

THE BOOKHAMS' RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre at 7.45pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Andrew Freeman, Michael Anderson, David Cox OBE, Julia Dickinson, Frances Fancourt, Arthur Field, Keith Francis, Phil Harris, John Howarth, Michelle Hudspith, Elizabeth Hudson, Les Huett, Margaret Lawson, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, David Smith, Jim Smith OBE, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

Invited Councillors; Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Clare Curran, Simon Edge

Ordinary Members; Judy Smith, Clifford Wright

Apologies: Chris Pullan, John Allen, Cllr. Stella Brooks, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Paul Newman, Cllr. Jatin Patel.

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, subject to a correction to item 2.2 Grass Verges and item 2.6 Police Changes¹.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2nd January item 3.1.3 Completion of the **Business Maps** showing the business premises with their name and trade indexed against their location in Bookham. On completion Squiggle will print the map which then can be displayed on a new Notice Board in Lower Road Car Park. A draft licence has been prepared for approval and revision by MVDC and will be submitted this month. The approval for the finances will be delegated to the Treasurer in consultation with Nick Forrer.

Nick Forrer reported that a start had been made and it was hoped to complete the Business Map by the next meeting. Carried forward.

Action: Nick Forrer

- 2.2 1st June item 11.2.2 **Grass Verges:** Michael Agius will be investigating the provision of wooden posts on the Grass Verges in Eastwick Park Avenue. This is to discourage parking on the verges. Michael Agius has contacted Paul Anderson to discuss. Surrey County Council has agreed to the work being done.

Action: Michael Agius

- 2.3 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 as the wooden frame is rotten and the surface of the sign is showing some distress. They are unlikely to last longer than another 9 months. It would be good to be able to personalise the new signs by putting some picture that is typically of Bookham. This could be the "beech tree" emblem.

It was also noted that the Great Bookham sign next to Kennel Lane has been damaged and stolen. A check will be made with Surrey Highways and a review of

¹ See BRA Committee Minutes ver. 2 Final 1st February 2016.

their catalogue as what could be provided as a replacement for all three signs. Source of finance and provider of signs identified and progressing. Carried forward.

Action: Michael Agius

- 2.4 5th October item 2.1.5 **Councillors' Responsibilities**. With the constraints in budget there needs to be better insight as to what the councillors' responsibilities are at each level of government. There is much confusion as to which does what functions between District and County². Cllr. Lucy Botting will consider what can be done to publicise the distinctions between them. This will be reported on shortly.

Action: Cllr. Lucy Botting

- 2.5 2nd November item 0.2 - **Parking Update**. David Smith raised the issue of Trader Parking Permits, as the take-up of these is quite low. This is due to the cost being £150 and as the permit doesn't guarantee the trader a parking space. Perhaps having dedicated trader permit holder spaces might be a better approach. In general people resent having to pay for a parking space. Taking all of this in context if street parking is available for free why might you want to pay? Cllr. John Chandler will review the Parking Policy. Take-up has remained low³. Still under review.

Action: Cllr. John Chandler

- 2.6 Further to the discussion at the December 2015 meeting on the Police who are going through an extensive restructuring. We should discuss this further with the Temporary Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave and PCSO Marion Hawkins. Carried forward.

Action: Michael Anderson & Keith Francis

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

3 Correspondence

- 3.1 **Memorial Bench** at Lower Shott. As there has been little progress in ordering and installing the bench from the donations at the funeral for Charles James Finch it has been decided that Nick Forrer will take over the ordering and then arrange with the Projects Manager for the installation.

Action: Nick Forrer

- 3.2 **War Memorial**. Another quote is to be arranged for the lettering to be repaired and made visible.

Action: Jim Smith

- 3.3 There was no other correspondence to discuss.

² In some cases, Government. For example, for the management of trunk roads and motorways.

³ Up to February 2016.

4 Ninetieth Anniversary of the Formation of the Bookhams' Residents' Association

The question is what should we do to commemorate the occasion. A bench was procured for the sixtieth anniversary. The bench is near the bus stop in the village. It should be noted that the bench is in need of some tender and loving care.

One suggestion was a brass plate on the Bookhams village sign in Lower Shott. Another suggestion would be to look at the history of the village over the years to note significant events that occurred that shaped the village. There is a history archive in Woking that might give some memorable events that occurred.

The road stewards could also be asked for ideas. Another suggestion could be handing out stickers that could be placed inside on car windscreens or windows.

Whatever is decided could be combined with Village Day⁴ to maximise the visibility.

5 Leatherhead Transform

They have produced a lengthy baseline report of some 103 pages with a useful summary on page 100.⁵ The final report will be published in July of this year. At the meeting we attended there was a long discussion on congestion in Leatherhead plus other issues. The Leatherhead Transform Team will be attending the BRA AGM and give an update on their studies and recommendations.

6 Group Updates

6.1 Finance

The BRA accounts for last year have been examined and approved by the Auditor.

6.1.1 Company Limited by Guarantee

The next newsletter will give formal notice of the BRA AGM on the 17th May 2016 at the Old Barn Hall at 7:30 pm. It will say that nominations for Directors for the Board need to be advised in writing to the Company Secretary by the 29th April. If a resident is unable to attend the AGM a proxy can be appointed, please contact the Company Secretary⁶ by the 6th May 2016.

There can be 13 directors of which 4 are currently in post. Typically, they will be the Chair of each of the Groups. The SCC and MVDC will be asked to nominate a director for each council.

6.2 Planning Group

The Running List for February 2016 was summarised. The removal of two Cypress trees and one Beech tree at 38 Church Road has been rejected by MVDC. This is a good result as the Beech Tree has a significant presence on Church Road.

⁴ Saturday 18th June 2016 with the theme "Beatrix Potter"

⁵ The baseline report is available on <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=22125> with later reports updating the information as a result of the studies and comments.

⁶ At the registered office at 16 Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 4LX.

The Planning Group will provide comment on the Bookham Vanguard's Neighbourhood Development Plan in the next few weeks.

Also discussed was the impact of the Howard of Effingham school and housing development on the potential loss of the local wildlife corridor. Effingham Lodge Farm forms part of a wildlife corridor between the Surrey Hills and Effingham and Bookham Commons.

6.3 **Environment Group**

6.3.1 **Litter.** The inaugural litter pick was held yesterday, Sunday 6th March. Nineteen residents turned up and lots of litter bags were filled. A grateful thanks from the Committee was noted. New posters thanking participants and giving the next date will be publicised. Transition Bookham are being very supportive of this activity. Contact with local schools has been made and will continue to publicise the importance of picking up litter.

6.3.2 **Trees.** Frances Fancourt is looking at whether there should be a more active MVDC policy on tree protection and placement.

6.3.3 **Drainage.** Michael Agius reported on the various proposals on improving the ditches from the Lower Road Recreation grounds to Bookham Common. Also the drainage problems along Little Bookham Street that need investigation, before the resurfacing of the street.

6.4 **Community Group**

6.4.1 **Police.** We have been in touch with the police who are happy to come to a meeting if there are any specific issues to be addressed.

6.4.2 **Community Hub.** Currently, they are meeting at the Baptist Church, but are actively looking at a number of alternative places to hold meetings.

6.4.3 **Transport.** The bus consultation finishes in two weeks' time. As of yet there is nothing to impact us in Bookham.

6.4.4 **Education.** Shortly there will be local reports on the applications and admissions to primary and secondary schools for this coming educational year.

Reduced parking along the road outside the Howards of Effingham has sparked some discussions as to whether the school should be smaller with a reduction in size from 1,400 to 1,000 pupils. This would have a significant impact on the pupils wanting to go there from Bookham.

Reparation work is being done on the building on the Chrystie recreation ground. It used to be used by the football club but has been vandalised in recent weeks. Only essential repairs are being undertaken. The facilities need to be significantly upgraded.

6.4.5 **Communications.** Les Huett reported that there will be two articles in the next Look Local.

He also reported that the BRA web site had some 1,000 hits in February.

The Road Stewards are key in keeping the members up-to-date and informed. This is always a challenge in keeping and finding new stewards.

6.4.6 **Business.** Local business trading have been relatively quiet over the last month.

7 Projects Update

- 7.1 Community Pride & Lengthsman scheme Michael Agius
Pending
- 7.2 BRA High Street awareness campaign Phil Harris and Arthur Field
There is a need for more volunteers and the occasional Councillor to support this key activity.
- 7.3 War Memorial Jim Smith and Pat Morrish

The letters seem to erode after 7 years and need to be redone. There needs to be a review of the integrity of the monument. Another quote is being obtained for the lettering.

- 7.4 Trees 2016 schedule Frances Fancourt
Frances Fancourt has drawn up a schedule of tree activities and the group has planted the hundredth tree. This is a tremendous achievement coupled with the extensive tree maintenance activities undertaken.
- 7.5 Bookham Business Map Nick Forrer & Ray Pritchard
- 7.6 New Notice Board Lower Road Car Park Nick Forrer
- 7.7 3rd CCTV Michael Anderson & Keith Francis

This will require some £4500 for purchase and subsequent installation. This may be available through the Police Commissioner's Budget.

- 7.8 Electronic Sign Peter Seaward
It may be possible to fix it to the Notice Board Lower Road Car Park
- 7.9 Replacement of Village signs Michael Agius
PIC funds have been agreed for the replacement on the A246 and the missing sign on the Lower Road at Kennel Lane.
- 7.10 Xmas lights John Allen & Phil Harris
Three/four sets of permanent wiring with a socket on High Street. This would allow Xmas lights to be just plugged in and switched on.

It is expected that the cost might be about £4,000. We have to make sure that it is not an expensive solution.
- 7.11 Bench renovation outside St Nicolas (Lower Road north side)
An update will be available at the next meeting. Andrew Freeman
- 7.12 Lower Shott Memorial Bench Nick Forrer

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Cllr. Lucy Botting reported that Dorking town was going to have a referendum on whether to have a Parish Council in May of this year. The considerations are what further responsibilities should be given if successful. These responsibilities would not be put in place till the following April if approved.
- 8.2 Cllr. Clare Curran reported that the SSC was carefully considering the financial impact of the government changes over the next two years. They are looking closely with other councils on improving the infrastructure. There is a real problem with the increasing cost of social care.
- 8.3 The wonky bus shelter opposite St Nicolas Church on the southern side of Lower Road is to be repaired in May.

9 Next BRA Meeting: Monday 4th April 2016