

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th August 2013 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Michael Anderson, Andy Freeman, John Allen, Jim Smith, Stan Miles, Chris Pullan, Cllr Phil Harris, Elizabeth Hudson, Chris Boughey, Ray Pritchard, Cllr Tessa Hurworth, Les Huett,

1. Apologies: Lin Hulford, Grant Woodham, Judith Walker, Cllr John Chandler, John Howarth, Cllr Stella Brooks, David Cox, Frances Fancourt, Cllr Clare Curran, David Smith, Michelle Hudspith, David Ashby.

2. Minutes

2.1 Slight correction to paragraph 8.2 (the Armed Forces Day event referred to was in Dorking) and paragraph 8.6 (book stall raised £2,000), otherwise the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **Jubilocity:** It was reported that this event had been a success with over 2,000 people attending.

3.2 **Notice Boards:** Chris Pullan reported that three new notice boards had been purchased and at a cost of £360. Bookham Vanguard had also purchased one. These are stored at the Old Barn Hall and are available for use by local organisations.

3.3 **HSBC:** Letters had been written to the bank by Peter Seaward on behalf of the BRA and Phil Harris. Response had said the issue of retaining the ATM would be considered but no other reassurance could be gleaned from it. It is likely the bank will close as proposed.

4. Correspondence

4.1 A letter had been received regarding overgrown hedges. John Allen had some suitable wording that can be sent to the inquirer. It was also agreed this should go in the forthcoming Newsletter.

5. Bookham Vanguard

5.1 It was reported that there had been a public event the previous Saturday regarding the green belt issues and that circa 120 people had attended.

5.2 There now appears to be a timing issue with MVDC timeline which is likely to result in the referendum being deferred until 2015 if it is to coincide with local elections. In theory the referendum could take place at anytime as the Government would pay although turnout would be much lower which could call the validity of the vote into question.

5.3 There may also be differences of opinion within Bookham and with neighbouring wards, e.g. it was pointed out that there is now a "Save Our Green Belt" campaign. However, as MVDC does not have a 5 year plan and that circa 1,000 homes are needed, then any refused developments could probably be successfully appealed against.

5.4 Phil Harris reported that he is actively asking the Council to identify brown field sites as an alternative to the green belt.

6. Newsletter

6.1 Les Huett will email members regarding the required articles as discussed at the meeting. The timeline is driven by the need to get the Newsletter delivered to households to ensure two weeks notice is given although it needs to be with deliverers in good time in advance of this.

7. Autumn EGM

7.1 It was agreed that the meeting would held on 13th November and would be called a "General Meeting", not EGM as indicated earlier. The area of discussion, "Your Health in Bookham", would be led by local GPs.

7.2 It was proposed that questions should be sought in advance to ensure full answers could be given. It was recognised that this would be difficult to enforce although such a system would be preferred.

8. Annual Objectives

8.1 **Email Distribution List:** No further developments.

8.2 **Joint Working:** Michael Anderson reported he would be meeting with other local organisations in later Sept/early Oct and would report back then.

8.3 **Grant Applications:** It was noted that there was a Henry Smith Fund in Bookham & Effingham with funds being made available for the poor and younger people. Regarding the SCC promised funding of £2,900 for local footpaths, this was still awaited.

8.4 **Schools/Youth:** It was noted that Clare Curran is the portfolio holder for education. Regarding the Lower Road youth centre, there is a new lease but some issues remain outstanding.

8.5 **Business/Tourist Guide:** Laminated traders plan should be available in September. Smaller paper versions should be available sooner.

9. Sub-Group Updates

9.1 **Health:** Stan Miles reported that the Surrey GPs were not happy with the BVBS process although no new developments are expected until September.

9.2 Jim Smith reported the closure of the EDICS Health Clinic at Ebbisham. [Post Meeting Note: Stan Miles has been in contact and discovered that the Surrey Downs CCG has cancelled all contracts with EDICS with immediate effect]

9.3 **Environment:**

- a) **Footpaths:** This is the priority for the sub-committee although SCC funding, as reported above, is still awaited.
- b) **De-Cluttering:** The desired works is currently being costed & a £5k budget has been set aside.

9.4 **Planning:** Stan Miles reported that the Planning Sub-Committee had written to MVDC regarding one application (157 Lower Road) on the grounds that the proposal was “over development, out of character and concerns about access.”

9.5 A letter will also be submitted re. The barn, Manor ouse Lane as the procedure does not appear to have been adhered to so there is a need to clarify the methodology.

9.6 **Bookham Retail and Business Association:** It was reported that the HSBC already had a new tenant identified; that the charity shop in the High Street had now re-opened; that a haberdashery would be opening in the Lower Shott but the copy shop in the same area would be closing.

9.7 **Health:** Stan Miles reported that the Surrey GPs were not happy with the BSBV process although noo developments are expected until September.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 **Lower Shott Car Parking:** Phil Harris reported that parking fees had now been introduced and that local residents were being asked to pay £300 for annual permits. He also said that additional car parking sites were being explored at The Crown, rear of the Barn Hall, URC and the Lower Road recreation ground.

10.2 **Look Local:** Les Huett said that BRA submitted articles would be in both the July and September editions.

10.3 **SCC Report on the High Street:** This report doesn't appear to have been released as yet, however a consultation should be starting in October.

10.4 **VAS:** It was noted that a complaint had been received re. speeding in Eastwick Road. It was suggested that one of the VAS machines should be relocated there. Regarding the other VAS machines, this will be raised at the next Police Forum meeting.

10.6 **Christmas Lights:** John Allen said that the contractors had been agreed at the same price. Unfortunately the Star can't be erected but he will explore other options. Total cost should be around 33,600.

10.7 **Friendship Tree:** John Allan reported that a letter of thanks had been received for the BRA's cheque as a contribution to having the tree pollarded.

10.8 **Signatories:** It was reaffirmed that Michael Agius, as the Vice Chair, is a signatory for payments.

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday 2nd September 2013.