

# 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## MINUTES OF MEETING

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Title:     | <b>Basingstoke District Association of Parish<br/>and Town Councils</b>   |  |
| Held On:   | Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2014   |  |
| Present:   | Julian Jones<br>Martin Slatford<br>Martin Biermann<br>Les Fryer<br>David Richards<br>Peter Bloyce<br>Brian Langer<br>Nazih Khan<br>Sandy Johnston<br>Vanessa Richards | Dummer (Chair)<br>Baughurst<br>Chineham<br>Chineham<br>Ellisfield<br>Old Basing and Lychpit<br>Overton<br>Rooksdown<br>Sherfield on Loddon<br>Silchester |
| Guests:    | Alison Edwards  | Secretary  |
| Apologies: | Alan Cox<br>Lorna Cuthill<br>Robert Cooper<br>Wendy Simpson (clerk)<br>Cathy Burt<br>David Leeks  | Ashmansworth<br>Mapledurwell & Up Nately<br>North Waltham<br>Preston Candover & Nutley<br>Whitchurch<br>Tadley   |

### **1 Minutes of the last meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

1.1 A spelling mistake for “Muse Consulting” was pointed out in paragraph 5.5.

Action: Clerk to amend.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

2.1 Noted as above.

### 3 Matters arising from previous minutes

3.1 Contact details for Alex Howison, Scottish & Southern Energy, were circulated with the minutes of the previous meeting. Martin Biermann advised the meeting that he believed parish and town councils were formal consultees in the licensing process. It was agreed that the next meeting should include a presentation on the Village Agent scheme. **Action: Julian Jones to arrange for a speaker from HALC/HCC.**

3.2 Brian Langer reiterated his point raised at the last meeting about the quality of Borough Councillor input into the planning process, which is impeded by lack of local knowledge, and that more use should be made of IT as a way of informing planning meetings. It was suggested that parish councils could submit photographs to help Borough Councillors taking planning decisions understand the area better. **Action: Martin Biermann to make the case for this to BDBC.**

3.3 Martin Biermann asked whether the next meeting could include a presentation on open spaces, in particular how to identify who owns what, who has responsibility for maintaining certain trees, hedges etc, and whether there is any help available from BDBC for doing this work. Martin Slatford would like that session to also look at what help is available for conducting tree surveys and dealing with potentially dangerous trees. **Action: Julian Jones to see if Tony Curtis would be available to attend the next meeting.**

### 4 OPEN FORUM:

#### Speedwatch

4.1 Martin Slatford informed the meeting that he has organised a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 between police and both existing and prospective SpeedWatch schemes to update each other on progress, share best practice, etc. A letter has been circulated by the Police and Crime Commissioner offering a contribution of up to £1000 per scheme to assist with the launch of up to 70 new SpeedWatch schemes over the next two years. Martin advised that volunteers no longer have to go through the lengthy police vetting process but do have to sign a contract of agreement. This contract ensures volunteers are covered by police insurance. Martin requested that the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July be held under the auspices of the BDAPTC. This was agreed. **Action: Martin Biermann to find out if a room at BDBC is available for the meeting. These minutes to act as an invite to any SpeedWatch schemes to attend. Please contact Martin Slatford at [martin.slatford@googlemail.com](mailto:martin.slatford@googlemail.com) for further information.** Les Fryer suggested that a specific email invite would also be worthwhile. **Action: Martin Slatford to draft email for Julian Jones.**

#### WWI names on Basingstoke War Memorial

4.2 BDBC is trying to trace relatives of those named on the war memorials in the District. Some parishes have yet to respond to BDBC's email request. **Action: Could those councils that have not yet responded please do so.**

#### The Local Plan – what next?

4.3 Martin Biermann is of the view that the Local Plan will go to the Overview Committee, maybe via Cabinet, but it will not be going back to full Council. The western bypass/service road from Manydown is still a big issue. Brian Langer asked whether the recent changes to portfolio holders would be likely to affect the Local Plan.

Martin Biermann said that the changes were still settling down and so it was too early to tell. Rob Golding is now chairing one of the remaining two Overview Committees.

## **5 REPORTS**

### HALC

5.1 The Chief Executive's report at the last meeting mentioned the community SpeedWatch offer from the Police and Crime Commissioner discussed under paragraph 4.1, and that NALC have a new Chief Executive. NALC's proposals for a revised accreditation scheme (to replace the Quality Parish Scheme) was discussed. They propose a three-tier structure: Foundation Standard; Quality Standard; and Quality Gold. HALC believe the proposals are too complex and many of the requirements proposed for Quality Standard are legal requirements for councils anyway. HALC prefer the South East Employer's system, which Hook has followed.

5.2 The Government has given the green light to electronic bank accounts and payments for parish and town councils. Unity and Lloyds can already do multiple authorisations for online banking.

5.3 The Board of Directors has agreed that HALC, as a limited company, is covered by the Government's bank guarantee and so can continue to bank with the Co-op. It should be noted that parish councils are not limited companies and so this should not be seen as a reason for such councils to stay with the Co-op; however it was believed it unlikely that the Government would refuse to repay monies lost by parish councils from a British bank.

5.4 HALC's AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Victoria Hall, Hartley Whitney. Every parish council should shortly be receiving a copy of HALC's service brochure.

5.5 Sandy Johnston said that potentially libellous letters have been sent by parishioners in his parish regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, accusing those on the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of being corrupt. It would seem unfair to expect volunteers to pay for legal support to defend themselves and asked whether HALC would be able to give advice on the way forward. The meeting agreed that it would be prudent to seek advice from HALC.

### Community Safety

5.6 There has not been a recent meeting.

5.7 Some councillors had attended a meeting where Chief Constable Andy Shaw gave his views on the changing face of policing in Hampshire on 26 March. The Chief Constable attempted to justify cuts to police numbers and increases in PCSOs.

### Disability Forum

5.8 On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014 there is an event in Basingstoke to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by those in wheelchairs. The signposting service is being updated so that it would be clearer to someone visiting the Forum or Citizen's Advice Bureau where to get what they need.

5.9 The meeting discussed the poor performance of Stagecoach. The General Manager of Stagecoach, Mr Vince, had admitted to the Disability Forum that staff are often rude and information provision is poor, and has agreed that, when new staff are recruited, a member of the Forum will be invited to help train new staff on how to act in front of customers. Julian Jones pointed out that some new bus stops had been placed in places

inappropriate for disabled users (grass verges, etc) and that Stagecoach were not making the most of new technology and the availability of smart phones apps, e.g. Traveline SW, when it came to up to date information provision. Martin Biermann noted that the waiting area for the Chineham bus in town did not have any seating. He has requested seating and has had no response from Stagecoach. **Action: Sandy Johnston agreed to bring this up at his meeting with Stagecoach on 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

#### Voluntary Services Forum

5.10 Nothing new to report.

#### Local Strategic Partnership

5.11 The last meeting of the LSP involved a workshop exploring what value the LSP was adding. The general feeling was that it did add value as different bodies now knew each other and so knew who to contact at critical times, for example during the flooding. Nevertheless it was felt that the LSP needed more contact with the retail community.

5.12 Julian asked whether BDAPTC should hold a similar workshop to look at what the Association was doing well and what members wanted it to do. It was agreed that the Association should request a workshop session at the Mayor's Reception at which it could promote the work that it does and the achievements it has made. **Action: Julian Jones to request a workshop session at the Mayor's Reception.**

### **AT 9.20PM THE MEETING CLOSED AND MOVED TO THE AGM**

6.1 It was proposed en-bloc that the existing structure and post-holders remained the same for the following year. All attendees were in agreement.

6.2 Vanessa Richards (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2013/14:

#### **Statement of Accounts at 31 March 2014**

|  | <b>2013-2014</b> | <b>2012-2013</b> |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance on 1 <sup>st</sup> April | £710.82          | £539.82          |
| Secretarial Expenses                     | £192.00          | £204.00          |
| Owed by BDBC re: transfer of website     |                  | £375.00          |
| Closing Balance on 31 March              | £518.82          | £710.82          |

6.3 It was agreed that the Association should give HALC notice that it would require a subsidy of around £200 a year for secretarial support going forward. **Action: Julian Jones to speak to HALC.**

6.4 It was agreed that meetings would move to an early Tuesday in each month for the next year, avoiding Tuesdays that directly followed a bank holiday Monday.

**.Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.**