

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023

Church Room St Nicolas Church

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Simon Edge, Chris Pullan, Andy Freeman, Cllr. Clare CurranPaul Kennedy, Carolyn Elson, Richard Moyse, Nick Forrer, Julia Dickinson, Keith Francis, Martin Hollins, Andrew Matthews, Geoff Tranter, Neil McDonald, Margaret Lawson, Michael Herbert, Simon Baxter

Apologies: Cllr. Monica Weller, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. James Chambers, David Cox MBE, Cllr. Roger Adams Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, John Howarth, Michael Agius, John Allen, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Lowes, Metin Huseyin, , Les Huett, Diane Poole, Cllr. Sarah Chambers, Christine Milsted, David Armstrong, Frances Fancourt,

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

2. Matters Arising & Actions

3. Correspondence

- 3.1. **The King's Coronation:** MVDC has notified the Association that funding is available to assist communities in celebrating the coronation. Community groups are able to apply for between £300 and £10,000 (although up to £2,000 was suggested by the Council). Applications will need to be submitted by mid-February to ensure it is received in time. More information is available on the [Community Fund lottery website](#).

4. Management Group

- 4.1. 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.

5. Planning

- 5.1. **Local Plan:** MVDC has written to the Inspector to remove green belt developments from the plan. A response is awaited.
- 5.2. Planning Applications: To note, letters of representation sent regarding:
 - MO/2022/1978: 186, Lower Road, Bookham, KT23 4AT. Erection of a detached house with integral garage and a detached bungalow following demolition of the existing bungalow and garage.
 - MO/2022/2059: Rowan House, Springvale Close, Bookham, KT23 4RD

6. Community Group

- 6.1. **Vehicle Activated Signs:** Simon Baxter attended the meeting and reported that the reliability of the current sign is questionable, capturing very high numbers of vehicles apparently speeding, although observing the sign in action suggests it doesn't always activate when a fast vehicle passes it and sometimes it is triggered after the vehicle has passed. Another issue is the weight of the sign meaning it can't be affixed to lampposts, although it might be possible to plug signs into lampposts where such a facility has been fitted, i.e. some lamps in the High Street enable Christmas lights to be attached. It was agreed that the Association would support a bid for CIL funding. Action: Simon to investigate costs, possible solutions that could enable signs to be attached to lampposts, etc.
- 6.2. **Benches:** It was noted that £1,800 is in the Association's bank account to mend and refurbish benched but has not been spent. This will be taken up with David Belsham to progress.
- 6.3. **Electronic Sign:** Funding has also been received for an electronic sign. One possible location could be in the window of Wishing Well, although there are options, e.g. whether to have a touchscreen. They come in various sizes - 32", 42" and 48" with costs ranging from £3k to £5k plus VAT. There is also a monthly maintenance fee of circa £150 per month. No decisions were made.
- 6.4. **Bookham Station:** It was noted that the toilets would be refurbished this year, although they will only be open when the ticket office is open, i.e. 3 hours a day! Andrew Matthews also mentioned that a CIL bid had been submitted for a new electronic display board, and that another bid had been made to SWT's community fund for a bench. There had been no progress in persuading the NT to allow a footpath from their car park to Platform 1. It was agreed that this is unlikely to progress unless there was a vocal campaign.
- 6.5. **Replacement Skate Board Track:** It is hoped that the existing Lower Road rec facility would be replaced by a slopes/ramps facility that could be used in a variety of different ways. It is expected to cost in the region of £80k. Richard Moyse has submitted an application and is awaiting a reply.
- 6.6. **Cricket Nets:** £16k has been approved via the CIL fund, but a planning application is needed.
- 6.7. **Medical Centre:** Simon Edge is still working with various bodies to try and progress the idea of a new medical facility on the former youth centre site. Whilst there is general support, there is no one taking the lead to make it happen. Clare Curran said that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) would be reviewing NHS properties in the locality which might help to progress matters.
- 6.8. **Buses:** Keith Francis reported that the £2 per trip fee had now been introduced on a temporary basis and that more electric buses would be introduced in the future.
- 6.9. **Keswick House:** The care home has now closed. Planning for the future of the site is underway, the current options being either to rebuild for assisted living or short term mental health facility.
- 6.10. **Youth Centre:** As previously reported, costs have escalated and therefore there is a need to modify the plans, i.e. to one-storey. A site visit is taking place in approximately two-weeks' time to review essential and nice-to-have requirements.

- 6.11. **Notice Boards:** It was reported that the notice board in the Lower Shott car park is difficult to see through as the transparent plastic cover had become discoloured. Also, the lock on the notice board by the Lower Road car park is difficult to open. Geoff Tranter to investigate.

7. Environment Group

- 7.1. **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson said that 21 people had collected 16 bags of rubbish on Sunday.
- 7.2. **Business Group**
- 7.3. **Business Improvement:** Peter Seaward said that he had met with MVDC officers. One idea to encourage local trade could be to do what Dorking has done, i.e. local businesses contribute to a time-limited scheme to raise money for certain initiatives, e.g. free car parking at certain times, etc. This may appeal to businesses in Bookham where it is often said that Bookham needs free parking.

8. Communications and Membership Group

- 8.1. **Newsletter:** This will be produced in early June in readiness for the AGM which is scheduled for 19th July. More effort will be made to target those areas where there is no road steward, and leaflets will be produced to encourage residents to pay online.
- 8.2. **Membership:** At the end of 2022 the Association had 1,614 members, down around 200 on the previous year.

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1. **Road Closures:** Clare Curran reported that Eastwick Road was closed for water repairs and that Kennell Lane would be closed for resurfacing work.
- 9.2. **Potholes:** Clare said that these were being repaired, albeit with temporary measure, very quickly, and that the public needs to actively report them as road surfaces had deteriorated recently due to the adverse weather conditions.
- 9.3. **CPRE:** The Association approved a donation of £10.

10. Next Bookham's Residents Association Meeting

- 10.1. The next BRA meeting would be held on the 6th March 2023.