

# THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

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

Invited Councillors, Cllr. Paul Newman, Cllr. Jatin Patel,

Ordinary Members, Keith Francis. Trevor Sokell, Nicola Reid.

PCSO Marion Hawkins

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### **0 Bookham Neighbourhood Panel**

Before the meeting started PCSO Marion Hawkins gave an update on the crime figures for the last two months. There has been a small increase in the last month mainly due to domestic crime. She also reported on the disturbance in the Lower Road recreation ground on 15 August. This was due to some youths being noisy and over exuberant. The officer attending said they were not seen as a bad bunch. There was an assault in Sole Farm Road a little later on and this commotion might have been the reason somebody felt it was connected to the earlier disturbance. There was no connection.

Jim Smith OBE raised that a report had mentioned that a small nitrous oxide gas canister had been found at the Old Barn Hall. These are not illegal but it is illegal to sell them to under 18s. If any resident finds one they can be handed in to the police with a note as to where they were found.

There has been no update on the fatal accident in Lower Road.

### **1 The future public governance for Bookham**

Trevor Sokell gave a comprehensive presentation on the future choices for Bookham. To remain as we are as a Residents Association or look into changing to a Parish. He was not making the case for or against making a change, but currently operating in research mode looking at the implications of a change and possible aspirations for a change.

During his talk he highlighted the different layers of local government in Surrey and their respective powers. All of this needed to be considered in the changing economic environment. He sees that with the squeeze on discretionary services, the future will not be so bright for continuing local spending. Also the Residents Association, in the longer term may not be able to depend on charitable sources.

Currently the Residents Association has no direct formal relationship with the electorate and the Councillors. True it works but it is all informal.

The local Bookham resident will be of the view; "If it ain't broke don't fix it". "Why pay more if I already get it".

To inspire a change, which will be more expensive by the payment of a Parish precept, we would need to be more aspirational (over the next 5 to 10 years) in what would be provided and how it is different from what's happening now. The benefits would need to be clearly set out.

We would need to explain how a Parish would be structured and of course we could still use volunteers in delivering service.

Trevor will be investigating what sort of aspirational projects could be considered and continuing his research.

The Committee thanked Trevor for his excellent presentation and the research he had carried out. We would be watching this space.

## **2 Apologies:**

Phil Harris, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. John Chandler and Cllr. Clare Curran.

## **3 Minutes**

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

## **4 Matters Arising**

### **4.1 Matters Completed**

4.1.1 1<sup>st</sup> September item 3.1 version numbers on documents.

4.1.2 1<sup>st</sup> September item 3.2 previous actions to have a set place in minutes.

4.1.3 1<sup>st</sup> September item 5 on the Democratic Challenge as an agenda item.

### **4.2 Previous Actions**

4.2.1 7<sup>th</sup> July item 0 fatal accident at Lower Road & East Street. Cllr. Clare Curran will monitor progress of the investigation. No update as of date.

4.2.2 7<sup>th</sup> July item 3.2 Yellow Lines. Cllr. Paul Newman to investigate the placement of yellow lines and that this to be discussed at a later meeting.

4.2.3 7<sup>th</sup> July item 6.2.2 tree maintenance application and hedge maintenance at Old Barn Hall. Action by Michael Agius/Peter Seaward with Frances Fancourt.

4.2.4 7<sup>th</sup> July item 6.2.3 Christmas Lights on John Allen & David Smith. A new contractor needs to be identified for the installation of permanent wiring. Carried forward.

4.2.5 7<sup>th</sup> July item 6.2.4 damaged railings grant application and repair activity. Action by Michael Agius. First set of damaged railings replaced from end railings. Since then further damage on opposite side caused by collision by a vehicle.

4.2.6 7<sup>th</sup> July item 8.3 Tree Preservation Officer demeanour. Action on Peter Seaward. This to be discussed in conjunction with other local Associations with the Council and Cllr. Stella Brooks.

4.2.7 Business Maps and new Notice Board. Action with Nick Forrer.

- 4.2.8 Old Barn Hall noticeboard move to Lower Shott. Action with Nick Forrer.
- 4.2.9 1<sup>st</sup> September item 8.2.1.1. Further traffic calming and speed reduction for Church Road. With Michael Agius.
- 4.2.10 1<sup>st</sup> September item 8.3.1. Clutter around the Village and banners on railings.

**Action:** David Smith.

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 a Conversation Area.

**Action:** Cllr. Lucy Botting and the Conservation Team.

- 4.2.11 1<sup>st</sup> September item 8.3.2. "A" boards making it hard to navigate. Action with Stan Miles.
- 4.2.12 1<sup>st</sup> September item 10.2. Long term packing plans and parking enforcement at Lower Shott to be reported back in December by Paul Newman.
- 4.2.13 1<sup>st</sup> September item 10.3. Commemoration Day. Suitable ways of commemorating this to be reported back by Jim Smith OBE at a later date.

## **5 Matters Arising**

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

## **6 Communication to Bookham Residents**

The Newsletter is intended to be published in October. There was general agreement that the new format was well liked.

We need to get feedback from the residents and if we put a questionnaire in the newsletter, how would we get collect the feedback and how should we analyse it.

The BRA needs to consider how we communicate and collect opinions. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting as an agenda item.

**Action:** Minutes Secretary

Although we have made use of Streetlife we need to think about how we increase our activity on it and perhaps supplement this with Facebook.

### **6.2 Potential Newsletter Topics**

- Chairman's update,
- Bookham Commons play area,
- Book Fair,
- Late-night shopping,
- Highways and footpath from Michael Agius,
- Hospital/health. Highlight on missed appointments,
- Local flooding and prevention. The Flood Forum.
- Buses

- Transport - the longer term
- Volunteer Day
- Policing
- Local Planning
- Churches Together
- Tree warden report
- Vanguard
- Graveyards
- Remembrance Day

## **7 Correspondence**

7.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

## **8 Sub-Group Updates**

### **8.1 Planning**

We should consider whether Stan Miles' Planning Meetings should be published on Facebook.

### **8.2 Bookham Retail and Business Association**

8.2.1 The Kebab premises in Church Street had been contacted due to the correct storage of waste out at the back of the shop. Perhaps a prompt about implementing a litter patrol on the premises closing for the night.

## **9 Any Other Business**

**10 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014