

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2015 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Committee Members Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Andrew Freeman, Michael Anderson, Elizabeth Hudson, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, Nick Forrer (Minutes), Michael Agius, John Allen, Frances Fancourt, Keith Francis,

Councillors: Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Jatin Patel,

BRA Members: Julia Dickinson, John Howarth, Peter and Judith Witter, Tony Alsbury plus one other visitor.

Police Neighbourhood Panel: PCSO Marion Hawkins tabled a report outlining the incidents that had occurred in Bookham during January and February. The number of incidents remain reassuringly low.

Marion also highlighted a telephone scam where people were receiving calls, purportedly from the police, asking for bank details. Marion reiterated that the police would never ask for bank details and residents should put the phone down, wait 5 minutes and then call the police on 101.

1 Apologies:

David Cox OBE, Jim Smith OBE, Cllr. Paul Newman, Chris Pullan, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Les Huett, Arthur Field;

2 Minutes

2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record subject to a minor correction to Section 9.2, i.e. Howarth, not Howard.

3 Matters Arising

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

4 Correspondence

4.1 There was no correspondence.

5 Bookham Bookstall

5.1 Tony Alsbury was in attendance who regularly has a stall at the Barn Hall and helps John Allen with book storage, etc. It was noted that sales on village day and elsewhere appear to be declining. It was agreed that a bookstall would go ahead but on a smaller scale using gazebos.

6 Subscriptions

- 6.1 Chris Pullen's paper was discussed. It was agreed that subscriptions should be raised to £3 or perhaps even £5, and this would be discussed at the AGM. It was suggested that the paper could be expanded slightly to explain that the increase is to benefit the wider community and the activities that the BRA undertake. It's not for administrative purposes or the BRA Executive which is entirely made up of volunteers.

7 AGM

- 7.1 Speaker to be agreed but hopefully Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning at Surrey County Council. **Action: Andrew Freeman to forward agenda to John Allen.**

8 Newsletter

- 8.1 Les Huett has asked that all articles are submitted to him by the 5th March.

9 Company Limited by Guarantee

- 9.1 Johan Howarth spoke to his draft Articles of Association which has taken the BRA's terms of reference and Government requirements. It was noted that there would be some additional legal requirements regarding the accounts. There were several points raised, namely:
- 9.1.1 **Number of Officers:** This needs to be agreed but perhaps a small number might be the best solution with others members in attendance.
- 9.1.2 **Councillors:** Should they be directors of the company? Some discussion in that there could be a conflict of interest and it was mooted that perhaps they could be in attendance and be able to vote whilst not a director.
- 9.2 It was agreed that a small group would firm up on these outstanding issues and report back

10 Sub-Group Updates

- 10.1 **Planning:** It was noted that:
- 10.1.1 the Committee would be writing to MVDC regarding the 103 Eastwick Park Avenue application; and
- 10.1.2 that the proposed camp site at Poleston Lacey had been refused
- 10.2 **Wisley Airfiled:** It was suggested that there would be road closures should the proposed development went ahead and that the Planning Committee should comment on the likely disruption should an planning application be submitted.
- 10.3 **Chalk Pit Lane:** There may be a planning application coming through which would be on green belt land and it was suggested that the Committee should look at this closely should an application be submitted.
- 10.4 **Environment:** It was noted that:

- 10.4.1 **Trees:** Tree works had now been completed and Peter Seaward asked if there was any money left for some additional tree works in Burnham Lane. It was also noted that Fetcham RA was going to plant some trees in Richmond Way and Richmond Close but these roads are within Bookham so the planting was stopped;
- 10.4.2 **Posters on Railings:** The process for removing these remains unclear. It was agreed that John Chandler would speak to officers at MVDC with the option that the BRA remove them.
- 10.4.3 **Parking on Verges:** It was noted that cars are being parked on some verges and as a result damaging the vegetation. It was also noted that whilst it is technically illegal to park on verges this cannot be effectively policed since the offence has been de-criminalised. The only solution would be local enforcement by making it a civil offence and the erection of warning signs or by putting in bollards or similar obstacles.
- 10.5 **Finance:** Chris Pullan has produced the year-end accounts and these will be discussed at the AGM
- 10.6 **Education:** The Howard of Effingham redevelopment remains a hot issue with those in favour and those against. Statistics suggest that the number of additional children entering the HoE school is likely to rise by 43 by 2019 and even more in 2021 requiring an additional 2 classrooms. In addition, more housing will increase demand further. It was also noted that approximately 600 children from Bookham attend the HoE and that if the school is over-subscribed then Bookham children might be required to go to Therfield School in Leatherhead. David Cox is going to draft a letter on behalf of DDOCA.

Regarding the additional housing and the green belt issues, these are separate to SCC's responsibilities for ensuring that the educational requirements are met.

Finally, it was noted that MVDC's response to the planning application is on the March Development Control agenda.

11 **Annual Objectives** – not discussed due to time constraints

12 **Any Other Business**

- 12.1 **Flood Forum:** There is an issue on the Middlemead estate where remedial action has been agreed but not carried out. This will be raised at the next meeting which is on the 30th March.
- 12.2 **Buses:** Keith Francis updated the Committee regarding the recent Bus review which received 6,600 responses, many of which were from Bookham residents. As a result there have been a number of changes to bus routes and times with a new timetable being produced. **Action: Keith to ensure there is an update posted on the BRA website.**
- 12.3 **Working Together:** Michael Anderson reported that the group was progressing well with 24 organisations attending the last meeting.
- 12.4 **Notice Boards:** Ray Pritchard has agreed to look after the notice boards during Nick Forrer's absence.
- 12.5 **Cycling Routes:** Julia Dickinson aired concerns regarding the proposed upgrade to The Lorne/Church Street cycle route which she considered as potentially dangerous. **Action: Julia to discuss with Michael Agius.**

- 12.6 **SPACE:** It was noted that a 20 year lease had now been agreed.
- 12.7 **Hustings:** Elizabeth Hudson reported that all the Parliamentary candidates had agreed to attend a hustings event on 14th April in the Baptist Church hall.
- 12.8 **Leatherhead Hospital:** It was noted that services at the hospital are under review.
- 13 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 13th April 2015