

**THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017  
at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, John Allen, Keith Francis, Michelle Smith, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, David Smith, Nick Forrer, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, Tony Alsbury, Liz Pemberton, Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Arthur Field

**Invited Councillors:** Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Margaret Lawson, David Cox OBE, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson,

**Ordinary Members:** Clifford Wright,

**Apologies:** Phil Harris, Michael Anderson Cllr. Lucy Botting

**1. Minutes**

With one small amendment to 9.2 (should read Ray, not Jim) the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

**2. Matters Arising**

1st June item 11.2.2 **Grass Verges:** Investigations into the provision of wooden posts on the grass verges in Eastwick Road is ongoing. Carried forward. **Action:** Michael Agius

9th May 2016 item 6.1 **Speed Cameras.** These have been located although still awaiting a report back on any maintenance issues. It was noted that Inspector Hamlyn has now moved to another position. Carried forward. **Action: Clare Curran**

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

**3. Correspondence**

3.1 **Flower Pots in Communal Area:** A resident in some flats in Bookham, and a neighbour, had some plants growing communal area. Circle Housing had issues noticed on the pots for these to be removed within approximately four weeks. Whilst technically this is not in keeping with the tenancy agreement it was considered by most committee members to be an over-reaction, especially as they had probably been there for years. Cllr. Metin Huseyin had spoken to Circle Housing and subsequently received a response indicating that the pots should be removed on safety grounds.

3.2 **Barn Hall Field:** A resident adjacent to the field reported that after the Village Day a car had driven into the field late at night and drove around causing a disturbance, suggesting a barrier could be erected. This was discussed as a permanent barrier wouldn't be

appropriate yet other measures would be disproportionately expensive and some sandbags might be sufficient. **Action: Arthur Field to investigate options.**

**3.3 Grove Estate Advisory Group:** It was suggested at a JAG meeting which Peter attended that a Grove Estate Advisory Group should be established. Subsequent emails from MVDC suggested that the BRA should take the lead in establishing this group but the committee felt that it should be led by the residents of the Grove.

#### **4. Group Updates**

**4.1 Management Group:** Nil to report although a meeting is being organised for 20<sup>th</sup> July to discuss several issues, e.g. Membership Recruitment, Succession Planning, NDP / Local Plan, Local Councillor Support and Relationship with other RAs. Peter will report back to the next meeting.

#### **4.2 Planning Group**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Despite the Council formally adopted the NDP there appeared to be issues with its interpretation by the Council when considering applications and being balanced with pre-existing development control guidance. It was agreed that there should be a meeting between the BRA and local councillors on the Development Control Committee and/or council officers. **Action: Stan Miles.**

**Panning Applications:** Stan reported that of 30 new applications the sub-committee had written to the council on three, including the conversion of a garage into habitable accommodation and back-land development with associated access issues.

**MV Future Plan:** It was reported that MVDC needs to find suitable sites for 9,800 new dwellings, of which 2,000 had already been identified, by 2032. It was suggested a joint response from all the residents' associations in the north of the district might carry more weight than a single response from the BRA. There is also a drop-in session in the Barn Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> July which should be advertised to residents and to encourage them to respond. **Action: Les to send email to residents on the distribution list.**

**Council Tip Consultation:** The planning sub-committee will draft a response for consideration. One suggested response to tip closures and/or reduced opening times would lead to increased fly tipping. Clare responded by pointing out that most fly tipping is actually commercial waste for which there are already charges.

#### **4.3 Environment Group**

**Local Committee Funds:** In previous years a significant fund of circa £700k had been transferred from Highways to the Local Committees to spend, however that had now been reduced to £40k plus the loss of the Lengthman's scheme, therefore any future projects need to be targeted carefully and Clare was open to suggestions where small projects would make a real difference.

**Paths:** Due to the cuts in budgets there was essentially no funds to keep paths clear. Michael Agius had been out clearing paths although this was a far from satisfactory solution and it was agreed that a quote should be sought for the works required, including where weeds are grown in the High Street.

**Litter Pick:** Nil to report.

**Trees:** It was noted that several dead trees had been identified and Frances will report these to Highways as the responsible department and who has a duty to remove them.

**Overhanging Bushes:** It was reported that there is a bush in Eastwick Drive that is posing a danger. **Action: Michael Agius to investigate.**

**Plastic Roads:** Clare reported that she spoken to both Highways and MacRebur (the company mentioned at the last meeting as the supplier of plastic roads). In brief these show signs of being useful in the future but they are not cheap and the technology is new therefore wearability and the ability to make repairs is still largely an unknown. However, Clare suggested to MacRebur that if a pilot site is needed then to consider SCC.

**Flood Forum:** Nil to report.

#### 4.4 Community Group

**Transport:** Keith Francis reported that bus timetables have been tweaked which generally appears to add to journey times.

**Education:** Following the previous meeting Julia had supplied data to show that there will be a bulge in the number of children wishing to attend the Howard of Effingham School. One question Julia had asked was whether it takes the local plan into account. Clare replied that it did and added that the school had previously successfully managed a “bulge” year and should be able to do so again.

**Bookham Youth Project:** Nil to report.

**Emergency Planning:** Following the recent national events it was suggested that the BRA should review its emergency planning role which is primarily keeping an up to date record of halls and contact details in case of an emergency.

#### 4.5 Communications and Membership Group

**Look Local/BCA's Bulletin:** Ray is looking for copy for Look Local and the BCA's Bookham Bulletin. John suggested the business map.

**Update from Les:** Les was unable to attend but provided the following points for information:

- Les has started work on the membership database and David Smith's daughter has agreed to input the data from John Allen's paper membership records.
- Website visitors have dropped this month as expected after the Parish Council referendum interest has died down.
- Les is attending a course on Social Media Marketing for Businesses which should enable him to determine how the BAR we can use best optimise use other channels such as Twitter in addition to Facebook.

**4.6 Business Group:** David Smith reported that the former Lloyds Bank site was now vacant and its loss was being felt by the traders. Also, the services provided at Lloyds Bank in Horsley was being reduced and the PO was potentially under threat and in Leatherhead the Santander bank had closed as will the one in Cobham.

Besides Lloyds bank being vacant, the Caveman had closed although a chocolatier was due to move in. Weals had closed for refurbishment.

## **5. Projects Update**

**5.1 War Memorial:** Work ongoing.

**5.2 3rd CCTV:** Project ongoing.

**5.3 Electronic Sign:** Nil to report

## **6. Any Other Business**

**6.1 Squareabout:** It was reported that some drivers appear to think they have the right of way when driving along the Lower Road and were not even stopping. To keep an eye on the situation and any incidents.

**6.2 Village Day:** Tony thanked everyone for their help on the day it was suggested that the BRA use the pop-up stand to publicise the work of the organisation.

**6.3 Leatherhead Duck Race:** Keith reported the event had been a success and some of the stars of this year's panto were present.

**6.4 Parish Council:** John Howarth had agreed to speak on behalf of the BRA at the following week's Council Meeting when the Parish Council issue will be debated.

**6.5 BCA Subscriptions:** An error by the BCA suggested the BRA had not paid it subscriptions for the year. Chris wanted to make it clear that we had.

**6.6 Internet Banking:** Chris also said that there were no plans to move solely to internet banking although some elements will be used by other members.

**7. Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7:30 pm.