

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, Andrew Freeman, Les Huett, John Allen, Nick Forrer, David Cox OBE, Martin Hollins, Keith Francis, Margaret Lawson, John Howarth, Michael Agius, Julia Dickinson, Carolyn Elson, Paul Kennedy, Geoff Tranter,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Roger Adams,

Ordinary Members: Jacky Seaward, Diane Poole, Rebecca Darling

Apologies: Frances Fancourt, Richard Davey, Phil Harris, Arthur Field, Marian Williams, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Metin Huseyin,

1 Minutes

1.1 Subject to a few amendments, 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 **Howard of Effingham School Planning Application:** Michael Agius had previously written to Guildford Borough Council, on behalf of the BRA, on 1st November 2019 outlining three areas of concern, i.e.

- the impact of the proposed development on the Green Belt gap separating Little Bookham and Effingham;
- the impact on the local transport network in and through Bookham, and
- the effect of surface and foul water drainage from the school site towards Bookham's drainage system

A reply was subsequently received questioning the BRA's support for the proposed new school. It was clarified that the BRA is supportive of the school and the comments previously made had been made in order to improve, not hinder, the application. It was further clarified that the support was for the school, not necessarily the proposed new housing.

3.2 **Land Auction - Mead Crescent/The Garstons:** A local resident raised an urgent concern in early December after realising that several pieces of land was to be

auctioned off. This includes the triangle of land at the junction of Mead Crescent and The Garstons. Historically this land has been used to access the field behind the Old Barn Hall field, e.g. on Village Day. Despite some frantic activities the auction went ahead and was sold for over £60,000. However, this land has historically been used as a Public Right of Way for over 20 years and Diane Poole will complete the application forms to progress this.

Action: Diane Poole to progress an application to seek Public Rights of Way across the land at the junction of Mead Crescent and The Garstons.

4 Group Updates

4.1 Management Group

4.1.1 Finance: Chris Pullan reported that:

- He had investigated the Public Liability Insurance policy and members of the public are covered as long as they use Personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. high visibility jackets, which they do. has been received and accepted;
- Hall hire at SPACE has an optional “insurance” extra per meeting if the BRA’s PLI doesn’t cover such events. It was confirmed that the BRA’s PLI does cover all eventualities.

4.1.2 Company Secretary’s Report: John Howarth reported that he had submitted 2018 Tax Return.

4.1.3 Donations Policy: John Howarth reported that several comments had been received regarding the draft Donations Policy. These were discussed and an amended, final, policy will be circulated and uploaded to the website for reference.

4.2 Planning Group

4.2.1 Planning Committee: The Committee had considered 16 applications and had written letters of representation on the following:

- 48, Dowlans Road;
- 67, Keswick Road; and
- Kildary, 104, Woodlands Road

4.2.2 Local Plan: It was noted that the Local Plan had literally just been published (formal consultation period is between 3rd February and 23rd March), in draft form, and no one present had fully read the document, although it suggested a total housing requirement in Bookham of 435 dwellings, the largest of which appear to be Preston Farm (250 homes) and Guildford Road (164 homes).

4.2.3 The Old Barn Hall has been booked for the evening of 6th February for a BRA organised event to raise awareness of the main issues. MVDC will also be holding a series of events across the district, with the Bookham one planned for 4th March in the Old Barn Hall. A small sub-group of the BRA are meeting to discuss the Plan on 15th January, and a formal response to the consultation will be made in due course.

4.2.4 The plan can be accessed here:

<https://futuremolevalley.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=29cfa943431d306b33ef76755&id=eefacbe922>

4.3 Environment Group

- 4.3.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 32 people had participated in the most recent litter-pick, collecting 24 bags of refuse.
- 4.3.2 **Plastic Free Project:** Diane Poole said that she had registered the existence of the Plastic Free Project which has been established to raise awareness of the environmental issues of plastic, and to work with other organisations, e.g. MVDC, local business, etc. The Committee thought this was a positive initiative and provisionally agree to release £200 to Transition Bookham.
- 4.3.3 **Gas Main Repairs:** It was noted that the gas main along Lower Road needs replacing, and this will pass the square-about where flooding often occurs.
- 4.3.4 **Flood Action Plan:** The next meeting is on 9th January when the outcome of the study into the flooding at the square-about will, hopefully, be revealed.
- 4.3.5 **Planting (Trees and Plants):** Frances Fancourt wasn't able to attend the meeting but had emailed to say that:
- Planting on the A246 and the High Street was ongoing;
 - The new planter in Church Road was in situ and the Vineries would be planting it soon.

4.4 Community Group

- 4.4.1 **Howard of Effingham's School Admission's Policy:** David Cox and Julia Dickinson spoke about the proposed admissions policy for the Howard of Effingham School. The consultation had now finished but David had written on two points in particular:
- Tie Break within Catchment: David and Julia were concerned that most of Bookham's children get to the school by foot or bicycle, however the Nearest Available School (NAS) policy is confusing and, should additional housing be built between Guildford and Effingham, then children from those areas will get priority over children from Bookham, resulting in Bookham's children having to attend a Leatherhead school, or further afield, thus using public transport or having to be driven there.
 - Catchment Area: Some revisions to the catchment area are planned to ensure "procedural fairness", but again to the detriment of children from Bookham.
- 4.4.2 Whilst any changes will not impact immediately, they are likely to in 3 or 4 years time. David said that action in 3 areas are needed:
- Councillors to write to the school to ensure Bookham children are not de-prioritised/displaced to schools school further afield;
 - Raise awareness locally, e.g. I Live in Bookham, notice boards, etc. and
 - Ensure the local infrastructure it taken into account within the Local Plan.
- 4.4.3 Rebecca Darling also stated that the Future Mole Valley Local Plan predicts the need for an additional 4 Forms of Entry in the Leatherhead secondary planning area (which include Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham), and 3 Forms of Entry in the Dorking secondary planning area (Dorking and the rural south of the District).
- 4.4.4 **Molebridge Surgery:** It was noted that the surgery was now being managed by Epsom & St. Helier NHS Trust, and it is hoped that services will improve.

4.4.5 **Epsom & St. Helier NHS Trust:** It was noted that the trust had been allocated £500m for a new hospital, potentially in Sutton for emergency services only. The options will be outlined in a forthcoming consultation.

4.5 **Communications & Membership Group**

4.5.1 **Communications Plan:** Les Huett tabled a communications plan for information. This includes previously discussed initiatives such as greater use of centrespreads within Look Local twice a year with just one dedicated annual newsletter in May each year.

4.5.2 **Website:** Les also reported that there had been 1,500 visits the BRA website during December, and the most visited story was the new planter! The cycle survey had also been added.

4.5.3 **Look Local:** The next edition will focus on the visit to the materials recovery facility and recycling. The February edition will be the first to have the double spread version of the newsletter.

4.5.4 **Membership:** Carolyn Elson said that over £9,000 had been raised in subs for 2019, with 2 road stewards still to pay. This covers 2,390 houses, or approximately 50% of the village.

4.6 **Business Group**

4.6.1 Nil to report.

5 **Any Other Business**

5.1 **Vehicle Activated Signs:** It was noted that the BRA has 2, plus one shared with Fetcham RA, vehicle activated signs (VASs). These, unfortunately, have not been used for several years due to a number of issues, and the most likely outcome will be to write them off. However, the situation regarding these, and any potential use, should be explored beforehand.

Action: Clare Curran to try and find out the status of the VARs.

6 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7:30 pm.

Action Summary

| Action | Owner | Reference |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Weeds: Elizabeth Daly to speak to the portfolio holder re. the encroaching weed situation. Note: MVDC has responsibility for the clearance of weeds. | Elizabeth Daly | 13/06/19: 1 |
| Square-about: Clare Curran to find out status of the pending drainage design plan for the square-about. 06/01: Report should be published at the Flood Forum on 15/01/20. | Clare Curran | 13/06/19: 2 |
| Weales Bus Stop & Litter Bin: Richard Moyse to speak to the contractors at Weales to reinstate the bin. At the moment no progress from the contractors | Richard Moyse | 06/08/19: 3 |

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| Shape the Future of Bookham Village Centre: Cllr. Richard Moyse agreed to speak to officers at MVDC to try and find someone to take the lead on the Shape the Future of Bookham Village Centre initiative. 04/11/19: Richard is awaiting a response from officers. | Richard Moyse | 07/10/19: 1 |
| Public Liability Insurance: To investigate the coverage of the PLI in respect to children when participating, for example, in litter picks, and when removing weeds from public areas, including roads. CLOSED (see minutes) | Chris Pullan | 02/12/19: 1 |
| Donations Policy: Andrew Freeman to circulate the draft donations policy to all members for comment. CLOSED | Andrew Freeman | 02/12/19: 2 |
| Composting: Julia Dickinson will find out more about the Rocket composting system and report back. | Julia Dickinson | 02/12/19: 3 |
| Directory: All to check their entry in the recently circulated member directory. CLOSED | All | 02/12/19: 4 |
| Public Right of Way: Diane Poole to progress an application to seek Public Rights of Way across the land at the junction of Mead Crescent and The Garstons. | Diane Poole | 06/01/20: 1 |
| Vehicle Activated Signs: Clare Curran to try and find out the status of the VARs, with a view to writing them off should they be deemed obsolete. | Clare Curran | 06/06/20: 2 |