

THE BOOKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th January 2013 at
St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Police Forum: PC John Hench reported back on the crime figures for November and December with 12 and 22 crimes reported respectively. Unfortunately the Co-Op at the bottom of the High Street had been targeted again and better security is needed although options might be limited due to the shop being in the conservation area.

It was also noted that the CCTV was not in situ at the top of the High Street. John Allen said that a power supply is needed to avoid disrupting the Christmas lights socket.

Present: Peter Seaward (Chair), Andy Freeman, Cllr Clare Curran, David Smith, Michelle Hudspith, John Allen, , Michael Anderson, James Smith, Cllr John Chandler, Chris Pullan, Chris Boughey, Cllr Tessa Hurworth, Stan Miles, Les Huett,

1. Apologies: Lin Hulford, Grant Woodham, Cllr. Paul Newman, Alec Garnham, David Cox, John Howarth, Ray Pritchard, Michael Agius, Judith Walker, Elizabeth Hudson, Cllr Phil Harris, Cllr Stella Brooks, Frances Fancourt

2. Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record subject to a few minor a couple of name amendments.

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 Gleeson's: The BRA had distributed circa 300 letters to local households and that a meeting with Gleesons would be held this week. To date there had been very little response from the general public.

3.2 Ranger's Cottage: When the cottage was given to the NT there might have been some conditions set. This was being looked into but not felt to be too promising. It was also noted that the proposals are part of the nationwide NT initiative and that to counter any proposals for Bookham Common alone would be unlikely to succeed but different avenues will continue to be pursued.

4. Correspondence

4.1 There have been several emails regarding the Bookham Common ranger's accommodation and the proposed Gleesons' development.

5. Annual Objectives

5.1 Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Village Sign: It was reported that a reply was awaited from SCC at to who owns the land where the sign is proposed to be sited.

5.2 **Email Addresses of Members:** Andrew reported that circa 175 email addresses had now been obtained and that an email had been sent out re. Gleesons combined with a Christmas message from the Chair. It was suggested that a further email should be sent re. recent developments around Epsom Hospital. As for a target next year Peter suggested aiming for 1,000 email addresses. It was noted that Bookham Vision has around 350 addresses and there could be scope for sharing, etc. (see Annual Objectives 2013/14 for further debate)

5.3 **BRA Income:** £600 had been received from The Royal Oak as a contribution to the Christmas lights.

6. Annual Objectives 2013/14

6.1 Andrew said that new objectives should be set for 2013/14 and that the 2012/13 objectives should become “business as usual” in future years where appropriate. Andrew suggested that 2 to 4 objectives could be set, for example:

- Closer/more formal working with other organisations, e.g. BCA, Bookham Vanguard, Churches Together, etc. to tackle priority areas, etc. Greater power in joint working!
- Proactively seek out and apply for grants and additional funds as appropriate to increase income
- Schools/Youth: Engaging younger people in “Bookham” activities
- Tourism Guide - places of interest in Bookham and nearby, brief history, walks, where to eat, where to stay (and nearby places of interest if Bookham is a central place to stay), etc.
- Twinning (BRA with another RA; Bookham with another village, etc.)

6.2 Peter suggested that the email distribution list objective should be held over for another year and that a challenging target of 1,000 addresses should be set. Further discussion provided several suggestions, e.g:

- liaising with other local organisations to share addresses or set up a cascade system to BV, BRABS, ROME, Scouts and Guides, Look Local, etc. In future the BRA could consider using Facebook and Twitter;
- posters to advertise this method of communication to encourage the public to sign up;
- set up a more robust mechanism for sending and receiving emails in a corporate fashion, e.g. officers to have their own “BRA” account to avoid the use of personal email addresses.

6.3 Regarding the 2013/14 objectives further suggestions are needed prior to reaching a final decision but the tourism guide seemed a popular initial choice as did doing something with the younger generation but firmer proposals are needed.

7. Parish Council Status

7.1 There are a number of positives (negates the need for road stewards; local decisions, greater responsibilities and clout) and negatives (costs, greater bureaucracy) but the process is now simpler and if funding could be devolved then a parish council (or similar) arrangement could be beneficial. It was agreed that this should be kept on the agenda and perhaps raised at the AGM as it would be a lengthy process. It was also agreed that Peter should discuss with other local organisations such as the BCA, etc. and/or convene a meeting to discuss.

8. Sub-Group Updates

Environment

8.1 **Water Lane:** Prior to Christmas there were issues with a burst foul sewer which requires replacement pipes and repairs to the road. Thames Water is managing the situation.

8.2 **Bookham Common:** Drainage improvements are needed.

8.3 **Mill Close:** Flooding issues continue but proposals to rectify the problem has been submitted. Awaiting a response.

8.4 **High Street Tree:** No progress and date for felling awaited.

Planning

8.5 Stan reported that the Sub-Committee has written on one application and proposed sending another regarding an application submitted by the Bookham Grange Hotel. Stan had drafted a response but wanted the Committee's approval first. The Committee agreed that the letter as drafted should be sent.

BRABA

8.6 David Smith reported that the Christmas late night shopping event had been successful and that a Keep Bookham Bright appeal had received £00.

Health

8.7 **Epsom Hospital:** Stan had received an email from Chris Grayling re. Epsom Hospital raising a number of concerns about the residents in the north Mole Valley area not being listened to, that the process was being driven by CCGs in south London, etc. It was agreed that Andrew would email the distribution list highlighting some of the concerns. Stan and Chris Boughey will be attending the BSBV meeting on the 15th January.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 **High Street Study:** The BRA will be invited to discuss the report which is due to be published shortly.

9.2 **Lower Road Crossing:** Work is due to commence very shortly.

9.3 **Barn Meadow Lane:** This road will be resurfaced starting week commencing 14th January.

9.4 **Lower Road Youth Club:** It was confirmed that the lease will be renewed.

9.5 **DDOCA:** Peter reported some comments from David Cox:

- 1) Howard of Effingham: DDOCA were in agreement with the school's sibling's policy and encouraged BRA members to go online and vote;
- 2) that the DDOCA would be wound in the not too distant future.

10. **Next Meeting:** 7.45pm on Monday 4th February 2013