

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 Version 2

Church Room St Nicolas Church

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Simon Edge, Carolyn Elson, Paul Kennedy, Margaret Lawson, Les Huett, Diane Poole, Christine Milstead, Sarah Chambers, Martin Hollins, Jo Caldwell, Cllr Claire Curran, Richard Moyse, Frances Fancourt, Nick Forrer, John Allen, Cllr Roger Adams, Neil McDowall, David Armstrong.

Apologies: Cllr Monica Weller, Cllr Elizabeth Daly, David Cox MBE, Cllr Nancy Goodacre, John Howarth, Michael Agius, David Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Lowes,

Cllr Metin Huseyin,

1 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

2 Matters Arising & Actions

2.1 The Treasurer stated that the current bank balance was £19,000. The main expenditure was £1,250 for the Christmas lights. A bid was being made to MVDC for £1,500 which would cover about 50% of the total cost. This is to cover the next three years.

3 Correspondence

No major items recorded .

4 Management Group Projects

4.1 Skate Boards Replacement Facility Richard Moyse reported that two approaches to secure funding via CIL had been considered with MVDC and that the bid from the BRA supported by MVDC would be the most appropriate. Estimates will be sought from a contractor and included in a bid for the April meeting of the North Mole Valley CIL Committee. This should ensure that if approved work would start more quickly than if a bid from MVDC was used. The proposed site would be at a more suitable location on the Lower Road Rec, close to the other outdoor play equipment

4.2 Bench Replacement Diane Poole reported that £1,800 had been provided by CIL for the replacement/refurbishment of three benches. One by the bus stop at St Nicolas Church, the second opposite Weales and the third opposite Shirley Garage on the A246.

4.3 Lower Shott Frances Fancourt advised that three improvements were being proposed, namely new planting, a new circular bench and the use of the current MVDC power point to light a new sign, all in the area around the car park. The cost was yet to be determined.

4.4 Kings Coronation MVDC had awarded £2,000 to Bookham to assist in celebrating the King's Coronation in May. Groups being considered for funding were the Grange, the Baptist Church, Saint Nicolas and Polesden Lacy School. A Street Party was being considered by Lower Shotts. Cllr Clare Curran advised that the SCC had set up a Working Group to distribute up to £7,000 towards the Coronation Celebrations. Margaret Lawson advised that the Litter Picking Group is planning a Coronation Celebration after their 14th May Litter Pick in Lowe Shott.

5 Planning

No significant plans had been reported.

6 Community Group

6.1 Primary Care Trusts Cllr Clare Curran advised that a meeting had been called on the following Wednesday to discuss the provision of Primary Care Trusts, particularly in North and West Surrey.

6.2 Youth Centre Cllr Simon Edge reported that Plans are still being considered for the proposed one story Youth Centre.

6.3 Keswick House It has now been decided to demolish the former Care Home. It is being proposed to hold a Public Consultation as to how the site should be developed

6.4 Local Plan The Local Plan is being held in abeyance at least until the 25th May pending changes which may be implemented following further consideration by HMG.

6.5 Howard of Effingham School It was noted that the construction of the new houses, for which Planning permission has been granted on the existing school site. A new planning application is expected

6.6 Churches during Coronation It was noted that the public would be welcome to enter Bookham Churches during the Coronation.

7 Environment Group

7.1 Planting in Lower Shotts Diane Poole stated that £830 had been set aside to cover improvement to the area behind the Bus Stop on the A246 This involved site clearance and new planting.

7.2 Tesco Triangle It was considered that the triangular area beside the new Tesco Store had become untidy and needed attention although the existing planters still looked good. It was agreed that the MVDC should be approached for more cash to carry out improvements.

7.3 High Street Shops It was noted that the owner of the Wishing Well at the bottom of the High Street was soon to retire leaving 3 empty shops.

7.4 Roads There were no major updates reported. Speeding cars in Church Road were still a problem. Pavement improvements were being made in Downs Way. Cllr Clare Curran reported that although new 20 mph speed notices had been erected in East Street, they were currently for guidance only.

7.5 Litter Collection Margaret Lawson stated that 19 bags of litter had been collected on the last session. Unfortunately graffiti had been painted on the bus stop seat at the back of the Lower Shotts Car Park. Attempts had been made to clean the seats but had not been entirely successful. It had also been noted that the side passage alongside Patrick Gardiners in the High Street was a mess and a member of the shop had agreed to clear it. Rubbish had also been observed at the Tesco carpark and here again a member of staff had agreed to clear it. It was noted that the Litter Collections take place every Sunday except on Bank Holidays when it was done on the second Sunday. Currently at least 150 bags a year was being collected. It was also noted that a smaller Collection was undertaken by the Women's Institute and other groups including the Wombles.

8 Communications and Membership Group

8.1 Communications Les Huett stated that a new notice was being prepared to be displayed in the Notice Boards stating what BRA's main aims and purpose. A Newsletter would be circulated in May/June advising the AGM to be held on the 19th July in the Old Barn Hall. To save cost, a briefer letter would be sent to roads not previously contacted. It was noted that the Registered Office of BRA was now at 11 Church Road. A local company, Systemday, provides company management services from their offices at 11 Church Road. This means that all official communications will go Systemday and not to individuals personal addresses.

8.2 Guest Speaker at AGM The Chairman suggested Lucy Quinell to be invited as guest speaker at the AGM. However, after further discussion it was agreed that each elected Local Councillor should be invited to introduce themselves and give a brief account of their aims and objectives.

8.3 Shopping Area Enhancements The Chairman stated that Dorking BID organization had provided funds to enhance Dorking Town Centre with facilities such as hanging baskets etc. However it was necessary for local traders to be involved in this form of funding if it to be made available elsewhere including Bookham. Councillor Wellman of MVDC is pursuing this possible approach of a mini BID for Bookham with Simon Edge.

9 Any other Business

9.1 Station Footpath Carolyn Elson referred to the refusal of the National Trust to give permission to the opening of a footpath along their land from Bookham Common to the side of the Station to permit disabled residents to have access to the up platform without having to climb the footbridge. It was agreed that more support for the project should be sought such as the MVDC, our local MP or even a petition.

9.2 Village Day Two lady volunteers were being sought to man the soft drinks stall at the Village Day.

9.3 Beckley Parade Les Huett noted that the area outside the shops in Beckley Parade was very run down and could do with urgent improvements such as the introduction of new planters. He noted that this area was well supported. Cllr Clare Curran pointed out that the Parade was privately owned prohibiting any improvements being made by the Council.

9.4 Boundary Commission Cllr Clare Curran stated that the Boundary Commission were still deliberating the extent of the north Mole Valley constituency boundaries.

9.5 Bus Routes Cllr Clare Curran advised that a second mini bus for the Surrey Connect service had now been acquired.

9.6 New Notice Board It was noted that a new Notice Board was being considered for the Board at Lower Road car park entrance.

9.7 Trees in Lower Road Cllr Roger Adams requested that more trees should be planted in Lower Road.