

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022

Church Room St Nicolas Church

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Simon Edge, Chris Pullan, Andy Freeman, Cllr. Clare Curran, Les Huett, Paul Kennedy, Carolyn Elson, Richard Moyse, Nick Forrer, Diane Poole, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Christine Milsted, David Armstrong, Frances Fancourt, Julia Dickinson,

Apologies: Keith Francis, Martin Hollins, Cllr. Monica Weller, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Andrew Matthews, Geoff Tranter, Cllr. James Chambers, David Cox MBE, Cllr. Roger Adams Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Neil McDonald, John Howarth, Michael Agius, John Allen, Margaret Lawson, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Lowes, Metin Huseyin,

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising & Actions

- 2.1. **Road Sweeping:** The Chairman stated that road sweeping, subcontracted by MVDC to Surrey Heath was now by request only. Particularly at this time of the year with extensive leaf fall it was essential that the roads should be swept on a regular basis. It was agreed that an urgent letter should be written to the MV CEO asking for regular street cleaning to be reinstated.
- 2.2. **Howard of Effingham Development:** The Guildford Borough Council had decided to accept the proposal to build 110 new homes on the ground on the opposite side of the road to the existing School, but had rejected the proposal to build 99 homes on the site of the existing school. This decision had been referred to the Government Inspector whose judgement was awaited. The Chairman pointed out that the decision to accept the 110 homes would mean that in the lack of any facilities to the west of the school, over 220 new residents would have to use those at Bookham, which would have serious repercussions especially on the Medical Centres.
- 2.3. **Christmas Lights:** The Lights this year were considered better than last year although not all tradesmen had illuminated them all the time, which in some respects lessened their impact. This year was however the last that a grant could be obtained from MVDC. It was Agreed that the new Treasurer should be asked to consider alternative means of support.
- 2.4. **Local Plan:** It was noted that the housing targets contained in the Local Plan were now advisory rather than compulsory.

- 2.5. **CIL Funding:** The Chairman pointed out that although we had two active bids, the decision process for such modest amounts was considered far too long. There appeared to be at least three different views as to how the process could be improved.
- 2.6. **Local Government Boundary Commission:** The Vice Chairman stated that in spite of our strong objections to the proposed introduction of 3 Wards rather than 2 across Bookham and Fetcham, our views had been ignored. There was known to be mounting opposition from a number of sources and it was hoped that the proposal could go to the Ombudsman for a final decision. Sir Paul Beresford will also be submitting an Early Day Motion.

3. Management Group

- 3.1. Noted that 3 new volunteers had come forward to assist in the running of BRA, including volunteers for minute taking, management of the Notice Boards and a former water engineer offering his services.

4. Planning

- 4.1. **Planning Applications:** To note, letters of representation sent regarding:
 - MO/2022/1629: 340 Lower Road, Bookham, Surrey, KT23 4EF Description Change of use from residential {Use Class C3} to education {Use Class F1} in Support.
 - MO/2022/1906: Little Bookham Post Office [Weales] 111 Little Bookham St, Bookham, Surrey KT23 4BH Description: Erection of single storey rear Extension, new shop front and alterations to facilitate subdivision of existing Round floor retail unit into retail unit and separate café with outdoor seating. Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of a new outbuilding in Support.
- 4.2. **Planning Regulations:** The Government has now amended the policy requiring a set number of new dwellings to be built to 'advisory'.

5. Community Group

- 5.1. **Howard of Effingham Admissions Policy:** The Howard Partnership Trust, Surrey County Council, Multi Academy Trusts in Surrey and the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) now propose that all those children within the catchment and who live nearest the school have priority i.e. children from the Bookhams & Effingham. The BRA strongly supports this change in criterion and encourages all parents and other stakeholders in the Howard of Effingham to respond to the consultation, which closes on 13th January, by agreeing with the proposed changes by following this link: [Admissions Questionnaire for entry in September 2024](#)

6. Environment Group

- 6.1. **East Street:** Clare Curran reported that Surrey CC have decided to introduce a new 20 mph sign in East Street, adding that speed restrictions are also being introduced in Eastwick Park Avenue.
- 6.2. **Church Street:** Concern had been expressed over the speed of cars down Church Street Where an average speed of 47 mph had been recorded. Residents were requested to notify the Police so that some action could be taken.

7. Communications and Membership Group

- 7.1. Membership Secretary reported that there were now approximately 1,500 members and subscriptions, currently around £9,000, continued to be received.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1. **Ukraine Relief Appeal:** Noted that relief supplies had already been dispatched to Ukraine. Further attempts were under way to provide more food and clothing.
- 8.2. **Question Time:** Now confirmed as being held in the Old Barn Hall on 16th February. Sitting Cllrs only would be seated on the panel. The event would be published by email, online and on the Notice Boards.
- 8.3. **Grass Cutting:** It was noted that MV had now completed an autumn cut of all grass verges.
- 8.4. **Treasurer:** Chris Pullan announced that he would cease to become Treasurer next Saturday and will be succeeded by Neil McDowall.
- 8.5. **Charity Cycle Ride:** Richard Moyses reported that £650 had been raised following a sponsored cycle ride in aid of the Royal British Legion poppy appeal, and thanked the Committee for its donation.

9. Next Bookham's Residents Association Meeting

- 9.1. The next BRA meeting would be held on the 6th February 2023. The Chairman closed the meeting by wishing all present a happy Christmas.