

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Monday 4th June 2018
at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm

Present: John Howarth (chair), Stan Miles, Frances Fancourt, Marian Williams, Les Huett, Chris Pullan, Tony Alsbury, Keith Francis, Andrew Freeman, Margaret Lawson, Nick Forrer, , Arthur Field,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. John Chandler,

Ordinary Members: Cliff Wright

Apologies:, Peter Seaward, Michael Agius, John Allen, Geoff Tranter, Carolyn Elson, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Julia Dickinson, Ray Pritchard, David Cox, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Liz Pemberton

1. Minutes

1.1 Subject to several clarifications and minor typos the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

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

3. Correspondence

3.1 **Bus 465:** A local resident had written to the BRA seeking support in objecting to the planned re-routing of the 465 bus when Young Street is closed for bridge repairs. This will result in no bus service to Guildford Road/Hawks Hill for six weeks. The resident is elderly and dependent on the bus service. Keith Francis will provide assistance to the resident concerned.

5. Group Updates

5.1 Management Group

5.1.1 Finance: Chris Pullan reported that he had now received an invoice for £480 for the hanging baskets; annual subs can now be paid online or at the bank but paying in slips are still required for the latter and that £90 is expected for the litter picks.

5.2 Planning Group

5.2.1 Planning Applications: The Planning Committee had looked at 24 applications and had written in response to three of them. In brief these were about trees in Newenham Road; to replace a 4 bedroomed bungalow with a house with

basement; and Woodlands Road where sheds were being converted to agricultural buildings.

5.2.2 It was reported that Cllr. Richard Moyse, councillor for Bookham North, was now on the Development Control and Planning Committee and can speak on all Bookham matters.

5.3 Environment Group – Nil to report

5.4 Community Group

5.4.1 Trees: Nil to report.

5.4.2 Bookstall: Tony Albury was in attendance and reported that everything had been organised but a few more volunteers would always be welcome.

5.4.3 Litter Pick: Margaret Lawson reported that a total of 31 people, including 5 children, attended the last litter pick. She also said that she had written to local schools to raise awareness. Also, due to the increasing number of volunteers she requested permission to purchase 10 new rings at a cost of £80. This was approved by the committee.

5.4.4 Buses: In addition to the 465 service (see Correspondence) Keith Francis reported that the 479 service is reverting to its pre-2014 routing of only one Epsom to Guildford bus each hour with the other bus coming from Epsom and returning there after doing a loop to Bookham station. Unfortunately, the 479 is running at a loss and there are less other passengers on the buses between Bookham and Merrow these days except some regulars who use it to go to work.

5.4.5 Grove Estate: Feedback was received about the recent JAG meeting on the 25th May when several councillors, representatives of the housing association and various other interested bodies got together to discuss how the estate could be improved. The concerns were mainly antisocial behaviour and residents feeling powerless to address the issues themselves with some scared to report incidents to the police, although the police superintendent present at the JAC meeting said residents can report issues anonymously. Other issues included dumped cars, irresponsible parking and overgrown pathways.

Two suggestions were proposed:

- 1) Local residents to undertake their own regular litter picks; and
- 2) To re-start the regular 3-monthly walk-about and it was felt that the housing association should take a lead in this.

5.5 Communications and Membership Group

5.5.1 Membership Secretary: Les Huett reported that Carolyn Elson had put in a lot of effort into her new role as BRA membership secretary and the recent round of asking road stewards to collect subs had gone quite well but some refinements could be made. It was also reported that the BRA is short of about 20 road stewards.

5.6 Business Group – Nil to report

6. Projects Update

6.1 War Memorial: Nil to report

6.2 **Great & Little Bookham campaign:** It was reported that Sir Paul Beresford was unwilling to support the campaign unless the local businesses said that such a change wouldn't incur additional expense to them. The committee was of the view that there is no cost involved. John Howarth agreed to raise with the Chamber of Commerce.

6.3 **Weales Clock** Nil to report

6.4 **Benches** (Windsor Castle and Weales) – ongoing

6.5 **Lower Shott Planting Scheme – Action: Peter Seaward to complete the PIC form for funding – carry forward.**

6.6 **Jim Smith Memorial Copse** – nil to report

6.7 **Bookham Map:** The library holds a 17th century map which could be put on display if an appropriate cabinet could be purchased. **Action: Peter Seaward to investigate- carry forward.**

7. Any Other Business

7.1 AGM: There was a discussion about the recent AGM and views from the committee included:

- Three speakers, although all excellent, was too many. Perhaps a maximum of two in future.
- The layout was good and conducive to discussion, although the projector wasn't of good quality.
- The introduction could have better laid out what the BRA expected or wanted to achieve as a result of the presentation and subsequent discussion (and perhaps a clearer brief for the speakers).
- Additional microphones should be available for questions. One wasn't enough. Lapel mikes for the speakers would also be beneficial.
- The Newsletter needs to be available in good time as it wasn't delivered to all households prior to the AGM.

Regarding the date of the AGM, views included:

- The AGM could be held earlier as had been suggested as Peter Seaward had said he was disappointed by the level of attendance, although if it is brought forward then it would be important to avoid school holidays.
- Chris Pullan said accounts could also be produced earlier if needed.
- The elections are in early May therefore meeting after this date would be beneficial.

The general consensus was to remain with the current date range of mid-May.

7.2 **NDP:** John Howarth said that the chairs of the 4 local residents' associations meet regularly with the council. John is also in attendance representing the Chamber of Commerce. He reported that the council wish to discuss the positives and not what the RAs wish to talk about which he found disappointing. Indeed the Council cancelled the last meeting as "nil to discuss"

The RAs wished to discuss the NDP as the Council appears to be using “material considerations” to allow developments, counter to the villages’ NDPs. John urged the Planning Committee to better understand these material considerations to provide viable counterarguments.

7.3 Transform Leatherhead: John Howarth gave an overview and some opinions following the recent public presentation at the Leatherhead Theatre on 24th May. The programme has been ongoing for two years now and there are no definitive plans or dates, nor likely sources of funds of developers to take the programme forward so no change is likely in the short term, except for Church Sreet which has seen improvements.

The most likely development to happen is the Claire House and James House. For more details visit the Transform Leatherhead site at www.trasformleatherhead.com

7.4 Bookham Flood Forum: Keith Francis raised the fact that the Bookham Flood Action Group (formerly Bookham Flood Forum) used to hold its meetings in public, but, for more than 2 years the meetings are held in private and interested people like himself are prevented from attending. The group is supposed to have an annual public meeting but hasn't since 2014. The next meeting is on Monday, 11 June 2018, and Keith was hoping that attendees could raise his concerns about lack of openness.

8. Next BRA Meeting: Monday 6th August 2018 at 7:30 pm.