was noted and Mr Calderwood thanked for his dedication and hard work.

- c. Recycling / Sustainability Developments – Nothing to report
- d. Canal Fields Liaison Group – Nothing to report
- e. Community Safety – Nothing to report
- f. Litter and Nuisance

Councillor Ritchie requested an update on his question from the previous meeting regarding the Ward Walk and the tasking of the Dacorum Borough Council Clean Safe and Green Team based at Berkhamsted.

The Chairman stated he would obtain a reply
Action Councillor Cowie

- g. Berkhamsted Heritage and Environment – Nothing to report
- h. *Vide 40/11 h Street Cleaning after Saturday & Sunday Markets (to include pavement cafes)*

To review the evidence gathered by Councillors during the preceding weeks and the actions taken by the Market Trust

The Town Warden had reported that the situation was much improved. There was a new customer rubbish bin at Costa Coffee. New larger recycling bins had been installed in the town centre. The Town Warden would continue to monitor the situation.

Action Town Warden

- i. *Vide 40/11 i The implications of the closure of the Berkhamsted Sorting / Delivery Office*

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mrs Susan Johnson of the Berkhamsted Citizen's Association to speak.

Mrs Johnson stated that there had been a recent meeting between the Berkhamsted Citizen's Association, Councillor Matthews on behalf of Berkhamsted Town Council and Mr Mike Tatum, Chairman of the Trustees of the Way Inn. The meeting had been to discuss the possibilities of using the Way Inn as a sorting / collection point in town. The Way Inn had stated they were prepared to negotiate with Royal Mail to facilitate this, but the first floor was now an art gallery, thus limiting space. A number of proposals had been agreed to publicise the situation more widely.

Mrs Johnson was thanked for the Berkhamsted Citizen's Association's hard work.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Matthews updated the meeting as follows:

The meeting had been productive. The Way Inn had been helpful and agreed to have further discussions with Royal Mail to become a collection point. However, space was limited.

There was an issue with advertising the current service available from Royal Mail:

Customers could request redelivery 3 times free of charge (but there was no guarantee of time / date of delivery)

Customers could request redelivery to the Berkhamsted Post Office for collection, but there was a fee of £1.50

Mail could be collected from the new Sorting Office in Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead. However, there was a problem with the information left behind for the customer by the original

Postman / woman. The customer needed to know exactly who the mail was addressed to, in order to take the correct identification to the Sorting Office for collection. If the correct identification was not presented (passport / photo driving licence) in the name of the addressee on the mail, the mail would not be released. The original Postman / woman did not always leave these details for the customer and this had resulted in wasted journeys.

It had been agreed that the Town Council and Citizen's Association would publicise the matter in their next newsletters.

An information notice would be displayed in the Post Office.

The Town Council and Citizen's Association would continue to pursue a collection point within the town.

51/11 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 08.24 pm

