

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th April 2014 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Michael Agius (chair), Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Michael Anderson, Frances Fancourt, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Stan Miles, Jim Smith OBE, Nick Forrer (minutes), John Howarth,

Invited Councillors, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Phil Harris, Cllr. Tessa Hurworth,

1 Apologies:

Peter Seaward, David Cox OBE, Michelle Hudspith, Ray Pritchard, David Smith, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Paul Newman,

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, subject to corrections to **5.5** changing "re-siting" to "wiring the" and **6.2** Action placed on Michael Agius.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 On **7.7** Cllr. Clare Curran will email SCC Highways to seek agreement to removing the damaged railing panels along the A246 at the top of the High Street and replacing them with undamaged end panels.

Action: Cllr. Clare Curran

- 3.2 On **7.8** it was suggested that a small "squad" should go round and remove posters and banners placed on street furniture particularly when the event date has expired.

- 3.3 There were no other matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 There was no new correspondence to discuss.

5 Planning Issues

5.1 Preston Cross Hotel

A presentation was given by Dominic Lawson Bespoke Planning Ltd and Gracewell Healthcare (<http://www.gracewell.co.uk>) on the plans to convert the hotel to a 70 bed nursing home particularly for end-of-life care. It would be providing some 60 - 80 jobs (FTE) mainly local. Typical charges are £830 per week.

The meeting urged the Developers to consider widening the footway beside Lower Road to improve visibility from the mini roundabout towards the Howards of Effingham in the west. Also that a footway be constructed along the west side of

Rectory Lane as far as The Grange. The meeting was sympathetic to such a development and would await the formal submission of the plans.

5.2 **Pippbrook, Civic Offices and the Old Library**

A presentation was given by Richard Burrows and John Menlove from MVDC who tabled a document with photographs of the alternative plans for this site. The current offices have:

- plant that is in need of considerable upgrading,
- significant heat losses,
- increasing use of IT with inadequate ducting for its support and
- poor disabled access.

There are two main options:

- MVDC to upgrade the existing building and
- MVDC to build a new office block, with the possibility of selling/letting the building for non-civic purposes in the future.

There are also issues around Pippbrook House (the Old Library) which will cost one million pounds to upgrade and options are being explored to minimise the cost to rate payers.

5.3 **Middlemead Development Consultation**

Residents, in the area of the proposed development, have received a copy of the redevelopment proposals issued by Circle Housing (Mole Valley Housing Association).

A particular concern of residents of Middlemead was the parking of large vans on the estate. This had been raised and discussed during the consultation. Any comments to Stan Miles.

6 **AGM**

The 87th AGM of the Bookham Residents Association will be held on the 24th April at 7.30 pm at the Old Barn Hall. The minutes of the previous AGM will be available.

John Allen would welcome additional help from the committee from 6.45 pm to help with laying out the room.

7 **Sub-Group Updates**

7.1 **Planning**

Re-submission of the 157 Lower Road application. This was for the erection of detached bungalow and single garage in the back garden. Recommendation is to object as over-development of the site.

7.2 Environment

The longer term solution to the spring water flooding of the footpath at Lower Road Recreation Ground and Manor House Lane will be to raise the level of the footway at each location and provide increased drainage. Maintenance of the adjoining ditch in the Howard of Effingham playing fields would also help opposite The Vineries.

The long term solution to flooding at Sole Farm Avenue and Little Bookham Street lies in diverting the ditch between Childs Hall Road and Sole Farm Avenue into a larger surface water drain down Sole Farm Avenue as part of the Middlemead redevelopment.

7.3 **Bookham Retail and Business Association:** Nothing to report.

7.4 **Health:** Nothing to report

7.5 **Finance:** Chris reported that the accounts had been signed off, a copy of which was given to Andy Freeman in readiness for the AGM.

7.5.1 **Footpaths:** The emergency work for improving the footpath to the south of the Lower Road Recreation Ground came to £8,268.60. This was covered by £3,500 from Mole Valley DC and £3,000 from Surrey CC. We have been promised £576 from Rights of Way Surrey CC.

We have also been promised a contribution of some £1,200 from Effingham PC for the work on their end of the footpath. The boundary between Effingham and Bookham lies approximately at the crossing outside the Vineries.

Other sources, if needed, are diverting Lengthmen's money and a direct contribution from BRA.

7.5.2 **Tree Maintenance:** Frances Fancourt requires the release of the previously agreed £200 for tree planting.

7.5.3 **Leatherhead Drama Festival:** In the past we have provided £80 to support this excellent activity. The meeting agreed to increase this to £100 for this year's festival.

8 Annual Objectives

8.1 **Schools/Youth:** Nothing to report

8.2 **Joint Working:** Michael Anderson reported on the Volunteering Workshop held on the 22nd March. Nick Forrer also attended. This was useful session. There will be a Volunteer Fair on the 10th May which we are cordially invited to have a stand. We would need to respond by 30th April to express interest in having such.

We would find it useful to have further workshops particularly on how to use Social Media to keep in contact with members and provide two way communications. Streetlife was very active following the footpath flooding but has now quietened down.

8.3 **Business/Tourism:** There has been no progress on moving the notice board.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 **High Street CCTV:** This is progressing slower than expected but is expected to complete at the end of April.
- 9.2 **Whiteway Development:** Cllr. Phil Harris reported that this development (previously garages) was now nearing completion.
- 9.3 **Coast to Capital Investment Group:** John Howarth reported that £2b is being made available over 5 years and that he is hopeful that there would be some investment locally. Visit: <http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/>.
- 9.4 **Surrey Hills Radio:** This will be starting soon using internet streaming.
- 9.5 **0300 030 9890 Telephone Number:** This is now fully operational.
- 9.6 **Bookham Village Quiz:** This will be on the 24th June. We are urged to put forward a team.
- 9.7 **Cycle Ride London Surrey:** The organisers hope the use of a rolling road closures will minimise the impact on businesses during the event.
- 9.8 **Rights of way:** The general rule is that the council is responsible to keeping them open and the landowner is responsible for the upkeep of the surface and removal of any encroaching vegetation. It was noted that Flint Close was in need of repair although the landowner is not known.
- 9.9 **Spring Newsletter:** Les Huett reported that the Spring Newsletter has been published to members.
- 9.10 **Email Circulation:** Les Huett is managing the new email circulation service to approximately 300 subscribers. The email circulation service allows for an improved presentation and subscription management. The next email mailing will be a reminder of the AGM.
- 10 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 12th May