

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

## Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**In Attendance:** Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Andy Freeman, Paul Kennedy, Elizabeth Daly, Clare Curran, Diane Poole, Christine, Geoff Tranter, Carolyn Elson, Andrew Matthews, David Cox MBE, Martin Hollins, Richard Moyse, Sarah Chambers, Julia Dickinson, Les Huett, Zena Rose, James Chambers, Nancy Goodacre

**Apologies:** Roger Adams, Frances Fancourt, Keith Francis, Monica Weller, Margaret Lawson, Simon Edge, Nick Forrer, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Agius, Michael Lowes

- 1 **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
- 2 **Matters Arising & Actions:** There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3 **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence of any note.
- 4 **Group Updates**
  - 4.1 **Finances:** The Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 have been completed and are with the Examiner. They currently show a draft surplus of £408. The total amount in subscriptions was over £10,800, up by £2,300 from last year. A major expense was £3,000 for a report on the MV Plan. This was partially financed by the £1,992 carried forward from Bookham Vision monies. Significant other contributions from the BRA were the Newsletter at £3,135, Xmas lights at £1,122 and hanging baskets at £1,607.
  - 4.2 **Planning Group:** Letters of representation have been sent regarding:
    - 4.2.1 Planning Ref: MO/2021/2178: 91 Eastwick Park Avenue, Bookham KT23 3NH. Description: Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of existing garage with parking for two cars
    - 4.2.2 Planning Ref: MO/2022/0176: Land to the rear of 7 Kennel Close, Fetcham KT22 9PF. Description: Erection of a new chalet bungalow
- 5 **Environment Group**
  - 5.1 **Plastic Free Bookham:** Diane Poole said that as part of the Plastic Free Bookham's goal to achieve plastic free status, the group need to sign up a number of Community Allies who will support them. What Diane clarified that it's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to avoidable single-use plastic (SUP), and changing the system that produces it. They need to get support from 5 categories of allies – educational, spaces/venues, organisations, events and communications and the BRA would qualify as an organisation and also creating community communications. The committee agreed to sign the pledge of support.
  - 5.2 **Blue Heart Verges:** Diane Poole said that communications with SCC had improved and hoped that there will be more leniency when deciding where trees could be planted. It was also time to put the blue heart signs back up to raise awareness and to prevent areas being cut by the Council's contractors. Diane also mentioned that she had been asked to speak to three Surrey councils so for on wild flowering.

- 5.3 **Trees:** Frances Fancourt said that some cherry trees had been planted in Lower Road and more are planned, including an apple tree in Lower Shott.
- 5.4 **Devolved Highways Budget:** Each SCC divisional member will be allocated £50,000. Up to £15,000 of this could be allocated to minor ITS, or all £50,000 could be used on capital maintenance (recommended option). The schemes are to be proposed by county members in consultation with the Stakeholder Engagement Officer. Members, will continue to receive a Member Local Highways Fund (revenue) allocation of £7,500 per county member to address highway issues in their division.
- 5.5 **Litter Pick:** The litter pick on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March collected 19 bags of rubbish. It was also noted that the Great British Spring Clean starts in April
- 5.6 **Highways Budget:** Clare Curran reported that each SCC councillor will, in future, receive £50k for local structural repairs for roads and pavements.
- 5.7 **Lower Shott:** This area is in need of redevelopment but has mixed ownership which causes issues. In the interim it is hoped that a power source could be extended to provide some electric charging points, lighting and a power socket public events. There was also an idea to have a fountain to provide free drinking water. Nancy Goodacre agreed to speak to the council.

## 6 Community Group

- 6.1 **Youth Centre:** David Cox reported that SCC were in the process of putting a planning application together and hopefully this will be ready for MVDC's Development Control Committee in May.
- 6.2 **Skateboard Park:** There have been several meetings on site involving Bookham councillors, local Police and the BRA. The conclusion was that for two reasons the skateboard park equipment should be dismantled. One, because it continued to be a source of antisocial behaviour, and two, usage had fallen off and the equipment was no longer suitable for the purpose originally it was designed for.
- 6.3 As a replacement, with the agreement of the BYP and BYCA plus MVDC, it was decided that a BMX track would be more suitable and designs are being drawn up by MVDC, costed and then presented to Mole Valley Youth Council and other young people groups for comments and approval. These were received positively, although the Council confirmed there were no funds available at the moment, (the cost is expected to be in the region of £50k), but this might change in the next few years.
- 6.4 **SPACE:** Andrew Matthews said a new notice board had been erected although the railings need to be fixed first.
- 6.5 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins said that the Golden Years was very successful and that some events were being planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They will also be present at the Village Day.
- 6.6 **Mole Valley Boundary Review:** There is a change to the timetable. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was due to publish its draft recommendations for Mole Valley on 1st March, however, along with a small number of other Councils, the LGBCE Board did not have sufficient time to consider the draft recommendations for Mole Valley at its February meeting and these have been deferred to March.
- 6.7 As a result, the LGBCE has amended its timetable for the Mole Valley review with the consultation starting on 29th March and ending on 6th June. The LGBCE has confirmed that there are no further changes to the timetable and the order will be laid before

Parliament in the autumn of 2022 with the changes being implemented for the Local Elections in May 2023.

- 6.8 **Health Centre:** The doctors at Eastwick surgery would like new premises and will be seeking approval from NHS England. Separate to this is an idea for an extended health facility in the north of MV and Perter Seaward had been in discussion with the other RAs in the north, with a view to gathering support for something Leatherhead Hospital.
- 6.9 **Boots:** Simon Edge mentioned that Boots would be withdrawing their "managed repeat" prescription ordering service (i.e. when your pharmacy orders repeat descriptions from your GP on your behalf without you having to do anything). Residents affected will now have to order repeats from their GP, or using one of the 'Apps' available - details on the BRA website.
- 6.10 **CCTV Cameras:** When the Police Commissioner spoke to the BRA a question was raised about CCTV and whether the BRA should be investing in a new one. In reply the police commissioner replied that cameras had a role in making communities feel safe and that the police do manage some CCTV across north surrey and it is hoped that through the Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives, with support from Surrey Police the police can find a long term solution and provide support for CCTV. Furthermore, as to whether the BRA should purchase a new camera it was suggested that the Association speaks to our local Designing Out Crime Officer Neil Clarke who will be able to talk you through the options and what his advice would be on reducing crime and ASB along the High Street. It was noted that the camera by the ATM needs upgrading and it would be helpful to have a further one opposite the Post Office.
- 6.11 There were two instances when CCTV had been, or had the potential to be invaluable. First was the antisocial behaviour at SPACE and Hylands Garage had evidence of theft, although the police apparently wasn't interested!
- 6.12 **Keswick Care Home:** Clare Curran reported that the this home, along with 7 others across Surrey, would be closing. Keswick, in particular, was no longer fit-for-purpose as it was built 50 years ago. The alternative was to invest circa £2m to refurbish it. There are, at the present time, 17 residents and will close in 2024. No decision has been made as to the future use of the site.

## 7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 **Friends of Little Bookham:** It was noted that the **Friends of Little Bookham** will be having a buffet supper and talk by Ian Swinney the National Trust ranger, and our guest speaker Eddie Hyde, an award-winning local photographer in the Barn Hall, Bookham on Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm.
- 7.2 **The Grange - Earth Day:** The Grange are planning a green event for Earth Day on Friday April 22nd. Further details to follow.
- 7.3 **Young Street Car Park:** Clare Curran reported that the car park was being extended with new planting and a natural playground.
- 7.4 **Surrey Hills AONB:** Julia Dickinson is submitting a bid for Great and Little Bookham to be part of the area of search for the expansion of the Surrey Hills AONB. Clare Curran said she would engage with the SCC officers to gauge what support they could offer.

## 8 Following BRA Meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022