

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

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th August 2017
at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm**

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), John Allen, Keith Francis, Michelle Smith, Stan Miles, David Smith, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Arthur Field, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson, Margaret Lawson,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr. John Chandler

Ordinary Members: Clifford Wright,

Apologies: Michael Agius, Ray Pritchard, Nick Forrer, Tony Alsbury, Liz Pemberton, Phil Harris, David Cox, Michael Anderson Cllr. Lucy Botting

1. Minutes

Three typos were noted but other than that the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

9th May 2016 item 6.1 **Speed Cameras**. These have been located although still awaiting a response from SCC Highways. Carried forward. **Action: Clare Curran**

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

3. Correspondence

3.1 **Christie Rec:** Peter Seaward received a communication that, despite the Christie Rec being virtually full fenced off, there was concern expressed regarding dogs being able to run between the small un-fenced areas which was of concern. However, the view of the Committee was that there was nothing that could be realistically done to prevent this.

3.2 **Graffiti:** Peter Seaward had received an email from Grant Woodham regarding graffiti on BT and Virgin Media boxes but MVDC were unable to do anything as it was private property. In response Grant purchased a kit for £19 and removed it..

3.3 **Royal Mail:** It appears that the Royal Mail doesn't recognise Great Bookham and Little Bookham as separate villages, just Bookham. Grant Woodham has set up a petition on MVDC's website requesting that the Royal Mail rectified tis and recognises each village as separate villages.

3.4 Barn Hall Field: Peter Seaward met with Keith Slark regarding the erection of a removable barrier at the entrance to the Barn Hall field. The proposed retractable solution will cost £500 with MVDC paying £250 and the BRA and BCA each contributing £125.

4. Group Updates

4.1 Management Group: John Howarth was happy to report that the BRA was not required to register for the Data Protection Act purposes.

4.2 Planning Group

Much of this section of the meeting was taken up by a discussion on the NDP and MV Future Plan.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: Despite the Council formally adopted the NDP there appears to be issues with its interpretation by the Council when considering applications. Previously it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged between the Council, the BRA and Ashted RA. Stan Miles subsequently attended and had since received a letter stating the outcome from the Council officers' perspective.

The letter agreed that there were differences in opinion, acknowledged that the NDP now formed part of the development plan and then outlined the statutory process. In brief this was that decision makers have wide discretion when reaching a decision, should take a positive approach "looking for solutions rather than problems" and that it "is essential that harm [by approving the application] can be identified". The letter ended making some suggestions with actions on both parties.

Overall the position was considered unsatisfactory given the effort put in by many people in drawing up the NDP although there seems little more can be done except to take forward the recommendations and see whether they make a difference.

MV Future Plan: It was reported that the current plan is invalid and there is a risk that developers could go to appeal due to the lack of development land although Green Belt land should be protected for the time being.

Under the MV Future plan it is stated that 390 new dwellings will be needed per annum across MV and that this would equate to 15 per annum in Bookham over 15 years equals 450. This is assuming much of the new development is done elsewhere as Bookham and the north of the district has taken a greater proportion of new developments over the years. Arthur Field reported that the Elmbridge Development Plan included many sites merely to raise awareness and it was agreed that the BRA should encourage residents to respond to the consultation..

Action: All to send comments on the Future plan to John Howarth who is collating them who will, in due course, make a response to MVDC.

Planning Applications: Stan reported that the Planning Committee had written to MVDC in respect to two applications.

4.3 Environment Group

General State of the Villages: The comment was made by a number of members that the general state of the villages has gradually deteriorated, e.g. weeds growing in gutters, moss growing on pavements, poor street cleaning and increased dogs' mess. Clare Curran reported that she has challenged the Council but officers believe their sub-contractors are doing a good job.

Litter Pick: Margaret Lawson reported that 8 bags of litter had been collected on the last Litter Pick, and noted that, whilst walking around, that many hedges were overgrown.

Trees: Frances Fancourt asked whether £1,500 would be made available from Clare's Member's Allowance fund to which she said yes but the BRA needs to apply for it. **Action: Frances to email the Council.** Frances also said that they were looking at planting some trees at the top of the High Street.

Overhanging Bushes: Michael Agius had spoken to the owner of the property in Eastwick Drive but no action had been taken to date. If the overhanging bush is not addressed than the only option would be to formally report it to SCC.

Grass Verges: There had been some complaints about rocks being placed on grass verges to prevent cars parking on the grass verges which is a dilemma as this approach is generally seen as a positive preventative measure to damage to the verges.

4.4 Community Group

Transport: Keith Francis reported that bus timetables have been changes in response to the pending changes to train times caused by the works at Waterloo staion. It was also noted that the 416 service will cease and that the 479 will have new times.

4.5 Communications and Membership Group

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;
- the website had been updated with the latest developments;
- Twitter and Facebook accounts had been set-up with some posts posted;
- an email would be sent out to the distribution list regarding the MV Future Plan and SCC's proposed changes to the tips; and
- he is attending a course to enable the BRA to optimise social media.

4.6 Business Group: David Smith reported that:

- the planned Heritage Day on the 9th September is taking shape;
- Caveman will have new occupiers shortly; and
- He is continuing to liaise with other retailers to try and help keep the village tidy. Two premises were specifically mentions and Margaret Lawson agreed to speak with them. **Action: Margaret Lawson.**

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 Enforcement Officers: Cllr. Metin Huseyin reported that, as a pilot, some parking enforcement officers will be trained as litter enforcement officers and will therefore be able to issue tickets accordingly.

6.2 The Grove Action Group: Cllr. Metin Huseyin attended the last meeting and there had been concerns expressed about fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour, including drug use, dumped canisters, etc. It was also suggested that housing could be built to replace some garage blocks.

6.3 Police: It was reported that Inspector Hamlyn had now moved to a new position and his replacement in 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 Curren 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 4th September 2017 at 7:30 pm.