

# THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

**Present:** Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, Michael Anderson, Frances Fancourt, Les Huett, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, Jim Smith OBE, Nick Forrer (minutes),

Invited Councillors, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Phil Harris, Cllr. Tessa Hurworth,

Keith Francis, Jatin Patel, John Howarth.

---

### 1 Bookham Neighbourhood Panel

Prior to the meeting starting there was a presentation on local policing issues for March and April from PCSO Marion Hawkins. It was noted that violent crime had increased mainly due to the increased focus on domestic violence.

Recently water bombs had been thrown from a car coming out of Kennel Lane into Lower Road. It was suggested that a comment be put on Streetlife to see if other residents had seen anything like this.

It would be useful to know the policing policy on the use of Social Media as a means of communication with the public.

**Action:** Peter Seaward to enquire

### 2 Apologies:

David Cox OBE, Michelle Hudspith, Elizabeth Hudson, David Smith, John Allen, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Paul Newman.

### 3 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

### 4 Matters Arising

4.1 On the previous minutes action 3.1 was carried forward.

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

**Action:** Cllr. Clare Curran

- 4.2 Chris Pullan reported that we had paid (£1,400) for the portion of the path in the parish of Effingham to/from the Howards. He would be seeking reimbursement from Effingham Parish Council.

**Action:** Chris Pullan

- 4.3 It was noted that the drainage tubes along this path towards All Saints Church had been removed for some reason and left on the side of the repaired path.
- 4.4 £900 has been allocated to the maintenance of the graveyards of St Nicolas Church.
- 4.5 There were no others matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

## **5 Correspondence**

- 5.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

## **6 Parish Council versus Residents Association**

- 6.1 Trevor Sokell was invited to summarise his talk at the Bookhams' Residents Association AGM on the reasons for having a Parish Council versus a Residents Association.

If 10% of the local residents wish to consider having a Parish Council then this will trigger a government review (ie MVDC) which takes some 12 months. To support such a campaign a sum of up to £10,000 is available.

It is likely, that with government reductions in the council's discretionary spending, this will trigger ways of increasing the tax paid by residents. This could be though a Parish Precept which would minimise and hide the impact of such government reductions.

The additional parish spending would allow a local administrator to be employed and give more opportunities for local decisions to be made on how this spending should be deployed.

- 6.2 On the other the hand the Chair pointed out that some 40% to 50% could be spent on administration and much of the spend the parish would have control of, may well go back to the same third party providing the current service.

It should be noted that many of the current activities are done on a voluntary basis and this is likely to disappear. A good example was the raising of funds for the Old Barn Hall.

As a committee we need to understand the powers and responsibilities that would be available to parish councils.

The way forward will be to set up a small working party to carry out more research and investigation into the benefits and disadvantages of Parish Councils versus Residents' Associations.

Key questions for this working party are how do we obtain more information on the choices available? How do we communicate these choices to local residents? How do we canvas opinions from the residents? Consideration will have to be given as to

how the agencies that interact with the BRA at the moment will view this change and how it might or might not affect them for the better or worse.

If there was a further integration at a higher level to form a Surrey East Council, then this would have a further implication.

Any ideas and input to Trevor Sokell and the working party.

(Nb. Nick Forrer can act as the channel for any communication.)

**Action: All**

## **7 Sub-Group Updates**

### **7.1 Environment:**

Michael Agius reported that some surfacing work had been carried out on Manor House Lane and is now open to traffic.

The flooding along Lower Road will need to be resolved before next year and before any future flooding.

The BRA and Effingham Parish Council are working together on resolving the issues on Lower Road.

Smaller buses than double-deckers have made their presence across Bookham.

Peter Seaward reported that there will be a update to the Flood Model which will cover predominately the impact in the Fetcham area.

### **7.2 Planning**

Local planning decisions made could be published on the BRA noticeboards.

The proposed developments on Preston Cross have not reached the MVDC as yet.

### **7.3 Health:**

Nothing additional to report.

### **7.4 Bookham Retail and Business Association**

Nothing additional to report.

### **7.5 Finance:**

Nothing additional to report.

### **7.6 Others:**

Nothing additional to report.

## **8 Annual Objectives**

### **8.1 Joint Working:**

Key issue how we engage the next generation in our activities.

### **8.2 Schools/Youth:**

Nothing additional to report.

### **8.3 Business/Tourism:**

Nothing additional to report.

## **9 Any Other Business**

### **9.1 AGM:**

The feedback from the AGM was good although it was felt that the questions did go on for some time. This will need thinking about for next year.

### **9.2 Manifesto:**

There was a suggestion that a manifesto be developed that outlined what the BRA does and doesn't do. This could be circulated to all residents.

The Chair had identified a potential volunteer.

### **9.3 Yellow Lines:**

This will be covering Lower Road and Dorking Road and would start 29 May.

### **9.4 Recycling:**

Because of the confusion as to which weekly bin collection there was a collection of recyclable textiles and similarly for electrical equipment. This has been resolved by doing both items on a weekly basis.

### **9.5 Road Repair:**

An additional £23M has been allocated by the council for road repairs to cover the period from May to October. There is been a lot of activity on repairing potholes, however there is some concern that the repairs are not robust enough to last for long periods as the current repairs don't deal with the sub-structure.

## **10 Next BRA Meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014**