

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Monday 4th December 2017
at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, John Allen, Keith Francis, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, John Howarth, Arthur Field, Julia Dickinson, Ray Pritchard, Nick Forrer, Geoff Tranter, Les Huett, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Renee Botha,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Lucy Botting,

Ordinary Members: None

Apologies: Tony Alsbury, Cllr. John Chandler, Liz Pemberton, David Cox, Michael Agius, Stan Miles, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Jatin Patel, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Margaret Lawson

1. Minutes

Several typos were noted but otherwise the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Correspondence

- 1) Charity Request: A request had been received for a donation to a local charity. Whilst it was accepted that it was a worthy cause, the BRA isn't funded to donate monies to charities and that the request should be declined.
- 2) Banners: Two messages had been received regarding the apparent proliferation of banners and advertising hoardings. It was generally thought that this was the case although action could be limited where adverts are on private land and not in the conservation area. Peter Seaward will speak to Highways and MVDC about what can be done.

4. Group Updates

4.1 Management Group

Finance: Chris Pullan reported that:

- a donation of £30 had been received from Cassleden's for the Christmas lights, and
- due to an oversight, the BCA had not been reimbursed for the hire of the Old Barn Hall for the AGM, but this would be rectified imminently.

Expenses: Chris also requested that if anyone had any expenses to claim please do so as soon as possible.

4.2 Planning Group

Planning Applications: The Planning Committee had considered 19 applications but none had warranted as response. However, it was noted that there is a continued squeeze on car parking spaces, e.g. a number of applications are being received to convert garages into living accommodation. There are also several applications being submitted for just one space per dwelling. As an example, the proposed 24 dwelling development on the A246 only had one space per dwelling as does an eight-flat development next to the church. All these trends will result in increased on-street parking.

MVDC's Future Plan: This will be discussed by MVDC at its Council meeting on the 5th December when the number of new dwellings across Mole Valley will be known. Key for the BRA is the need for infrastructure improvements and the type of dwelling.

4.3 Environment Group

Drainage: It was noted that there is a long-term drainage issue in Greenacres.

Litter Pick: Margaret Lawson reported that she had again be joined on the recent litter pick by 12 other people collecting 20 sacks of rubbish.

Trees: Frances Fancourt confirmed that a plan has been drawn up for tree works during the coming year.

Planters: Frances also reported that we have applied to MVDC to get the planted areas in the High Street refurbished and for a new planter in Church Road.

Best Trees: The RAs and Tree Wardens have identified some of Bookham's "best trees" with a view to getting MVDC to place a TPO on them.

4.4 Community Group

Education: It was reported that a new primary school would be erected as part of the Wisley Airfield development although it is unlikely to include a new secondary school.

Police: Peter Seaward reported that he'd met an Assistant Superintendent (AS) from Surrey Police and expressed his concern that there is a lack of visibility of police on the street. The AS replied that there were now more police officers in the north of Mole Valley than ever before. Be that as it may, visibility of police on the streets remains very low.

Remembrance Sunday: The road closures had generally worked well although one car was "trapped" within the closed zone. Next year perhaps parking restrictions should be applied earlier in the morning and/or an additional barrier.

4.5 Communications and Membership Group

Communications Update: Les reported that:

- The BRA now has a Next Door account;
- The Directory has now been updated and circulated;
- notes of the Planning Committee and the Question Time event are now on the website;

- Database of Members – this should be completed by the end of the year;
- Twitter posts and Facebook visits continues to increase.

Newsletter: The newsletter had now been printed and distributed and thanks were expressed to Les for his hard work in producing yet another excellent newsletter.

Look Local: Ray reported that the re-published article again failed to highlight the need for volunteers. Ray to try again next month.

Membership: It was noted that the BRA still has 133 road stewards although a number are reluctant to collect subs. It was suggested that Geoff Tranter, Ray Pritchard and Les Huett should meet to discuss ideas for future discussion.

4.6 Business Group

Late Night Christmas Shopping: This will take place on the 14th December between 6.30pm and 8.00pm.

5. Projects Update

War Memorial: The trial was a success and the authorities at All Saint's Church has given approval to proceed with the refurbishment of the war memorial. Approval to proceed is still awaited from the St. Nicolas Church authorities.

Great & Little Bookham: No update.

Weales Clock: This has now being repaired and is waiting to be put back in place

Barn Hall Field: No update.

Little Bookham Street Bench: At Question Time a problem came up about blind and disabled people needing somewhere to sit whilst waiting for a bus in Little Bookham Street opposite Bennetts Farm Place. Arthur Field to investigate options.

6. Any Other Business

Overgrown Hedges: This issue came up at Question Time. Whilst this is an ongoing issue it was felt unreasonable to expect BRA members to trudge the streets and report all offending households. Instead, members of the public should be encouraged to report instances themselves.

Resilience: Previously MVDC had communicated with the BRA about emergency planning, etc. Given the heightened concern about terrorism, abnormal weather conditions etc. it might be helpful for the BRA to be more aware of procedures, etc. Nick Forrer to ask the council if they have any guidance. It was also noted that Nick has a list of people to contact in an emergency and this list should be validated.

Supergullies: Peter Seaward mentioned that supergullies, which can store high volumes of water and to gradually disperse it might be beneficial in some places within Bookham, e.g. Dorking Road. Clare Curran will ask for some details but they would be difficult to construct and probably expensive.

7. **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 8th January 2018 at 7:30 pm.