

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

**Present:** Peter Seaward (chair), Les Huett, Arthur Field, Nick Forrer, John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Keith Francis, Richard Davey, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Frances Fancourt, Marian Williams, David Cox, Julia Dickinson, Carolyn Elson, Michelle Smith, David Smith,

**Invited Councillors:** Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Metin Huseyin,

**Ordinary Members:** John Pagella, Diane Poole, Mike Herbert, Tina Hutton, Roger Hutton, Margaret Elsey, Gordon Elsey, Carol Benjafeld, Andrew Matthews,

**Apologies:** Margaret Lawson, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Clare Curran, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Liz Pemberton, Tony Alsbury, Geoff Tranter, Michael Agius,

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### Obituary – Ray Pritchard (1944 to 2019)

It is with sadness that the Committee noted the passing of Ray Pritchard in July.

Ray has been a stalwart on the BRA Committee for a number of years and has been part of the Membership and Publicity Team with the role of providing regular BRA contributions to Bookham Bulletin and Look Local each month. He was also the Woodlands Road BRA Road Steward and also an active member of Woodlands Road Residents Association.

In addition to working in the music industry, with a love of opera he was also a keen performer and sang in local choirs.

His other main love was cricket and Ray had a long standing relationship with Effingham Cricket Club and since 2015 and has been President of the club. He also liked to play and was a very good wicket keeper. Through these interests Ray had a large number of friends and enjoyed being involved with village life. Nothing was too much trouble for Ray and was always pleased to help in the any way he could and take the initiative when needed.

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**Local Plan:** Cllr. Margaret Cooksey, Cabinet Member for Planning, Mole Valley District Council, attended the meeting to speak about the forthcoming Local Plan.

The Council has been set a challenging target to build 449 new dwellings each year and the Local Plan will set out how this will be achieved. If a Plan isn't agreed then it is likely that responsibility would be handed over to the Inspector who would have little understanding of the local situation and sensitivities.

The Local Plan will be out for consultation between 21<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> December, although it will be available, in draft form, as from about the 17<sup>th</sup> September as it needs to be

submitted to Council Committees and full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Until publication, there will be no discussion as to potential development sites to avoid unhelpful rumours, etc.

The Council has an aging population and there is a need for a younger generation coming into Mole Valley, particularly in some of the villages. However, there is a challenge in that a significant proportion of the new dwellings need to be 2 or 3 bed houses/apartments, yet also affordable. In this context, affordable means rent at 80% of the market rate (social housing can be as low as 60%). To meet these needs the building of flats would help but they also need to be in the appropriate location, e.g. blocks of flats in the villages would usually be considered inappropriate.

Other challenges include the infrastructure (roads and traffic capacity, schools, medical services, drainage, water supply, etc.) and much of the discussion was around infrastructure issues.

Obviously, brownfield sites are preferred but these are not distributed equally across the district if an equitable fairness approach was to be adopted. However, other factors prohibit such an approach, e.g. noise and air quality, accessibility, flats v. houses. Developments will attract CIL funding but developments also need to be viable for developers.

It was suggested by members that the BRA has local knowledge as to local pressure points and the Council should seek technical documents, at the expense of developers, to ensure issues such as drainage, traffic, are adequately taken into account when planning applications are submitted.

All surrounding councils are undertaking similar exercises which will probably exacerbate issues around the boundaries, such as Effingham.

The Committee thanks Cllr. Cooksey for her time in attending the meeting.

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## **1 Minutes**

- 1.1 Subject to several 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 There was no correspondence of note.

## **4 Bookham High Street**

- 4.1 Following on from a discussion at the last meeting, it was noted that Eloise Appleby, Chief Executive Officer at The Grange, Bookham, was organising a meeting, date on 17<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the High Street. Dan Coffin and Richard Davey are also assisting the discussion. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Eloise.

4.2 Peter Seaward suggested that there are 4 major stakeholder groups; Retail, Landlords, the Community and the Council. The BRA will support the work of the emerging group.

## 5 Group Updates

### 5.1 Management Group:

5.1.1 **AGM:** Chris Pullan proposed the £5 per household fee for 2019/20 which was agreed. The proposal that Lawrence Penny continues as the BRA's auditor was also approved.

5.1.2 **Christmas Lights:** John Howarth announced that the Leatherhead Chamber of Commerce had made a £500 donation towards the Christmas lights.

### 5.2 Planning Group

5.2.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 24<sup>th</sup> July and considered 25 planning applications. The committee decided to submit two letters of representation on:

- Honeydew, 92, Woodlands Road - Erection of 2 No. single storey dwellings following demolition of existing garage/workshop and barn; and
- Gracewell Care Home, Gracewell of Bookham, Rectory Lane - Remove one Oak tree (marked T1 on submitted report) and mixed species group including Yew, Irish Yew, Cherry, Laurel and Elm trees (marked T27). (Includes removal of dead Elm trees - exempt works.)

5.2.2 There was also a discussion regarding a proposed burger bar in the Post Office. This would require a change of use which could be considered detrimental to the viability of the village, i.e. more eateries as the cost of diverse independent shops.

### 5.3 Environment Group

5.3.1 **Tree Planting:** Frances Fancourt mentioned that Surrey County Council is looking at planting some trees in the village. She also reported that permission had been given for the tree wardens to plant some trees in Lower Shott and along the A246, although this will be delayed until October/November when it is the best time to plant trees.

5.3.2 **Planter:** Frances also said a planter is planned in Church Road.

### 5.4 Community Group

5.4.1 **Buses:** Keith Francis reported that there will be timetable changes to the 479 bus as from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to improve reliability.

5.4.2 **Books:** It was suggested that the BRA may not have a bookstall next year as we don't have anyone to store the books. Volunteers welcome. Chris Pullen reported the £230 had been raised for both the BRA and the BCA from the sale of books on Village Day and the monthly market.

5.4.3 **Youth Centre:** David Cox reported that the Youth Centre would be closing at the end of the month and that all assets had been sold or given to worthy causes. This money will be banked but when the new centre opens then they will virtually have to start again in fitting out the centre. There is no known timeline for the new centre to open.

## 5.5 **Communications and Membership Group**

5.5.1 **Membership Fees:** It was reported that nearly 1,700 households with some 5,500 people are now registered as members of the BRA and a number of road stewards still having to transfer the fees collected. A discussion ensued regarding road stewards and the BCA. **Action: Richard Moyse to speak to Keith Slark as to perhaps joining forces for the collection of annual subscriptions**

5.5.2 **Website:** Les Huett reported that the hosting agreement had been renewed. This will also be restructured to make it more user friendly.

5.5.3 **Look Local:** The last issue carried an obituary to Ray Pritchard.

5.5.4 The next issue of Look Local will be on the Ash die-back disease.

5.5.5 Les Huett will also be issuing an updated directory soon. It was noted that Churches United no longer had a representative on the Committee.

5.6 **Business Group** – Nil to report.

## 6 **Projects Update**

6.1.1 **Benches:** Arthur Field said that he will be investigating the robustness of the 40 plus benches that Nick Forrer had identified across Bookham. It should be possible to use PIC funds for some improvements.

6.1.2 **Bins:** It was also noted that, beside some benches, there are, or should be, some bins. Perhaps some funds could also be used for new bins where needed. **Action: Margaret Lawson to be asked to advise whether there are problem areas where bins would be helpful next to benches in reducing litter.**

It was noted that the bin at the Weales site had been moved by contractors, and should be moved back to its original position. **Action: Richard Moyes to speak to the contractors at Weales to reinstate the bin.**

**Memorial Bench – Ray Pritchard:** Metin Huseyin proposed a memorial bench in the Christie rec. This was unanimously agreed and £500 approved. **Action: Arthur Field to investigate the purchase of a memorial bench for Ray Pritchard.**

## 7 **Any Other Business**

7.1 **Banners on Railings:** It was noted that several banners had appeared in recent weeks. These should be reported to SCC Highways so that they can be removed.

8 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at 7:30 pm.

## Action Summary

Action	Owner	Reference
<b>Car Sharing Scheme:</b> Elizabeth Daly to raise this possibility of Bookham having a car sharing scheme with the Policy planning Group.	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 2
<b>Website:</b> Richard Davey to work with Les Hewitt on reviewing the website. Les has made some improvements but scope to improve further. Ongoing.	Richard Davey / Les Hewitt	13/06/19: 4
<b>Weeds:</b> Peter Seaward to contact Jack Straw re. the encroaching weed situation. CLOSED: Discussion held, and action taken with the relevant contractors.	Peter Seaward	13/06/19: 1a
<b>Weeds:</b> Elizabeth Daly to speak to the portfolio holder re. the encroaching weed situation.	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 1b
<b>Square-about:</b> Clare Curran to find out status of the design plan for the square-about. 01/07: Waiting for an officer response.	Clare Curran	13/06/19: 2
<b>Public Liability Insurance:</b> Chris Pullan to send Metin Huseyin a copy of the existing Public Liability Insurance policy, and Metin will look for alternatives. 06/08/19: CLOSED. Cheaper quote identified although some final checks needed.	Chris Pullan	13/06/19: 6
<b>Passenger Benefit Fund:</b> Les Huett to put details of the Passenger Benefit Fund on the BRA website. 06/08/19: CLOSED: Consultation now closed.	Keith Francis / Les Huett	01/07/19: 1
<b>Bookham High Street:</b> The BRA to devise a revitalisation plan for the High Street. For discussion at the next meeting. 06/08/19: CLOSED: Meeting arranged for September. See minutes, Item 4.	All	01/07/19: 2
<b>Asset of Community Value:</b> To pursue an Asset of Community Value for the Crown Public House. 21/08/19: Post Meeting Note: The tenant has not shown much interest and has only managed to get 4/5 signatures to support the initiative so this initiative will not be progressed further. CLOSED	Margaret Lawson	01/07/19: 4
<b>Benches:</b> To review the state of all the benches in Bookham and come up with a plan to renovate those need of repair. 06/08/19:CLOSED: Now an agenda item. See minutes, Item 6.1.1	Peter Seaward / Nick Forrer	01/07/19: 5
<b>Road Stewards:</b> Richard Moyse to speak to Keith Slark as to perhaps joining forces for the collection of annual subscriptions	Richard Moyse	06/08/19: 1
<b>Litter Bins:</b> Margaret Lawson to be asked to advise whether there are problem areas where bins would be helpful, next to benches, in reducing litter.	Margaret Lawson	06/08/19: 2
<b>Weales Bus Stop &amp; Litter Bin:</b> Richard Moyes to speak to the contractors at Weales to reinstate the bin.	Richard Moyse	06/08/19: 3
<b>Memorial Bench – Ray Pritchard:</b> Arthur Field to investigate the purchase of a memorial bench for Ray Pritchard.	Arthur Field	06/08/19: 4