

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2015 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, Michael Anderson, David Cox OBE, Arthur Field, Keith Francis, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Ray Pritchard, Jim Smith OBE, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

Invited Councillors; Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Paul Newman,

Co-opted and Honorary Members;

Ordinary Members; Tony Alsbury, Trevor Goul Wheeler, Phil Harris, Clifford Wright.

1 Apologies:

John Allen, Julia Dickinson, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Hudspith, Stan Miles, David Smith, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. Jatin Patel, John Howarth,

2 Minutes

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

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1.1 2nd January item 3.1.3 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. Subsequently it was determined that planning permission is no longer required. The approval for the money to support this activity will be delegated to the Treasurer in consultation with the Actioner. Once licenced the Project Manager for the installation of the Notice Board will be Arthur Field.

There was dismay that it taken such a long time.

Action: Nick Forrer

- 3.1.2 6th October item 6. BRA Survey/Questionnaire. A small working sub-group to be formed with the involvement of Nick Forrer, Ray Pritchard, David Cox, Les Huett and Cllr Clare Curran. **Update.** A meeting has been organised.

Action: Nick Forrer with Ray Pritchard

As part of the survey we need to make sure we provide information on the different organisations that are part of Bookham. Otherwise the answers to the survey will not be properly informed. We also need to make sure that we use all the communication channels available to inform the local residents of what we all do.

- 3.1.3 11th May item 6 Planning: MVDC Local Plan/The Howard of Effingham. Further details of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be provided at a later date. **Update.** 25% of the CIL will be available to the village.

Action: c/f P Seaward & M Agius

- 3.1.4 11th May item 8.2 Car Parking. The fees for parking at the Lower Shott car park were also raised. The suggestion is to have two rates, one for the morning and the other for the afternoon, with the first 30 minutes of both being free. **Update.** Awaiting a meeting at MVDC. Another suggestion is that traders would be able to park at a discount.

Action: c/f P Seaward

- 3.1.5 11th May Kebab Shop. The signage and whether appropriate in a conservation area is to be decided by MVDC. **Update.** **Update:** This is wending its way through the planning process.

- 3.1.6 1st June item 11.2.2 Grass Verges: Michael Agius would be chasing up the provision of posts on grass verges in Eastwick Park Avenue.

Action: Michael Agius

- 3.1.7 1st June item 11.2.3 Bookham Signage: The two signs at each end of the village on the A246 will need to be replaced at some time as the wooden frame is getting rotten and the surface of the sign is showing some distress. It would be good to be able to personalise the signs by putting some picture that is typically of Bookham.

Action: NOT sure??

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

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

5 Bookstall Report

- 5.1 The Committee thanked Tony Alsbury for his strenuous efforts on the running the bookstall on Village Day. For next year we need an organiser or manager for this important money raising activity. This year £692 was raised of which half each goes to the BCA and the BRA. There has been a drop in the amount raised as the printed publication moves to digital.
- 5.2 There was discussion on what the pricing should be next year. It was suggested that the price per book should be increased from 50p to a £1. It was noted that at the Friday market at Barn Hall the price per book was 50p.
- 5.3 There was discussion on whether the bookstall could have more space next year. Peter Seaward would discuss this with Keith Slark of BCA.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 5.4 Also discussed was whether we should sell vinyl records as well as CDs/DVDs on the bookstall. The general feeling was that this could be a lot of work with not much reward. Tony Alsbury will discuss this further with David Smith.

6 Quiz Night

Frances Fancourt organised the food which was a great success, due to the preparation and planning she did beforehand. The Committee much appreciated her efforts. All her expenditure has been covered. Unfortunately the BCA came last in the quiz and they will be organising the food next year. The Quiz night raised some £658 for the BCA.

7 BRA response to the Parish Council Debate

- 7.1 Trevor Goul Wheeker reported on the Parish Council debate. He said that there is much confusion in the village as the purpose and activities between the BCA and the BRA. We need to ascertain what the views are of our members. This can then be put forward to MVDC. However we would have to show evidence of the strength of feeling by residents. It is expected that MVDC will be fairly neutral unless there is clear benefit to taxpayers. Considerations they will take into account will be what impact it will have on their own budget, impact on their local activities for better or worse and the likely strength and organisational abilities of the local administration.
- 7.2 Jim Smith OBE said that the suggestion that a Parish Council could do more, ignored the activities carried out by the BRA, BCA and Churches Together with the local Councillors which have made significant achievements. The campaign being mounted for a Village Council is highly focused and hence we need to ensure that balanced views of the opposing arguments are expressed.
- 7.3 Ray Pritchard said the Woodlands Road Residents were doing a survey to ascertain views and suggestions on this topic.
- 7.4 Cllr. Clare Curran suggested perhaps a petition for those residents wanting to say no. MVDC would take those into account against those that wanted to have a Village Council.
- 7.5 BEAM has put forward a simple proposal of having an electronic voting system for deciding local issues. This sounds a strong message and looks very democratically attractive, but most residents want their councillors to make the decisions on the basis of careful and thoughtful analysis by identifying the benefits and disadvantages for all. It has to be remembered that as all residents have to pay, then all residents should be able to benefit from the chosen choice.
- 7.6 Also discussed was, what the process was for MVDC coming to a decision and over what timescale.
- 7.7 To help residents to come to a view a communications strategy needs to be developed. This will highlight the material required, the avenues to be used and media paths to exploit.

Action: Les Huett

8 Sub-Group Updates

- 8.1 **Planning:** The planning applications for 50, 63/65, 73 Keswick Road was highlighted and that a letter of representation was made as the sites were over developed with issues on parking. Where development causes significant infilling, needs to be considered by MVDC and a policy derived between the Councillors and the Planning Officers. The Chairman will send a letter asking this to be reviewed.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 8.2 **Environment:** Michael Agius reported on the parking on Lower Road outside the Howard of Effingham. The local Police Officers and Effingham PC have been informed and were keeping an eye on it.

Keith Francis reported on the difficulties a bus he was on trying to make its way along the road there with traffic having to reverse back to allow any movement.

- 8.3 **Finance:** The Treasurer reported that the donations in memory of Charles Finch had reached £382 in 10 donations. Various options for a memorial were discussed such as a bench or a tree at different locations around the village. This would be investigated carefully by Michael Agius and Frances Fancourt over the next month. The Chairman would write a letter of thanks for the donations to the daughter.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 8.4 **Education:** The Howard of Effingham's Bookham intake for the next year is 650.

9 Annual Objectives

- 9.1 **Joint Working:** The Community Hub in Church Road would be continuing in its current premises till the end of February next year.

10 Any Other Business

- 11 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 3rd August 2015