

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2017 at St Nicolas Church Room at 7.30pm

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, John Allen, Andrew Freeman, Michael Anderson, Julia Dickinson, Arthur Field, Keith Francis, Margaret Lawson, John Howarth, Stan Miles, Ray Pritchard, Frances Fancourt

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

Ordinary Members: Clifford White

Apologies: David Cox OBE, Nick Forrer, Chris Pullan, Cllr. Lucy Botting, Cllr. Simon Edge, Cllr. Paul Newman, Phil Harris, Cllr. Jatin Patel, Les Huett, Michelle Hudspith, David Smith, Cllr. John Chandler

1 Minutes

- 1.1 Slight amendment to the Village Clock item. It should read "To look at using PIC funds to get it repaired", not litter pick funds. Other than that, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 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

- 2.2 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 will speak to Inspector Hamlin.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 2.3 4th July item 5.4.5 **Bookstall.** Peter has found a marquee to cover the books at the bookstall although the cost is £648 which is higher than previously thought. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase a marquee.
- 2.4 There were no matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

3 Correspondence

- 3.1 Andrew Freeman reported that further queries had been received via the 0300 number or via the website. Most had been prompted by the "No to Parish Council" leaflet and included a few requesting to become members.

4 Group Updates

4.1 Management Group

- 4.1.1 **Finance:** John Howarth said that the accounts need to be signed-off by the directors and will make arrangements for this to be done. It was also noted that £8,076 had been raised through subscriptions although 14 road stewards had been lost.

Chris Pullan, who had given his apologies, had provided an update via email, replicate below, for information:

- i. The surplus for the period 29 May to 31 December 2016 has been agreed by the examiner at £338 (full year £411) but not yet signed.
- ii. Last year the loss was £1,172 but subscriptions were raised from £2 to £3. Expenses include £480 for setting up the Company. Hence the improvement in finances.
- iii. £1,000 was reserved for parish council work at the end of last year (687 already spent).
- iv. We have received 2 payments of £1200 from MVDC for the Xmas lights (2015 and 2016 grants).
- v. The PI insurance has been renewed at a premium of £375.50.
- vi. Barclays charged us £145 in 2015 for the Company bank accounts but have offered us free banking for the next year while they review our needs!
- vii. The accounts were prepared under the old format but I need to get together with John Howarth to prepare accounts in the Company limited by guarantee format.

4.2 Planning Group

- 4.2.1 Stan Miles reported that there had been 17 applications last month and the committee had not found it necessary to object to any of them.

4.3 Environment Group

- 4.3.1 **Roads: Little Bookham Street:** Peter reported that only three volunteers had come forward to help with a speed watch scheme which is inadequate. Peter will write to all residents again seeking additional support.
- 4.3.2 **Bookham Flood Action Group.** Keith Francis reported that the governance arrangements had been altered which has distanced the BRA from the utility suppliers.
- 4.3.3 **Trees Horticulture:** It was reported that £2,000 PIC funding was expected this year and that 13 trees will be planted plus tree and verge maintenance works to take place. Regarding the Chrysie Rec, work was now nearly complete with two benches to be erected and some pruning of trees.
- 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

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

Action: John Chandler

- 4.3.5 **Norbury Park:** Michael Anderson reported that the Surrey Wildlife Trust has to be self-financing by 2020/21 and funding had already been cut by SCC. It was disappointing to note that as a result of these changes the number of rangers will be cut from 16 down to 10, and that those remaining will be expected to cover larger areas thus losing local knowledge and expertise.

4.3.6 reported that there were 22 volunteers on the last litter-pick

4.4 **Community Group**

4.4.1 **Education:** The Howard of Effingham planning application was being called in by the Secretary of State who will make the final decision, not the Planning Inspectorate as originally planned.

4.4.2 **Transport:** Nil to report.

Police

- 4.4.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour:** It was reported that a number of windows and cars had been damaged recently and that some "wanted" posters, naming an individual, had been put up on lampposts.
- 4.4.4 **101 Service:** Peter relayed performance data received from Inspector Hamlin stating that "Performance has been gradually improving since October 2016. December has shown the best performance for over a year, with 75% of calls answered within 4 seconds and 85% of calls within a minute."
- 4.4.5 **Police Attendance at BRA:** Inspector Hamlin has agreed to attend a future BRA meeting as a one-off.

Action: Peter Seaward

- 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.

Action: Peter Seaward

4.5 **Communications and Membership Group**

- 4.5.1 **Newsletter:** Contributions to the Spring 2017 BRA Newsletter had been received and a draft has been produced. Due to this edition focusing on the Village/Parish Council Governance Review some of the regular features had been reduced in length. Comments to Les by Sunday 12th March.
- 4.5.2 **Parish Council Petition:** Ray reported that there had been 1,430 signatories to the petition of which 943 had been on-line.
- 4.5.3 **Telling:** No decision was taken as to whether tellers should be in attendance at polling stations.
- 4.5.4 **Membership:** Peter Seaward and Phil Harris had met to look at alternative ways to collect fees and some ideas will be discussed at a future meeting. It was confirmed that the BRA membership list is to be computerised although no one had been found to take this forward.

4.6 **Business Group**

- 4.6.1 **Bookham Retail and Business Association:** No report.
- 4.6.2 **Business Rates:** John Howarth reported that the Guildford and Leatherhead Chamber of Commerces' are holding a seminar to discuss as these are due to go up steeply for a number of businesses.

5 **Projects Update**

- 5.1 **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.
- 5.2 **War Memorial:** A small trial will be undertaken on the wording of both war memorials to ensure the proposed solution is applicable.

- 5.3 **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.
- 5.4 **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.
- 5.5 **New Notice Board Lower Road Car Park:** It was reported this is now nearly complete.
- 5.6 **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.
- 5.7 **Electronic Sign:** Nil to report
- 5.8 **Bench renovation outside St Nicolas** (Lower Road North side). An update will be available at the next meeting.
- 6 Any Other Business**
- 6.1 **Green Belt:** Metin reported that guidance regarding protection of the Green Belt is likely to be softened to allow some development.
- 6.2 **A246 Speed Limit:** Clare asked on behalf of Simon Edge for views as to whether the speed limit between the traffic lights and the Bockett's Farm roundabout should be made 30mph. The general consensus was that the current 40mph speed limit was acceptable.
- 6.3 **Sole Farm Avenue/Middlemead:** Keith reported that there were problems in this area regarding the ongoing works. Clare agreed to undertake a site visit.
- 6.4 **Council Tax:** Keith circulated copies of a letter that a BRA member had requested to be distributed which had also been sent to the Leatherhead Advertiser. The gist of the letter was the ever increasing Council Tax and impact on pensioners, low paid and first-time buyers.
- 7 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 3rd April 2017