

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2014 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

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

Invited Councillors, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Paul Newman,

Honorary Members, Arthur Field

0 Bookham Neighbourhood Panel

Prior to the meeting starting there was a presentation on local policing issues for May and June from PCSO Marion Hawkins and colleagues. One of which was our Neighbourhood Commander, Richard Hamlin who gave an informative introduction to his role and priorities. He would be achieving this through the monitoring and detecting changes in local activity.

The tragic fatal accident between a bicycle and a car near the junction of East Street and Lower Road on 10th June is under investigation by the Police Collision Investigation Unit. This unit investigates all collisions and takes input from witnesses and Surrey County Council Highways. Cllr. Clare Curran will monitor progress of the investigation.

Vehicle-Activated Signs (VAS) will be deployed shortly in the village. There will also be a police deployment to measure the speed of local traffic and detect if any motorist is speeding.

The CCTV in the village is operational except for the one that was going to overlook the ATM in Lower Road. Cllr. Stella Brooks is going back to see if a further grant can be made available to aid in the installation.

Michael Agius reported that, after the plastic piping under the footpath had been replaced, it had been removed again but this time it had been stolen. The piping was under the footpath that goes between the Howard of Effingham and Manor House Lane. The damage caused was some £500. It will be reported as a crime to the Police once it has been determined as to who has suffered the damage. This could be the land-owner. It may be a deterrent for a notice to be placed near the damage indicating that this is being investigated as a crime.

David Smith updated us on the recent fire in a shed behind Boots in the High Street.

1 Apologies:

David Cox OBE, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Jatin Patel, Keith Francis.

2 Minutes

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

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Phil Harris was nominated to be on the committee and by a show of hands this was agreed unanimously.

3.2 **Yellow Lines.** There was discussion on Yellow Lines not only at Lower Shott but also in Eastwick Park Avenue. It was agreed that we ask Phil Harris to investigate the placement and that an item be placed on the agenda for discussion in September.

Action: Phil Harris

3.3 **Lower Shott Car Parking Charges** Various charging options are being investigated by Cllr. Paul Newman. He will report back.

3.4 **Infringement of Parking Regulations** This is being monitored by Cllr. Clare Curran with the Civil Enforcement Officer.

3.5 There were no other matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Correspondence

4.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

5 The Democratic Challenge

5.1 Parish Council versus Residents Association

Parish Councils can provide more services but at a significant additional cost.

It would be useful to take input from other Parishes as to what they feel the benefits and disadvantages of being a Parish.

It was agreed to have a small feasibility meeting to discuss the many issues and come to a view. This group to consist of Michael Agius, Jim Smith, Michael Anderson and Nick Forrer.

5.2 Improving two way Communication with Bookham Residents

The consensus was that we need to find ways of improving the two way flow of information and views to and from the residents of Bookham. However we also need to determine what the views are of those that don't communicate with us at all.

6 Sub-Group Updates

6.1 **Planning:**

6.1.1 **Middlemead Road & Sole Farm Avenue Development.** There will be an increase in housing with the redevelopment of this estate. There is concern that with more houses and the gradual increase in car ownership per household, there will be pressure on parking spaces. The result is that the minimum standard for the number of parking spaces may not be met.

6.1.2 **Photo-Me.** A development proposal has been put forward by Shanly Homes Limited, who bought a plot of land from Photo-Me which is next their Head Office. They are proposing to build 60 homes at a high density on this 2.2 acre site.

This might be an opportunity for Shanly Homes to pressure for an improvement in the British Rail services through Bookham Station which is opposite this new development. However an improvement might not be possible because of the restriction in the number of train movements through the level crossing at Ashted.

6.1.3 **Preston Cross.** The extra width to the footpath has been taken account of in the proposed plan.

6.2 **Finance:**

6.2.1 **Bus Stop Bench.** Some £150 needs to be set aside for some remedial attention to the bench in Lower Road.

6.2.2 **Tree Maintenance.** We need to apply for the full amount of £5,000 from the Council for tree maintenance to be allocated as appropriate by Frances Fancourt. Note also the hedge in Old Barn Hall grounds needs some attention.

6.2.3 **Christmas Lights.** The Christmas Tree lights in the High Street need to have permanent wiring and time clocks. This work needs to be done by a new contractor.

Note. For next year £1,200 has been allocated by MVDC for the Christmas Lights. In addition this sum will be provided for the following two years.

Action: John Allen & David Smith

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6.2.4 **Damaged Railings.** These are at the southern end of the High Street with an amount of £470 needed to be put aside for this activity with £300 coming out of the Heritage Fund. The end panels will be moved to replace the damaged ones in the middle.

6.2.5 **Book Fair.** Some £827 had been raised from this event as our half share. The committee thanked John and Gillian for all their hard effort in making it such a success.

John indicated that after 12 years he was resigning from organising this event.

7 Annual Objectives

7.1 **Joint Working:**

Michael Anderson reported that this activity is alive and well. There will be another meeting of the "Working Together" Group, now rescheduled for Wednesday 15th October at 7:30 pm. There will be a discussion on how and why we can use Social Media to reach our target audience. The involvement of the Howard of Effingham would be beneficial for this activity.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 **Bus Services.** A note from Keith Francis on changes to the local bus services was read out.

8.2 **Leatherhead Lions.** It was agreed that we would sponsor one Donkey Derby race at a cost of £100.

8.3 **Tree Preservation Order.** Phil Harris voiced concern that TPOs can be hard to obtain in sufficient time and urgency. It was suggested that Peter Seaward in conjunction with other local Associations would discuss this topic with the Council and Cllr. Stella Brooks.

Action: Peter Seaward

9 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 4th August 2014