



Committee Meeting held on:	3 rd November 2025
At:	Church Room, St Nicolas Church
Committee members resent:	Simon Edge (Chair), Les Huett, Gill Caldwell, Margaret Lawson, Frances Fancourt, Neil McDowall, Diane Poole, David Cox, Keith Whale, John Downman, David Armstrong
Guests Present:	
Councillors present:	C Cllr Clare Curran, Cllr Lawrence Penney
Apologies received from:	Carolyn Elson, Geoff Tranter, Christine Milstead, Neil Clarke, Cllr Andrew Matthews

Corrections from previous meeting

Item 1 Minutes.	6.1 The sentence starting with “The open area around Lower Shotts” to be deleted.

Actions from previous meeting(s):

Reference (date / number)		
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Agenda

Item	Minute
2. LG Re-Organisation	HMG had now decided that Surrey should be divided into two Unitary Authorities (UA), namely East and West, with Mole Valley being located in the East together with Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Reigate and Banstead, Tandridge. No announcements had been made over the powers and structure of an overall elected Mayor, it has not been determined whether the two UA's will form a Mayoral Authority. nor any mention of how any UA responsibilities might be transferred to lesser authorities such as Parish or Town Councils.

Item	Minute
	<p>The wording of Stage 1 of MVDC's Governance Review suggests that the Council Administration is in favour of setting up new Parish Councils. The BRA was aware that while MVDC must consult residents, it is not required to hold a referendum on creating new PCs. The BRA view is that any proposal to create new PCs must be put to a referendum (of Bookham residents and those in any other area affected). Anything less would be anti-democratic. Cllrs Penney and Curran's understanding was, however, that a referendum would be held. [Note: after the meeting Cllr Penney sought advice from MVDC Officers, who confirmed that the BRA's understanding was correct – MVDC is not legally required to hold a referendum].</p> <p>Elections for the two UA's would be held in May 2026 and the new Councils would run in tandem with the existing structures until 2027.</p> <p>HMG had indicated that it may cover a proportion of the existing debts held by the existing authorities forming the West Surrey UA (<i>circa</i> £500m in the West).</p> <p>C Cllr Clare Curran warned that whatever was finally agreed over organisation and finances, the residents in Surrey, and particularly those in the former MVDC area could be faced with considerably higher council taxes.</p>
<p>3. Management Group</p>	<p>3.1 Finance: The Treasurer stated that Subscriptions up to October were £9k. To date. Traders had given £1.35K towards Christmas Lights with a further £1.5k from MVDC and £1k promised by SCC. £186 had been spent on spring bulbs, and the overall bank balance stood at £23.7k</p> <p>3.2 Secretariat: Les Huett had circulated a calendar showing all Directors, Committee and Planning Meetings planned up to the Centenary AGM in July. The Annual Return had been submitted to HMG. Les and the Treasurer are working to understand a tax issue. The latest Newsletter was being printed and would be circulated shortly.</p> <p>3.3 Membership: Roughly the same as last year.</p>
<p>4. Planning</p>	<p>Keith Whale stated that there were no further news on the Chalk Pit Development where traffic access was likely to be an issue. Also, the Wyvenhoe Stables development proposal was facing access and watercourse issues.</p> <p>The BRA Planning Committee were concerned at the proposal to build a new house in Lower Shotts over a well used footpath leading to the crossing point on the A246. They were also concerned that the MVDC had passed an application from a large house in Bookham Common to install a large number of solar panels adjacent to the house. This was considered unsightly and the concern was that it might lead to reclassification of the land from Green to Grey Belt.</p>

Item	Minute
	<p>The Committee finds the new Planning Portal System being used by MVDC Planners is improving somewhat. The Cttee had offered to help the Bookham Alms houses over development options.</p>
<p>5. Policing & Community Safety</p>	<p>Although less than elsewhere, there remain some areas in Bookham where adverse social behaviour is still a problem. Concern had been expressed over cars speeding along the A246 road between Bocketts Corner and the Beckley Parade. Police Speed checks and speed signs could ease the problem.</p>
<p>6. Environment</p>	<p>The Chairman led the Committee in heartily congratulating the BRA's nominees and winners at MVDC's Sustainability Awards event. Litter Picking (Margaret), Tree Wardens (Frances and Chris), Blue Hearts (Diane and Steve), and Chalk Streams (Julia) were all very worthy nominees; with Blue Hearts winning its category, and Chalk streams being highly commended. Well done all.</p> <p>6.1 Blue Hearts. Diane Poole confirmed that the Blue Heart team have coordinated the planting of 2,500 daffodil bulbs along the Lower Road verges (outside the Rec) which are registered as Blue Heart Verges and should not be mown during the flowering season. The bulbs were funded by BRA.</p> <p>6.2 Litter Picking: Margaret Lawson stated that 18 pickers attended the last session and filled 13 bags. It was known that MVDC had specialist equipment to remove chewing gum which appeared very effective and could be considered for use in Bookham. Margaret will do a survey of areas where gum removal is needed. It was agreed that the BRA would fund mulled wine/soft drinks for pickers at the pre-Christmas session.</p> <p>6.3 Trees: Frances Fancourt stated that the SCC were providing free trees on the 28th November - 1st December 2025.</p>
<p>7. Youth/Education</p>	<p>David Cox advised that the Planning Application for the new Youth Centre was being presented on the 7th December and hopefully, work will commence in March/April next year. There was the need to raise funds for the purchase of new equipment and a website was being introduced to coordinate all activities, including recruiting a team to run the centre once introduced.</p>
<p>8. Projects</p>	<p>In the absence of Geoff Tranter, the Chairman confirmed that progress was being made on the provision of Christmas Lights in the High Street and either along the Trees in the Church Grounds or in Lower Shott if available funds allowed. It was noted that some traders there were not prepared to contribute.</p> <p>The Toilet in Lower Shotts had now been completed. It was hoped that the three murals for the back of the bus shelter would be installed shortly.</p>

Bookhams Residents' Association

Item		Minute
9	Other Organisations	<p>Rev Gill Cauldwell stated that on Remembrance Sunday, a special service would be held in St Nicolas at 10,00 am followed by a service at the War Memorial just before 11am. Passing motorists will be asked (placards held by road stewards) respect the need to pass quietly.</p> <p>Rotary were looking for volunteers to manage traffic on the 6th December when the High Street was being closed for the Spirit of Christmas Shopping evening.</p>
10	Councillors Updates	<p>C Cllr Clare Curran advised that the surface dressing applied to the A246 was possible as the road had been reconstructed only a few years ago. However, Lower Road was in urgent need of reconstruction and work had started along the whole length of the Bookham Area. The road humps would be replaced and it was hoped to finish the work by 18th November 2025.</p> <p>It was also hoped to finish the road calming work in Church Road before Christmas.</p> <p>Cllr Lawrence Penney gave updates including those sent by Cllr Andrew Matthews regarding: LG Reorganisation (as above); a street to be named, after local resident Geoffrey Barkway – a decorated (DFM) D-Day glider pilot. “Upper Barkway Close”; Sustainable Mole Valley (as above); Bookham Station – repair of the screen on platform one; discussions with SWR and NR to have Bookham included in the access for all scheme; missed Bin Collection reports, MVDC advice leaving bins out until the contractors have collected them; and seeking SCC’s adoption of Eastwick Park Avenue spur road as part of the Keswick Care Home redevelopment and Youth Centre projects.</p>
Next BRA Committee Meeting		1 st December together with some Christmas Cheer

BRA Committee Meetings 2026

Date	Location
6 th January	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
3 rd February	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
7 th April	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
12 th May	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
7 th July	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
17 th July	AGM Old Barn Hall 7.30 pm
6 TH October	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm
3 rd November	St Nicolas Church Room 7.30 pm