

Balsall Parish Assembly

Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 31 May 2018 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Centre, 225 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FE

Present

Councillor Mark Tattum (Chairman), Councillor Judy Lea, Councillor Lee Quinney, Councillor Helen Dean, Councillor Lionel King, Councillor Christina O'Sullivan, Councillor Richard Lloyd, Councillor Sheila Cooper and 31 members of the public, 19 of whom were Balsall parish electors and 3 speakers from HS2 - Jonathan Lord, Ashley Jackson (LM) and Andy deBell (BBV).

The Parish Council Chairman welcomed members of the public and speakers and outlined the format of the event.

Following discussion it was decided by vote to receive the presentation from HS2 and have a Q & A before moving on to other parish issues.

HS2

The presentation referred to the Community Engagement Plan for Berkswell, Balsall Common and Hampton-in-Arden that has been produced for the HS2 North area. The HS2 website will be used to provide notifications of advance works as well as consultation events such as design works for the HS2 station.

The presentation covered the phasing of early works, main construction and testing periods although these are subject to change. The issue of the Continuous Haul Route was addressed. Currently the contractors are considering a construction plan that would allow most heavy goods vehicles to travel along the track of the line as it is constructed. This means that early construction of the viaduct to carry construction traffic is currently being considered. The Balsall Common viaduct is scheduled for Q2 2019 – Q2 2020 and the Carol Green underbridge Q1 2020 – Q2 2021. It is anticipated that these structures will be used for transportation routes around the trace. This will reduce the necessity for the vast majority of construction traffic to travel along the Kenilworth road through the village. There will be an update from HS2 Ltd in July regarding progress on this objective of a Continuous Haul Route.

Sources of funds for affected communities will be available until 2027. These are Community Environmental Fund (CEF) and Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF). CEF is up to a maximum of £75,000, BLEF to £1m (can include public realm works), no match funding required. An application needs to prove disruption and whether it is a proposal in the parish plan. Team can come and talk to groups.

Q&A

Will the greenway be a haul route? – no, the temporary diversion will be left alone as much as possible and it will reopen afterwards. The greenway is too close to construction.

Is Hall Meadow Road part of the haul route? – no, only movement of equipment and people will go through when needed.

Will Berkswell station be closed at all during construction? – not to their knowledge.

When works are complete, will there be a cycle way from Burton Green to Balsall Common? – if this is part of the agreement with SMBC then it will be honoured.

Can there be a dedicated meeting to pick up the issue of the haul route? – the continuous haul route is still being worked on, update likely to be in July.

The speakers were asked for a copy of their presentation to be made available after the meeting.

Other issues

Minutes of the Parish Assembly 18 May 2017 were approved.

The Chairman's report for 2017/18 will be made available on the Parish Council website after the meeting.

The following comments and observations were raised and discussed:

- The state of the footpath outside Heart of England School
- The lack of no waiting enforcement in Gypsy Lane
- Meriden have initiated talks regarding an enforcement officer
- Why can't the library car park barrier be open in the day
- Why isn't there a letter box for the Jubilee Centre
- What is the redundant cable for outside the ex-HSBC
- Pavement parking needs to be addressed
- Frog Lane field should be a school car park with a pedestrian route to the school
- The flower planters may visually obstruct crossing between Atkinson Stilgoe and ex-Barclays Bank
- The recent Bugle had no articles from Balsall Parish Council
- Balsall Parish Council have communication through facebook and website
- The NDP timetable is delayed as a result of the Governance Review
- Why is there no AOB on the Parish Council agenda
- Concerns should be put in writing to the Parish Council Clerk for Parish Council meeting agenda items or acted upon by residents
- Did the Parish Council receive £100,000 for cctv – unnamed source
- The library carpark has discarded nitrous oxide cylinders for older people to slip on
- Would be nice to have the Police here
- Change of personnel required – not just the Parish Council
- Need for more engagement from local people of a younger age
- Would like a more relaxed engagement with attendees at Parish Council, even if not by the book
- Request that the Parish Council engages with Berkswell Parish Council
- Should there be more than one meeting a year of the parish

The following actions were agreed:

1. The Chairman to advise Meriden Parish Council Chair that Berkswell PC would like an invitation to their meetings with SMBC to explore the possibility of engaging an enforcement officer.
2. The Jubilee Centre to be contacted regarding a post box.
3. The Chairman of Balsall Parish Council and Chairman of Berkswell Parish Council to meet.
4. The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that there should be a parish meeting more frequently than every 12 months and that this meeting would support a joint parish meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm