

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Margaret Lawson, Les Huett, Arthur Field, Nick Forrer, John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Keith Francis, Richard Davey, Chris Pullan, John Allen,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Richard Moyses, Cllr Simon Edge,

Apologies: Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Liz Pemberton, Tony Alsbury, Ray Pritchard, Frances Fancourt, Marian Williams, Geoff Tranter, David Cox, Julia Dickinson, Cllr. Roger Adams, Carolyn Elson, Michelle Smith, David Smith,

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 Group Updates

4.1 Management Group:

4.1.1 **AGM:** John Howarth reported that there had been no director resignations nor any new nominations. To comply with the regulations both Peter Seaward and David Smith would be standing down but both would then be willing to be re-elected subject to a vote at the meeting.

4.1.2 Chris Pullan will propose the £5 per household fee for 2019/20 and that Lawrence Penny to continue as the BRA's auditor.

4.2 Planning Group

4.2.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 19th June and considered 21 planning applications. The committee decided submit two letters of representation on 19/0891 (2, Burney Close) and 19/0924 (64, Eastwick Drive). Both are outline applications and there appear to be issues with over-development, parking and the Local Development plan being disregarded.

4.2.2 **Local Plan:** There was quite along discussion regarding the number of new

dwellings required across Mole Valley and where they should be cited. Peter Seaward's view was that each locality should have their own fair share, and not all in the north of the district. It was noted that some smaller villages are struggling and might welcome the opportunity for additional housing.

4.2.3 There was a consensus that the BRA has a duty to inform local residents of the proposed new Local Plan, but it was important to get the message right. There are issues around the infrastructure, GP surgeries, schooling, water supply, flooding and drainage, etc. etc.

4.2.4 Our voice would be even stronger if united with the other residents' associations across the north of the district.

4.3 **Environment Group**

4.3.1 **Roads:** It was noted that last month some gas repairs began in Eastwick Road and the contractor had blocked off access to the garage and 2 other businesses. This was resolved within a day and the contractor's licence was revoked. Work is still needed but a new licence application must be submitted.

4.3.2 **Grass Cutting:** There were several reports of grass not being cut. It was reported that there is a new contractor in situ so this may be some teething issues although there is guidance not to cut grass where there are wild flowers growing. It would be helpful if the BRA was issued with a schedule so that compliance could be monitored.

4.3.3 **Weeds:** As reported in June, the issue of weeds growing on roads and pavements is on the increase. Margaret Lawson reported that the Litter Pick team had tackled this in their last venture out and had cleared areas in the High Street and surrounding areas. The Council had also been seen spraying weeds but the accumulated soil also needs removing otherwise they will merely grow back. There remains some outstanding actions regarding this issue (see Actions).

4.3.4 **Bookham High Street:** It was noted that the High Street was beginning to look tired. Some shops were empty and some were reducing their opening times and footfall was dropping, perhaps exacerbated by the parking charges. There was a discussion about the village day and it was felt the local traders don't really benefit from this. Some ideas could be drawn from the Great British High Street website (<https://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/>). There is also a BBS series called "Pubs, Ponds and Power: The Story of the Village" which might also be informative. **Action: For discussion at the next meeting.**

4.3.5 **Shopping in Bookham:** John Howarth raised the point about whether villagers actually shopped in Bookham. The feeling is that many don't and shop in Fetch, where there is free parking, or Leatherhead where there is greater variety of shops, or further afield. **Action: John Howarth asked whether the Committee members could make a mental note of how often they shopped in Bookham and how much as a percentage of their usual spend.**

4.4 **Community Group**

4.4.1 **Passenger Benefit Fund:** Keith Francis reported that Govia Trains has £15m in a Passenger Benefit Fund and the company is seeking views, until the end of July, on how this money could be used for the betterment of the passenger. **Action: Les Huett to put details of the Passenger Benefit Fund on the BRA website.**

4.4.2 **Buses at Bookham Station:** Keith Francis reported that there have been some

issues with buses at the station. It seems that due to so many cars being parked in and around the station, sometimes the buses can't gain access.

- 4.4.3 **Parking at Bookham Station:** There were also some reports that some of the cars parked on Church Road (and possibly Merrylands Road) are being driven from Dorking as you cannot park for free near Dorking station whereas at Bookham station they can park on the street for free.
- 4.4.4 **Molebridge Surgery:** It was noted that the Fetcham surgery had withdrawn its application to close.
- 4.4.5 **GP Private Care Networks:** Keith Francis reported that, due to the reducing number of GPs, that the CCG had initiated a Private Care Network scheme which links practices together and to help each other when the availability of doctors is reduced.
- 4.4.6 **Notice Boards:** Nick Forrer reported that he had removed the notice board from the youth centre. It was in good condition and he will find a new site for it.
- 4.4.7 **Books:** Michael Agius reported that, if the BRA was to continue to sell books on village day, then a new storage facility is required, perhaps a garage. There were no immediate offers of help.
- 4.4.8 **Asset of Community Value:** Margaret Lawson had looked into how much work would be needed to progress an application to make the Crown Public House an Asset of Community Value, and she thought this was manageable and should proceed. CAMERA had been very helpful in this respect. **Action: To pursue an Asset of Community Value for the Crown Public House.**

4.5 **Communications and Membership Group**

- 4.5.1 **Membership Fees:** It was reported that nearly 1,000 people are now registered as members of the BRA with the majority paying £5.

Business Membership: Richard Moyse asked whether the BRA had considered a business membership scheme. The response was no, although David Smith does represent BRABA.

- 4.5.2 **Website:** Les reported that he had updated the BRA's Facebook page and that the number of website hits continues to increase, reaching 2,500 views.

- 4.6 **Business Group** – Nil to report.

5 **Projects Update**

- 5.1 **Memorials:** Peter Seaward reported that it is likely that a plaque would be added in the vicinity of the Little Bookham Church for 4 newly identified names. Peter continues to discuss progress with the church authorities.

- 5.1.1 **Benches:** Nick Forrer had personally gone around the village and taking a note of where all the benches are sited and took a picture. Some are fairly new and in good condition. Others need some attention, and perhaps removed if no longer being used. **Action: To review the state of all the benches in Bookham and come up with a plan to renovate them need of repair.**

- 6 **Any Other Business** – There was no other business

- 7 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 5th August 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Action Summary

Action	Owner	Reference
Car Sharing Scheme: Elizabeth Daly to raise this possibility of Bookham having a car sharing scheme with the Policy planning Group.	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 2
Website: 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
Weeds: Peter Seaward would contact Jack Straw and Elizabeth Daly would speak to the portfolio holder re. the encroaching weed situation.	Peter Seaward & Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 1
Square-about: Clare Curran to find out status of the design plan for the square-about. 01/07: Waiting for a officer response.	Clare Curran	13/06/19: 2
Public Liability Insurance: Chris Pullan to send Metin Huseyin a copy of the existing Public Liability Insurance policy, and Meting will look for alternatives.	Chris Pullan	13/06/19: 6
Passenger Benefit Fund: Les Huett to put details of the Passenger Benefit Fund on the BRA website.	Keith Francis / Les Huett	01/07/19: 1
Bookham High Street: The BRA to devise a revitalisation plan for the High Street. For discussion at the next meeting.	All	01/07/19: 2
Shopping in Bookham: John Howarth asked whether the Committee members could make a mental note of how often they shopped in Bookham and how much as a percentage of their usual spend.	All	01/07/19: 3
Asset of Community Value: To pursue an Asset of Community Value for the Crown Public House.	Margaret Lawson	01/07/19: 4
Benches: To review the state of all the benches in Bookham and come up with a plan to renovate those need of repair.	Peter Seaward / Nick Forrer	01/07/19: 5