

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

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

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), John Allen, Keith Francis, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Arthur Field, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson, Ray Pritchard, Nick Forrer, Liz Pemberton, David Cox,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran,

Ordinary Members: Clifford Wright, Geoff Tranter

Apologies: Michelle Smith, Stan Miles, David Smith, Michael Agius, Margaret Lawson, Tony Alsbury, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr. John Chandler

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 that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Great and Little Bookham Debate: It was noted that Grant Woodham had started a petition to request that the Royal Mail recognises Great and Little Bookham as separate villages as opposed to just Bookham. Grant, Lucy Botting and Peter Seaward had been interviewed on local radio and the committee listened to the broadcast. Following a short debate the committee agreed it was valuable to preserve our historical past and to an expenditure of up to £100 on leaflets to promote the petition.

4. Group Updates

4.1 Management Group:

Finance Report: Chris Pullan reported that:

- The BCA had now been paid for the use of a room for the Planning Committee.
- The Weales Clock is due to be repaired and estimates are being sought. This will be funded from PIC funds some bridging costs may be required.
- The War Memorial will be funded from PIC funds.

John Howarth also reported that the 2016/17 accounts had now been signed and forwarded to Company's House.

4.2 Planning Group

Planning Applications: In respect to the Preston Farm application for 25 houses it was noted that Michael Agius had written on a number of points. Stan Miles reported that the Planning Committee would also be writing to the Council on this application.

Stan also confirmed that the committee had written to MVDC in respect to two applications since the previous meeting.

Mole Valley Future Plan: John Howarth had responded to the consultation based on feedback received from committee members, and included:

- Support for town centre development and re-use of industrial land; use of brown field land in Dorking and Leatherhead and development in Gatwick would be acceptable;
- Concerns about:
 - the adequacy of the existing infrastructure (all services from sewers to roads to schools, etc.) and any further developments will need investment; and
 - over-development of villages.

4.3 Environment Group

General State of the Villages: There are ongoing concerns about an increasing number of weeds becoming established in roads and pavements. It was agreed that a quote should be sought to remove the weeds in the High Street.

Litter Pick: Frances Fancourt reported on behalf of Margaret Lawson that a number of bags of litter had been collected on the last Litter Pick and Julia Dickinson added that she had also picked up 2 sacks of rubbish in the recreation ground. It was also noted that the Dornay Group and the Beavers were keen to organise their own litter pick.

Trees: Frances Fancourt reported that her application for £1,500 is about to be submitted. Additional work is planned for the top of the High Street/Lower Shott and a quote will be sought for the maintenance of the trees in this area. It was pointed out that The Grange can also do some gardening type work.

4.4 Community Group

Headley Court: It was noted that the MOD's rehabilitation services at Headley Court would shortly be moving to the midlands.

Howard of Effingham: It was noted that there is an ongoing dispute between the school and the King George V playing field trustees who have raised their costs and the HoE say they cannot afford the increased costs. The trustees have also raised the costs for other users, e.g. the rugby club.

Increasing School Capacity: Extra capacity will also be provided in the coming year or two through several new free-schools in Cobham, Wisley and Dorking. It was also noted that Therfield School is the next nearest secondary school to Bookham and if increased school capacity is needed then land is available there.

Health: The Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust has issued a paper, entitled Epsom and St Helier 2020-2030, looking at how services could be redesigned to provide better healthcare. A public meeting has been organised at The Bourne Hall in Ewell but none any further out from London resulting in a very limited, south London centric consultation. Clare Curran to ask the Health Scrutiny Committee to as why the consultation is so limited.

Buses: Keith Francis reported that the 479 bus now has a new timetable and as from the 23rd September the 489's timetable will also change to a new mainly hourly 489 timetable will be introduced going from Leatherhead, via Dorking, Reigate, Redhill to Merstham.

4.5 Communications and Membership Group

Newsletter: Les Huett would like articles by 1st October. Thereafter a draft newsletter will be produced by the 15th and ready for circulation in early November.

Membership: It was reiterated that John Allen has stood down as membership secretary. Peter Seaward agreed to write to existing road stewards thanking for their help and to see if one or more of them would come forward to help. **Action: Peter Seaward.**

Communications: Les reported that:

- the membership database is being populated and this will identify gaps that need filling;
- the website had been updated with the latest developments, including the Great and Little Bookham story;
- the profile of the Twitter and Facebook accounts had been promoted and some increase in usage.

Look Local: Ray Pritchard will write an article for Look Local on the Great & Little Bookham story.

4.6 Business Group: David Smith reported that Heritage Day is on the forthcoming Saturday, the 9th September.

5. Projects Update

5.1 War Memorial: A test will be carried out on the St Nicolas memorial on the 22nd September in the first instance.

5.2 3rd CCTV: Project ongoing.

5.3 Electronic Sign: Nil to report

5.4 Barn Hall Field: Project ongoing.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Effingham and Little Bookham Parishes: Peter Seaward reported that there is a proposal to merge the two parishes. Personally he was opposed to this and had written accordingly.

6.2 Dogs Mess in the High Street: Clifford Wright said that there is a frequent occurrence of dogs mess in the High Street and also around the Grove Estate. This needs to be reported and a dog warden would visit if necessary.

6.3 Police: It was reported that Inspector Hamlyn had now moved to a new position and his replacement is Inspector Coyne.

6.4 Village Plan: It was reported that John Howard had attended the Council meeting where the Village Council initiative was discussed. The proposal was rejected unanimously except for one abstention.

6.5 King George V Playing Fields: It was reported that the Trustees had voted to increase the hire cost of the playing fields. This will have a significant impact on the Howard of Effingham Academy and will likely result in reduced access and time spent by students playing sports. Clare Curran reported that the Council has no influence over the Trustees however Peter will mention this to the bursar the next time he sees her.

6.6 Chalk Pit Lane Depot: Clare Curran reported that the former depot had been leased to a third party as a depot, contrary to a previous commitment that it wouldn't be and that local residents are furious. Clare asked whether any member had a copy of the earlier agreement not to re-open as a depot.

6.7 MVDC Property Management Services: John Howarth reported that the Council had set up two companies related to property investment with a wider portfolio than just retail outlets.

7. Next BRA Meeting: Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7:30 pm.