

The Bookhams Residents' Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Directors
held at 6.00pm on Thursday 20th July 2017
at [REDACTED] Bookham, Surrey, KT23 3BH

Present:

Directors: Peter Seaward (Chair) (PS), Michael Agius (MA), Cllr Simon Edge (SE), Andrew Freeman (AF), Chris Pullan (CP), David Smith (DS)

Company Secretary: John Howarth (JGH)

Committee Members: John Allen (JA), Ray Pritchard (RP)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Clare Curran (CC), Nick Forrer (NF) and Les Huett (LH)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on April 26th

Because of NF's absence discussion on this was carried forward to the next meeting. However it was noted that since this meeting on the 26th there had been (a) a successful Annual General Meeting and (b) a small presentation to Mole Valley District Council in support of its recommendation **NOT** to establish a Parish Council in Bookham.

3. Membership

The Company Secretary (JGH) reminded the meeting of the requirement to keep a Register of Members and confirmed that it would not be necessary for the Association to register for Data Protection.

JA said that his membership records had been passed to LH so that they could be input into a computer database. It was confirmed that the number of member households was approximately 3,000, and that so far this year £8,762 had been collected in membership subscriptions. It was also confirmed that the number of Road Stewards was 140, 10 less than required.

Issues that needed to be addressed:

- Clarification of names of individual members in the member households
- Identification of someone to become Membership Secretary since JA had given notice of his intention to step down from the post
- Recruitment of more Road Stewards

It was recognised that once the database of household members had been finished any gaps in the recording of individual members could be completed, with reference to the Electoral Register.

ACTION: LH, JGH, JA

The problem of the collection of subscriptions was discussed. PS said that members should be given different options in respect of making payments: e.g. PayPal, Use of Retailer(s) in the village, Use of standing orders/direct debits.

ACTION: PS, CP

4. Communications

The discussions and debates in respect of the Parish Council had highlighted the need for the Association to become more adept in its use of social media and electronic communication in promoting its activities and informing its members as to what it was doing. It was **AGREED** that the Autumn Newsletter should be distributed in the usual way, but that from next year (2018) an electronic version should be issued. To this end RP said a meeting was to be arranged with himself and LH to establish the way forward. It was also **AGREED** that someone with knowledge and experience of social media should be recruited to manage the communication process.

ACTION: RP, LH, JA.

5. NDP / Local Plan

PS reported on the difference of views between the BRA and MVDC Planning as to how the policies in the NDP for Bookham would be weighted when compared with general MVDC Planning Policies in respect of planning applications in Bookham. He said that the Ashted RA had similar concerns in respect of their NDP in Ashted. He said he would write to MVDC Planning Department to seek clarification and also to raise the topic at the regular meeting that the RAs had with MVDC - next one taking place on Thursday 27th July.

ACTION: PS

He also reminded the meeting that a “drop in” session on the consultation “Future Mole Valley”, arranged by MVDC, had been held at the Barn Hall on Wednesday 19th July. The closing date for the consultation was August 12th and it was recommended that all responded. The key issues in this were: (a) the number of houses to be built in Mole Valley in the period 2018 - 2033, (b) where they could be built and (c) how this number had been derived.

ACTION: ALL

6. Relationship with other RAs

The regular meeting with the other RAs (Ashted, Fetcham & Leatherhead) had taken place on July 19th. Topics covered were those in item 5 above suggestions for the agenda for the July 27th meeting at MVDC. Agenda items agreed were:

- (a) Clarification of the Future Mole Valley housing numbers
- (b) Grass Cutting
- (c) The new companies established by MVDC to handle its property investments
- (d) Transform Leatherhead
- (e) Central Government Funding for Highway Improvements
- (f) Effect of the merger of Building Control Inspectors with other Local Authorities
- (g) NDP / Local Plan policies
- (h) Potential Impact of the closure of some of the Waste Disposal sites in Surrey

7. Succession Planning

Carried forward to next meeting - however the requirement to recruit/appoint a Membership Secretary (see Minute 3) was acknowledged.

8. Local Councillor Support

It was **AGREED** that, although the six District and one County Councillor were supportive of the Association and what it did, there was still a need for the Association to involve them more in its activities and to help formulate its ambitions for the Village.

ACTION: PS

9. Any Other Business

9.1 East Street

Concerns had been raised with the BRA in respect of (a) speeding on the street and (b) use of the street by HGVs.

9.2 General Village Appearance

Questions were raised about the amount of weeds that were growing adjacent to walls and verges and that were making the village look untidy; e.g. could we deal with this ourselves or employ a gardening contractor.

9.3 Heritage Day

DS reported that the retailers were considering having a retail initiative: "Buy in Bookham": on Heritage Day. PS said that it might be possible to provide some financial support if necessary.

ACTION: DS, PS

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be advised.