

# THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

**Present:** Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Tony Alsbury, Andrew Freeman, John Allen, Michael Anderson, David Cox OBE, Julia Dickinson, Arthur Field, Keith Francis, Phil Harris, John Howarth, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Margaret Lawson, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

Invited Councillors; Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Clare Curran,

Ordinary Members; Clifford Wright,

**Apologies:** Chris Pullan, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Jim Smith OBE, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Simon Edge

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### 1 Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, subject to a correction to item 2.3 and item 5.

### 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2<sup>nd</sup> January item 3.1.3 Completion of the **Business Maps** showing the business premises with their name and trade indexed against their location in Bookham. On completion Squiggle will print the map which then can be displayed on a Notice Board in Lower Road Car Park. A licence for this noticeboard has been granted by MVDC. The approval for the finances will be delegated to the Treasurer in consultation with Nick Forrer.

Nick Forrer reported that a start had been made and it was hoped to complete the Business Map by the next meeting. Carried forward.

**Action:** Nick Forrer

- 2.2 1<sup>st</sup> June item 11.2.2 **Grass Verges:** Michael Agius will be investigating the provision of wooden posts on the Grass Verges in Eastwick Park Avenue. This is to discourage parking on those verges. Michael Agius has contacted Paul Anderson to discuss this. Surrey County Council has yet to agree to the work being done. Also discussed was the effectiveness of the verge cutting. Carried forward.

John Allen also said that the verge cutting in Eastwick Park Avenue outside his house was poorly done and needed rectification. This is to be raised with MVDC through Cllr. Lucy Botting.

**Action:** Michael Agius & Cllr.  
Lucy Botting

- 2.3 1<sup>st</sup> June item 11.2.3 **Bookham Signage**: The two signs at each end of the village on the A246 will need to be replaced as the wooden frame is rotten and the surface of the sign is showing some distress. They are unlikely to last longer than another 9 months.

It was also noted that the Great Bookham sign next to Kennel Lane has been damaged and stolen. Source of finance and provider of signs identified and progressing. We are awaiting David Belsham of DB Garden Services to start work. Carried forward.

**Action:** Michael Agius

- 2.4 5<sup>th</sup> October item 2.1.5 **Councillors' Responsibilities**. With the constraints in budget there needs to be better insight as to what the councillors' responsibilities are at each level of government. There is much confusion as to which does what functions between District and County. Cllr. Lucy Botting will consider what can be done to publicise the distinctions between them. Cllr. Lucy Botting was able to report that the Councillors will be agreeing at their next meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> May on their respective responsibilities. They are also considering a rota for reporting back to the BRA. They will be contacting the BRA Chairman to discuss further.

**Action:** Cllr. Lucy Botting

- 2.5 2<sup>nd</sup> November item 0.2 - **Parking Update**. David Smith raised the issue of Trader Parking Permits, as the take-up of these is quite low. This is due to the cost being £150 and as the permit doesn't guarantee the trader a parking space. Perhaps having dedicated trader permit holder spaces might be a better approach. In general people resent having to pay for a parking space. Taking all of this in context if street parking is available for free why might you want to pay? Cllr. John Chandler will review the Parking Policy. Take-up has remained low. Still under review.

Cllr. Clare Curran pointed out that when she used the Car Park there always seemed to be spaces available. She did feel it should be possible to resolve somehow.

**Action:** Cllr. John Chandler

- 2.6 Further to the discussion at the December 2015 meeting on the Police who are going through an extensive restructuring. We should discuss this further with the Temporary Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave and PCSO Marion Hawkins. On the issue of youths using catapults and causing damage, the Police are aware and are dealing with it. Both issues are ongoing. If and when there is something to discuss then we should consider inviting the Police Commissioner.

**Action:** Michael Anderson & Keith Francis

- 2.7 7<sup>th</sup> March item 3.1 **Memorial Bench**. The ordering and installation of the bench from the donations at the funeral for Charles James Finch has been passed to Nick Forrer and then arranging with the Projects Manager for the installation. Michael Anderson suggested that we might be able to obtain a better value for a bench from Norbury Park Wood Products. An estimate had been made of the total cost from both sources. The Streetmaster bench (used by the Council when needing street furniture) was cheaper than the Norbury Park Wood Products. The total cost is expected to be near £1,000 when including installation, fittings, carriage and VAT.

It was agreed that the BRA would make a contribution towards the total cost but Cllr. Clare Curran suggested that we should seek funding from the CIP (Community Investment Programme) to make up the difference.

**Action:** Nick Forrer & Peter Seaward

2.8 7<sup>th</sup> March item 8.1 **Dorking Town Referendum**. This is to decide whether a Village Council for Dorking North and South wards. The advisory poll resulted in a slim majority rejecting the idea.

2.9 There were no matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

### **3 Correspondence**

3.1 There was no other correspondence to discuss.

### **4 BRA AGM**

4.1 Note that the AGM starts at 7:30 pm with as many helpers as possible to arrive at 6:30 pm to help with the setup. Peter Clark will look after the PA system. Michael Agius will look after the roving microphones.

The introduction will be given by our Chairman, who also mentioned that the key speaker might have to change.

John Howarth no additional nominations were received for Directors or for proxy votes.

### **5 Company Limited by Guarantee**

5.1 New bank accounts have been set up and the details on how to transfer money both in and out determined.

### **6 Speed Cameras**

6.1 The whereabouts of the two speed cameras, that we helped to fund, need to be discussed with the local Police Inspector. Even if we can't download the pictures that it takes from them it still acts as a deterrent and we don't want to lose sight of where they are.

### **7 Sub-Group Updates**

#### **7.1 Environment**

7.1.1 **Litter Pick:** At the last Sunday litter pick there were 16 helpers and they collected 7 bags of rubbish and 4 bags of recyclable rubbish. For each bag we collect the Council give us a reward of £1 with an overall limit of £60 for the year. June 5<sup>th</sup> is the next litter pick.

7.1.2 **Trees:** Some of the dead trees have been removed by David Bellingham. The stump grinding is being done by a different contractor. A check will be made to see if an approach has been made to the Council for further tree work.

- 7.1.3 **Drains:** Michael Agius reported that we are still looking for a resolution for the overflowing drains that go from the Lower Road Recreation Ground north towards the National Trust's Bookham Common. The drains go through private land in parallel to Little Bookham Street. The responsibility for maintenance is clear for sewage drainage and highway drainage, but for surface water it is a lot more difficult to ascertain exact responsibility. In general, the responsibility belongs to the landowner that the ditches or pipes pass through.

Some of the problems are due to the small diameter of the piping coupled with ditch blockage due to branches, leaves and general rubbish. Other problems are caused by the piping going under housing or extensions/modifications to buildings, making it difficult to repair or replace or vulnerable to heave/subsidence.

- 7.1.4 **Roads:** The Square-About at the junction of Lower Road and the High Street still causes confusion to motorists. The four entrances should be treated as Give Ways to traffic on the Square-About and on the right and on the left. It might be worth looking at the size and height of the signs to make sure they are visible. The current arrangement is a lot better than when there was no Give Ways on the Lower Road which resulted in a number of fatalities.

## 7.2 **Education:**

- 7.2.1 The proposed development of the Howard of Effingham with the housing to support the financial case would have a significant impact, if rejected, on Bookham children as they would not be the first priority for selection as pupils.

David Cox also mentioned that the Eastwick School is a foundation school which is aiming to be an Academy.

The Youth Centre struggles with meeting demand from more organisations, catering for young people, wishing to use it.

Cllr. Clare Curran mentioned that not enough Youth Workers were working in the schools on a one-to-one basis. She had observed that most of the problems at the Howards were with alcohol, legal highs and soft drugs. This could be tackled with more Youth Workers working on healthy relationships, dealing with bullying, how to keep people safe, body image and self-harming. Working with acute problems is very valuable work.

Finally, David Cox mentioned that the lease on the Youth Centre finishes in 2019. There is significant work to be done to renovate with an asbestos roof and piping embedded in concrete.

## 7.3 **Health**

- 7.3.1 Cllr. Lucy Botting mentioned the Surrey Consultation of Health on closure of beds and charging for out-patients and day centres.

Also mentioned is the Heart Start day on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. This is also on the BRA Web Site.

## 7.4 **Communication**

- 7.4.1 Les Huett mentioned that the posters on the noticeboards have been updated. Ray Pritchard had done an excellent article in Look Local.

Also suggested is that we should encourage our friends to join the mailing list so that we can communicate with them directly.

7.5 **Finance:** The Fetcham Residents Association use PayPal to collect their subscriptions. They find that they have problems of collection and the cost of the fees charged. We should wait and see how they get on before travelling down the same path.

## 7.6 **Planning**

7.6.1 **Leatherhead Transform:** John Howard reported that the final draft is expected before the end of June. The consultation process has now finished. The key to further development in Leatherhead is increased shops and restaurants. The upcoming entry of Waitrose is sure to make a difference.

7.6.2 **Planning Committee:** Stan Miles highlighted the Photo Me development on the Bookham Industrial Estate with concern on the number of affordable houses, shortage of parking space and single access road.

## 8 **Projects Update**

8.1 Community Pride & Lengthsman scheme Michael Agius  
Pending

8.2 BRA High Street awareness campaign Phil Harris and Arthur Field  
There is a need for more volunteers and the occasional Councillor to support this key activity.

8.3 War Memorial Peter Seaward

The letters seem to erode after 7 years and need to be redone. There needs to be a review of the integrity of the monument. Another quote is being obtained for the lettering.

8.4 Trees 2016 schedule Frances Fancourt  
Frances Fancourt has drawn up a schedule of tree activities coupled with planned tree maintenance activities.

8.5 Bookham Business Map Nick Forrer & Ray Pritchard

8.6 New Notice Board Lower Road Car Park Nick Forrer

8.7 3rd CCTV Michael Anderson & Keith Francis

This will require some £4500 for purchase and subsequent installation. This may be available through the Police Commissioner's Budget.

8.8 Electronic Sign Peter Seaward  
It may be possible to fix it to the Notice Board in Lower Road Car Park

8.9 Replacement of Village signs Michael Agius  
PIC funds have been agreed for the replacement on the A246 and the missing sign on the Lower Road at Kennel Lane.

8.10 Xmas lights BRABA  
This activity should be passed to the Bookham Retail and Business Association for them to decide what to do. The BRA can help with the financing of the light plugs. With escalating cuts and diminishing grants it is imperative we look at alternatives.

8.11 Bench renovation outside St Nicolas (Lower Road North side)  
An update will be available at the next meeting. Andrew Freeman

8.12 Lower Shott Memorial Bench Nick Forrer

## **9 Any Other Business**

The next meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

**10 Next BRA Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015**