

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30 pm Via Conference Call

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Frances Fancourt, Andrew Matthews, Geoff Tranter, Paul Kennedy, Martin Hollins, Monica Weller, Michael Agius, Julia Dickinson, Les Huett, David Cox OBE, John Howarth, Chris Pullan, Nick Forrer (minutes)

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

Apologies: Margaret Lawson, Andrew Freeman, Keith Francis, Carolyn Elson, Richard Davey, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr Simon Edge, John Allen, Diane Poole, Marian Williams, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Dan Coffin.

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 **The Garstons and Mead Crescent:** When Nick Gray, Deputy Chief Executive MVDC is back, there will be some further progress.

It should be noted that the Barn Hall Field requires three exits for the Bookham Village Day and for any Wedding Receptions held on that field.

There are 4 avenues being explored:

- **Village Green status:** This is being explored but is unlikely to be approved.
- **Long Lease on the Barn Hall Field:** Informal discussions are to be held with MVDC, the idea being the BCA would be the leaseholder and therefore safeguard the field and therefore negate the value of the parcels of land.
- **Rights of Way:** Diane Poole has been in touch with the Poen Spaces Society who have said that the highway authority has no power to stop up a vehicular highway. This can be done only on application to the Secretary of State for Transport where stopping up is necessary to enable implementation of a planning permission, or on application to the magistrates' court, where the highway is unnecessary. In either case, there is ample opportunity to object to safeguard access rights (although in the former case, it is better to object to any planning permission which might form the basis of such an application).
- **Asset of Community Value (ACV):** Applications have been submitted by BCA for both parcels of land.

- 2.2 **Phone Box opposite Bookham Station:** The proposal from BT is to remove the phone box (poorly used and vandalised frequently). A request to relocate to the station has been declined but railway authorities could choose to put a telephone on the premises if they choose, although this is extremely unlikely.

One suggestion was whether use could be made of the Taxi Office on the Station Carpark for a telephone point. This might be easier to append rather than have a free-standing box.

2.3 **Walking and Cycle Routes: Report from the Sub-Group.** The report is on this link <https://mvcf.org.uk/mvcf/assets/documents/hofeapproaches110519v02>.

2.4 **Unitary Authority:** The urgency in this area has diminished. The White Paper: Planning for the Future is on this link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907273/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf . The shorter document Planning for the Future is on this link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/872091/Planning_for_the_Future.pdf .

Cllr. Clare Curran pointed that the County and Districts Councils need to agree on the future policy. Also, how might the District Councils be able to share some services between themselves, so that they can save money by shared management. A greater level of co-operation between the Districts might be the way forward.

The White Paper will be discussed at the next Council meeting. Chris (?) has written a technical paper outlining the high level of local impact of this level of housing development, using the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. The key point being if you build at this level you will need significant infrastructure to support it.

The issue will need to be monitored and raised at a later date.

3 **Correspondence:** Andrew Freeman reported that there had been one enquiry as to whether the BRA had been involved in the design and erection of the Great and Little Bookham Village signs on Guildford Road in 2012. This was the case.

4 **Group Updates**

4.1 **Management Group**

4.1.1 **AGM:** The AGM was successfully held on 17th September via Zoom and John Howarth reported that the minutes of the AGM and the Full Accounts for year ending 2019 are on the web site thanks to Les Huett. The Accounts have been filed at Companies House (only the Balance Sheet was required) and the Corporation Tax bill of £0 has been paid! Tax Return for the year ending 2019 has still to be sent to Companies House – deadline is 31st December.

4.1.2 **Finance Update:** Chris Pullan reported that Surrey County Council had set aside £400,000 for the planting of trees in Surrey. This should allow the planting of up to 1.2M trees. The proposal is to have a meeting with all the Resident Associations and Parish Councils to put together a plan for how to move forward.

4.2 **Planning Group**

4.2.1 **Planning Applications**

4.2.2 The Planning Committee had considered 3 applications:

4.2.3 Letters of representation was sent regarding: -

- 20/1431 – Land at the Garstons

- 20/1504 – Bookham Common, Church Road – installation of mobile phone mast

4.3 Environment Group

4.3.1 **Hanging Baskets:** An incident occurred sometime ago outside Brackenbury's when a pair of baskets fell down (no one was hurt). Peter Seaward has asked David Belsham if he will take all the baskets down again and store them at the Vineries until we work out what went wrong and how we can ensure this accident does not happen again. We might get the Council to come and do an inspection to make sure that they are safe.

4.3.2 Frances Fancourt reported back on planting around Bookham, namely:

4.3.3 Wildflower verges:

- Most of the verges have been mowed, but the Blue Heart verges and a few others with flowers were left un-mowed. We will rake off the mowings once a final cut has been done to these areas.
- The wide verge outside the Lower Road Rec was not included officially this year - however the mowing did leave the central areas uncut and there was no visibility problem when I entered and exited the Lower Road Rec car park.
- A request has been made to SCC to add the following areas to the Blue Heart scheme for 2021: Lower Road; near junction with Eastwick Park Avenue; Middlemead Green; the smaller third of the green to the east of the footpath; Mead Crescent; land with footpath from Barn Hall field; triangle of land between Dorking Road entrance and A246 west side; (this area was partially mowed this year and supports many orchids and cowslips).

4.3.4 **A246 planting licence to include the Garstons:** It is planned to do minor planting at the site although permission to plant some trees is being sought. Permission is also being sought to go ahead with ordering 2 benches and trees and shrubs to be planted there.

4.3.5 **Tree Planting on SCC verges:** SCC has a budget of £40,000 and Frances is looking to apply for some of that budget.

4.3.6 **Daffodils on prominent corners:** Frances has a large order of daffodil bulbs and we will be planting them over the next few weeks at prominent corners around Bookham.

4.3.7 **Mobile Telephone Mast, Thornet Wood site in Effingham:** This site is practically in Little Bookham and the application was refused by Guildford BC, but EE have now appealed against this. A better solution would be to cojoin with the Vodafone mast at Bookham Common which would be better and less difficult to install.

4.3.8 **Litter Pick & The Great British (Spring) September Clean:** Unfortunately, all these have been suspended for the time being. However, a number of individuals have been doing their own local litter picks and tidying up the village.

4.4 **Community Group**

- 4.4.1 **Vehicle Activated Signs:** There has been limited progress. Both the BRA and the FRA have been asked to supply specific locations where SCC can undertake surveys to see if there are any issues. However, the purpose from the RA's perspective is to have a mobile unit and don't believe surveys are needed, and if the surveys do not provide evidence of any issues then any application for CIL funding might not be given. In the meantime, Andrew Freeman is looking at other parts of the country where local groups manage their own signs.
- 4.4.2 **Footpath at Bookham Station:** Andrew Matthews reported that he had emailed the National Trust to restart discussions on the accessible path to Platform One at Bookham Station. He is hopeful to get some movement on this project as we have had a six month delay due to Covid.
- 4.4.3 **Churches Together:** Currently worship is done through streaming to ensure social distancing and small meeting sizes. Remembrance Day this year will be much reduced in size and activities. This also means that Christmas this year will be much subdued. Stone Masons have also been called in to look at the lettering on the War Memorial in St Nicolas Church as they are a little faded and need sprucing.
- 4.4.4 **Transport:** Nothing to report.
- 4.4.5 **National Trust Bookham Car Park:** The National Trust have designated 1 or 2 spaces for disabled drivers.

4.5 **Communications & Membership Group**

- 4.5.1 In September the Communications and Membership team have been executing on the Q4 Plan as detailed in last month's report. All Road Stewards have been contacted re the Newsletter distribution and there has been a positive response re delivering with the majority opting to ask residents to bring money to their house on use online or telephone payments.
- 4.5.2 Posts on the BRA web site have been:
- Minutes of the 2020 AGM including financial and statutory Companies House reports
 - Future Mole Valley Draft Local Plan Update
 - MVDC updates
 - Roundabout Effingham Bulletin
- 4.5.3 These have been cross posted to the BRA and I Live In Bookham Facebook pages as appropriate. A "Sign Up" button has been added to the Facebook page which takes people through to the BRA subscription page. It's not possible to edit the button unfortunately so "Sign Up" is the nearest that can be used.
- 4.5.4 An update on the BRA activities for the year to date has been published in Look Local complete with a QR code that links straight to the BRA subscription page. This is part of the Q4 Communications plan.
- 4.5.5 We continue to add to our Mailchimp database and now have 820 active subscribers.

4.6 **Business Group:**

4.6.1 We have joined Mole Valley Chamber of Commerce. This is free till April 2021 and then £35 till the end of that year.

4.6.2 Repairing concrete roads is more expensive than tarmacked roads. For example, the repairing of Eastwick Road which has been recently completed.

4.6.3 There have been suggestions that we should sponsor a Photograph Competition to project entries onto local landmarks or public spaces. Afterwards framing them and putting them into local shops.

5 **Any Other Business**

5.1 **Xmas Lights:** The Chair is looking into the placement of these. To light the tree at the corner of the High Street needs a suitable power source. This is being investigated.

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