

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Michael Anderson, Julia Dickinson, Keith Francis, John Howarth, Michelle Hudspith, Les Huett, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, David Smith, Peter Witter, Nick Forrer (Minutes),

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

Ordinary Members: Phil Harris, Clifford Wright, Dan Coffin,

Apologies: Andrew Freeman, David Cox OBE, Frances Fancourt, Arthur Field, Margaret Lawson,

1 Minutes

1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 Village Council Debate

Peter Seaward invited Dan Coffin to put forward the case for having a debate between interested parties in Bookham on the case or otherwise for having a Village Council for Bookham.

Dan Coffin introduced himself as having moved to Little Bookham Street last June and feeling that there was need for having a debate between BEAM and the BRA. To start the process off he wrote a note to Peter Seaward.

Peter replied that it was a good idea and should have happened some six months ago. He said it was not only the BRA, but other local parties would have an interest and should be involved. These organisations were the Bookham Community Association, Churches Together, Bookham Youth Organisation, SPACE, Scouts, Girl Guides and BRABA amongst others. In the village, there are 7 village halls and they all require continuous maintenance and support. To put forward their case for a Village Council, BEAM received some £10,000 of financial support.

Peter went on to say that in Dorking, where there was a recent advisory poll¹ for a Town Council, there are no volunteers, whereas in Bookham there are some 1,000 volunteers supporting the local community.

Cllr. Clare Curran said that she is often asked what she thinks of having a Parish Council. Besides explaining what local councils do, she has a strong view on the work that the BRA does for the local community.

Chris Pullan suggested that the meeting could be held in the Old Barn Hall if it was available on the chosen date.

¹ Narrow majority against a Town Council.

Dan Coffin would look into this up after getting details of the local organisations.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 1st June item 11.2.2 **Grass Verges**: Michael Agius will be investigating the provision of wooden posts on the grass verges in Eastwick Park Avenue. This is to discourage parking on those verges. The MVDC Parking Design Team is reviewing the parking of cars on grass verges and the discouragement of such using posts. Carried forward.

Action: Michael Agius

- 3.2 9th May 2016 item 6.1 **Speed Cameras**. The speed cameras have been located and one was reported to have been put up in Lower Road Surrey CC has previously indicated it will maintain and mount the signs. Inspector Hamlin look to see whether they require maintenance and, if so, he will make contact with Clare Curran to seek some assistance. Thereafter a couple of suitable sites will be identified and Peter Seaward had previously suggested East Street and Little Bookham Street. Peter has spoken to Inspector Hamlin who has the speed cameras and will agree the locations to be used.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 3.3 6th March item 4.3.4 **Litter Pick**: Margaret reported that there were 22 volunteers on the last litter-pick outing including a family with young children which was encouraging. The Guides had also done some and the Cubs are planning to do so. Margaret also said some more litter pickers are needed but they cost £13 each. Metin and Lucy will see if MVDC can provide some or perhaps via Circle Housing.

Action: Lucy Botting/Metin
Huseyin

- 3.4 Action carried forward, John Chandler agreed to approach the Council for continued funding of £1 per bag. Carried forward.

Action: John Chandler

- 3.5 6th March item 4.4.5 **Police Attendance at BRA**: Inspector Hamlin has agreed to attend a future BRA meeting as a one-off.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 3.6 6th March item 4.4.6 **Neighbourhood Policing**: It has previously been noted that visibility of police has continued to fall and are now virtually non-existent. This approach seems contrary to a recent HMIC report supporting the need for neighbourhood policing and Peter agreed to contact David Munro, Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner, as to their plans in this respect. Carried forward.

Action: Peter Seaward

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

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

5 Group Updates

5.1 Management Group

5.1.1 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on the 18th May in the Old Barn Hall at 7:30 pm. Various business will be transacted, including nominations for Directors and elections for Officers. This will be followed by our guest speaker: Nick Gray – Deputy Chief Executive, Mole Valley District Council.

5.1.2 Finance

The Treasurer reported that the 2016 accounts have been completed with a small surplus.

Some £2,000 has been spent on tree maintenance around the village. The public liability has been renewed² for a further year. The sum of £704 has been spent on a marquee for use at future events, such a Village Day for the bookstall.

5.2 Planning Group

5.2.1 Planning Applications

There were 21 planning applications for review this month. Peter Seaward will contact Shanly Homes on the movement of lorries to and from new developments next to Bookham Station and along Church Road. These movements should avoid Church Road where possible.

There is likely to be an application to convert the Photo-Me Offices into flats.

5.2.2 Bookham Neighbourhood Development Plan

Approval for this plan is becoming more critical with more housing being approved and hence more children. The result will be pressure for more educational places.

5.3 Environment Group

5.3.1 Roads

Speeding in Little Bookham Street was brought up and the need for more volunteers to support a speed watch group.

5.3.2 Drainage and Flooding

Michael Agius reported on the broken drains in Little Bookham Street. The flooding in East Street/Lower Road was also discussed and what Highways were going to do.

5.3.3 Litter Picking

Another busy Litter Pick the day before, with twelve people volunteering and 15 bags of rubbish collected.

² On 24th March 2017.

The meeting thanked Margaret Lawson for all the efforts and work she put in for organising these Litter Picks.

5.3.4 ***Trees Horticulture***

The Council recognises that there is a need for an Urban Tree Policy involving local villages and a meeting is going to be set up.

5.4 **Community Group**

5.4.1 ***Transport***

Keith Francis reported on Bus News including the 465 which will continue.

5.5 **Communications and Membership Group**

5.5.1 ***Communications***

Les Huett was thanked for the co-ordination of activities on the recent Newsletter which had just gone out with articles on the Village Council, where the 100 trees are and the variety that had been planted, plus articles on the roads and drains.

The use of Social Media (Facebook / Twitter) as a means of contacting and connecting to our audiences is becoming increasingly important. This is something we are looking at.

5.5.2 ***Membership***

Discussions are ongoing with both Fetcham Residents Association and Ashted Residents Association on how they collect membership fees and whether this would be a benefit for us to do similar.

5.6 **Business Group**

5.6.1 ***Bookham Retail and Business Association***

David Smith reported that the Post Office in the Village is changing hands and will close at the end of May for two weeks whilst the swap is being made to the new tenants. The backend will be a Post Office and the front will be selling wines. The Post Office Box will be moved and a ATM placed near the front.

5.7 **History and Memorials Group**

A new contract has been signed for the lettering on the memorial to be cleaned and tidied.

6 Projects Update

6.1 **Community Pride & Lengthsman scheme:** Michael reported that this year's Lengthsman's scheme funding had yet to be spent and he will action this by the end of the month.

6.2 **War Memorial:** A small trial will be undertaken on the wording of both war memorials to ensure the proposed solution is applicable.

- 6.3 **Trees 2016 schedule:** Frances reported that trees had now been planted in the Garstons and the site of all planted trees were now available on the BRA website. £2,000 has also been earmarked for tree maintenance work.
- 6.4 **Bookham Business Map:** A draft Business Map showing the business premises with their name and trade indexed against their location in Bookham has now been produced.
- 6.5 **New Notice Board Lower Road Car Park:** This is now complete.
- 6.6 **3rd CCTV:** Peter reported this is still planned and it might be appropriate to erect it near the Post Office where an ATM will be sited following the closure of Lloyds Bank. Peter also reported that the server for the existing CCTVs has been re-sited.
- 6.7 **Electronic Sign:** Nil to report
- 6.8 **Bench renovation outside St Nicolas** (Lower Road North side). Arthur Field reported that this had been tidied up and painted.
- 7 Any Other Business**
- 7.1 **Polling Count**
- Cllr. Clare Curran mentioned that it may be possible for us to send some-one to observe the count for the three polls for the Surrey County Councillor, the Bookham Neighbour Plan and the Advisory Poll on a Village Council.
- 8 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 8th May 2017 at 7:30 pm.