

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2014 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, John Allen, David Cox OBE, Frances Fancourt, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, Jim Smith OBE, Arthur Field, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

Invited Councillors, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Jatin Patel,

Ordinary Members, Keith Francis.

1 Apologies:

Michael Agius, Michael Anderson, Phil Harris, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks and Cllr. Paul Newman.

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, subject to a correction for Cllr. Clare Curran who was present at the previous meeting rather than absent.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Previous Actions

- 3.1.1 7th July item 0 fatal accident at Lower Road & East Street. Cllr. Clare Curran will monitor progress of the investigation. No update as of date.

Action: Cllr. Clare Curran

- 3.1.2 7th July item 3.2 Yellow Lines. Cllr. Paul Newman to investigate the placement of yellow lines and will be discussed at a later meeting.

Action: Cllr. Paul Newman

- 3.1.3 7th July item 6.2.2 application of tree maintenance. Hedge maintenance at Old Barn Hall.

Action: Michael Agius/Peter Seaward with Frances Fancourt

- 3.1.4 7th July item 6.2.3 Christmas Lights. A new contractor needs to be identified for the installation of permanent wiring. Carried forward to a later date.

Action: John Allen & David Smith

- 3.1.5 7th July item 6.2.4 damaged railings grant application and repair activity. First set of damaged railings replaced from end railings. Since then further damage on opposite side caused due to collision by a vehicle.

Action: Michael Agius

- 3.1.6 7th July item 8.3 Tree Preservation Officer demeanour. This to be discussed in conjunction with other local Associations with the Council and Cllr. Stella Brooks.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 3.1.7 Completion of the **Business Maps** index showing the business premises with their name and trade indexed against their location in Bookham. Once completed Squiggle will print the map which then can be displayed on a new Notice Board in Lower Road Car Park. This will require a licence from MVDC.

Action: Nick Forrer

- 3.1.8 1st September item 8.2.1.1. Further traffic calming and speed reduction for Church Road. Carried forward. Also see agenda item 5 below.

Action: Michael Agius

- 3.1.9 1st September item 8.3.1. Clutter around the Village.

Further to clutter around the village there is the issue with the banners on the railings between the bottom of the High Street and Lower Schott. The banners remain there for long periods and as such are a traffic hazard as they can distract. If they were only put up for say 2 to 4 weeks that might be slightly more acceptable. ¹

Action: Peter Seaward & Michael Agius to consider what action to take.

There will be a check on the banners on the railings to monitor how long they have been there.

Action: Nick Forrer

The Kebab premises also need to be approached about the colourful shop front and the sign above which protrudes over the pavement. Particularly as the locality is in a Conservation Area.

Action: Cllr. Lucy Botting and the Conservation Team.

- 3.1.10 1st September item 8.3.2. "A" boards on village pavements making it hard to navigate around.

Action: Stan Miles.

- 3.1.11 1st September item 10.2. Long term parking plans and parking enforcement at Lower Shott to be reported back in December.

¹ This fly posting infringement can be reported to MVDC on the web at <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=17455> where the location can be marked on a map and then this will be reviewed. You can also see a list of outstanding open cases if any.

The proposal to have the first 30 minutes free at the Lower Shott car park is to be decided in December.

Action: Paul Newman

- 3.1.12 1st September item 10.3. Commemoration Day. Suitable ways of commemorating this to be reported back at a later date.

Action: Jim Smith OBE

3.2 **New Matters**

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

4 **BRA Membership Fee and Funding**

It was noted that both the District and County Councils will be significantly impacted by the cuts to their government grant. This is compounded by the rising cost of funding Social Welfare by the Councils.

In the meantime we are active in planting trees in Bookham and monitoring their health. The question that we have to pose is whether we should ask the village to cover additional expenditure to supplant that which is being lost. For the moment the larger expenditures are being covered whereas the smaller outlays are not.

The BRA membership fee was increased from £1 to £2 per household in 2007. An extra £1 could raise some £3,000. If the money we received from the Council for Trees and also the Longman fees were chopped we would need to double the membership fee from £2 to £4.

As a general rule the cost of the community delivering activities from the lower level is always cheaper than from the county level.

Having two organisations (BRA/BCA) in the community causes confusion even though there is a lot of publicity as to what each does. The BCA is a registered company as well as a registered charity. The BRA visible presence is very limited compared to the BCA. Both organisation have considered combining in the past but the remit is so different that it is unlikely to work. The BCA charge £4 per household with an extra charge of £2 per additional person over two.

We need to check what the feeling is from the BCA for working together and in what areas.

Action: Peter Seaward to explore

Should there be a welcome pack for new residents in Bookham placed in the local estate agents for them to hand out?

5 **High Street Consultation and Plans**

There is no further information since the last meeting. An update will go into the newsletter to be circulated shortly. The proposed solution for the High Street is that there will be two tables and the length of the yellow lines reduced. This will result in an additional three parking spaces. For the Church Street the proposal is that there is a table near the post office to make the crossing of the road safer.

6 BRA Questionnaire

There was lively discussion on a circulated note about what a questionnaire should contain and the type of questions to ask.

The discussion ranged over:-

- What do we want to achieve?
- Do we give incentives for completing the questionnaire? Such as a prize.
- Should we circulate the questionnaire on paper but also accept electronic submission.
- Should all members in a household be allowed to fill in a questionnaire?
- Perhaps the collecting points in the village could have a additional spare questionnaires.
- Do we ask as to which age bracket somebody belongs?
- Do we want to identify who the person answering is and where they live?
- Should we supply a briefing in the questionnaire as to what the BRA, BCA and other local organisations do or would that be considered a leading question and distort the responses?

The meeting decided that a small sub-group should be formed with Nick Forrer, Ray Pritchard, David Cox and Les Huett.

Action: Nick Forrer

7 Remembrance Day

As in previous years this will be held on the November 11th at 11 o'clock. The road closure will be organised by Pat Morrish and his team of volunteers as in previous years.

8 Correspondence

8.1 There was no other correspondence to discuss.

9 Sub-Group Updates

9.1 Planning

Stan Miles reported that 14 planning applications had been received. Guildford Borough Council has made a change to their Green Belt plans. Their building on the Green Belt will have a significant impact on the local infrastructure and demand for services in Bookham.

Preston Cross has been approved with a clause that as a condition for approval there will be a 2 metre width for the shared path along Lower Road and Preston Cross.

The Howards of Effingham planning application for the redevelopment of the site with the school moving over the road will be going in this month.

9.2 Trees

Frances Fancourt gave an update on the vandalised trees. These trees were going to be replaced shortly.

9.3 **Finance:**

The committee was asked to approve the purchase of another hanging basket for the High Street. This is to speed up the change from one hanging basket whose flowers need replacing to a newly prepared basket. This will ensure tht a hanging basket will be always on display. The committee approved.

9.4 **Education and Schools:**

Those pupils living in the catchment area for the Howards of Effingham School will have priority for enrolment over those outside the catchment area.

10 **Annual Objectives**

10.1 **Schools/Youth:**

The Youth Centre is actively used for many activities such as a Nursery, Keep Fit classes, Youth Challenge, Disability Challenges, Kiddie Parties and gigs. Also Surrey Youth Services run the Youth Club at the Youth Centre.

On the other hand Space although busy is rarely over booked

11 **Any Other Business**

11.1 **Coast to Capital Growth Deal**

The purpose is to enhance business support and skills, accelerate research and innovation and invest in transport, flood defences and resilience. The sum allocated to MVDC is £50,000. Peter Seaward will be monitoring this area.

11.2 **Licence for and relocation of Notice Board to Lower Shott**

A draft licence has been prepared by MVDC with the licensee being Nick Forrer as he is a legal entity and capable of being bound to compliance. As soon as he has collected the signed licence and paid the £1 the work on moving the board can take place.²

Action: Nick Forrer

11.3 **BRA Autumn Newsletter**

Les Huett reported that all material had been received and a draft would be shortly circulated. Once that has been done the newsletter would be printed for urgent circulation to the stewards and hence to the residents.

11.4 **Bookham Commons**

The Natural Play Area in Bookham Common for children and those young in heart will be opened by Cllr. Clare Curran this coming Wednesday 15th October at 1:00 pm.

12 **Next BRA Meeting: Monday 3rd November 2014**

² Note that since this meeting I have been informed that a planning application is required to gain approval for the placement of notices on the notice board.