

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8pm by ZOOM

## Participants

Directors: Michael Agius, Cllr Clare Curran, Cllr Simon Edge, Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, Peter Seaward, David Smith

Vice President: Michelle Smith

Company Secretary: John Howarth

Bookham Councillors: Cllr Elizabeth Daly, Cllr Metin Huseyin, Cllr Richard Moyse

Members: Angela Benny, Julia Dickinson, Carolyn Elson, Frances Fancourt, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Paul Kennedy, Margaret Lawson, Andrew Matthews, Nigel Smith, Geoff Tranter

### **1. Chairman's Welcome & Introduction**

The Chairman (Peter Seaward) welcomed everyone to the meeting in what he hoped would be the first and only time that an AGM would have to be held electronically.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Roger Adams, David Cox, Keith Francis and Cllr Nancy Goodacre.

### **3. Minutes of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

#### 3.1 Accuracy

The Minutes were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting.

#### 3.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be covered on the agenda.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented the following report:

*During 2019 we continued with most of our regular tasks. Summer and winter hanging baskets, Christmas lights and ensuring that the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at St Nicolas went smoothly. Road closures and road marshals are the challenges here.*

*Unfortunately, after many years we had to give up the BRA Bookstall at Village Day. Interest was declining and the loss of a key organising volunteer and with no place to store books throughout the year meant this work had to come to an end.*

*We lost a key and long serving member of our Committee, Ray Pritchard. He was a stalwart of the BRA and many other local activities including a major commitment to Effingham Cricket Club and local choral groups. A great loss. He is remembered through a dedicated bench at Chrystie Rec overlooking the cricket pitch. Ray's great passion.*

*Tree planting continued as did more horticultural work to brighten up the village. This is due to work by our Tree Wardens led by Frances Fancourt.*

*Les Huett who looks after our communications has done a great job on keeping everyone in the village updated with what we do and has reenergised our media outlets on all channels - web, tablets, mobiles and Facebook. Carolyn Elson continued her challenging role along with Les Huett in looking after our membership. With around 2500 households this is no easy job.*

*We completed a survey of all the public benches in Bookham, (well over 30) and have a programme to refurbish or replace these as needed. A new bench mainly for the members of The Grange was put in place in Little Bookham Street.*

*Planning takes a lot of effort and every single planning application that comes forward for Bookham is examined and commented on when it is thought appropriate by the Planning Team led by Nigel Smith. Well over 200 applications were examined- this is no easy job.*

*We work with the other RA's in the north of Mole Valley and with them meet regularly with Mole Valley DC at a senior officer level. Here we cover a myriad of topics. Car parks, car sharing schemes business issues, street cleaning, problems with the new Waste Disposal Contract were just a few covered. Also, the SCC/MVDC Local Committee usually see the BRA in attendance. This covers a lot of local matters especially highways related ones. Of particular importance has been the long-lasting problem of flooding at the bottom of East Street. Still not resolved but progress has been made to sort out what is a difficult problem caused by many years of disruption to the complex drainage system and other public utility assets that are congregated under this piece of highway.*

*Eloise Appleby who is the dynamic CEO of The Grange organised a working party with many different interested parties to think through how the High Street can be maintained and improved for us all. This also demonstrated how the relationship between us, and the Bookham Business and Retail Association is maintained.*

*Keith Francis works hard on our liaison with others in locally on buses which has gone through a challenging time as well as providing input and information on the changes to aspects of our Health service both at the GP and Hospital level.*

*David Cox worked hard on the Youth Centre changes as well along with Julia Dickinson on all aspects of the education issues with our schools.*

*The Litter Pick work so well organised by Margaret Lawson continued to grow with sometimes over 30 people turning up on Sundays to walk Bookham streets and paths. This work resulted during the year in well over 200 bags of litter which are disposed of by MVDC.*

*Our finances and secretarial tasks are the responsibility of Chris Pullan, John Howarth, and Andrew Freeman. This involves a variety of interesting jobs including a tax return which always has a zero payment! Michael Agius deputises for me in addition to always being out and about looking after our roads and paths and making sure our relationship with Surrey Highways is good. Without this how we would get some of the tasks completed when there is so much pressure on SCC's small budget for this work. Finally, all Bookham Councillors are full members of the BRA main Committee. This gives us good insight into what the District is doing but also, they all play their full part of most of our tasks.*

*My thanks to all the BRA Committee is inadequate to show how much I appreciate all they do. Without their volunteer effort we could not do any of the many things we do to help this wonderful place of Great and Little Bookham to thrive.*

*We would like more of you are not members to join or to pay this year's subscriptions. Please simply go to the BRA web site ([www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)) and click on the red banner line.*

Further to the Chairman's comment about Eloise Appleby's working party there was a discussion on a possible new development in that the former Coop at the top of the High Street could be turned into a community hub for a wide variety of activities.

On being put to vote the Chairman's Report was **ACCEPTED**.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Chris Pullan) presented the following report:

*This is the fourth occasion on which Accounts have been prepared for the BRA as a Company Limited by Guarantee.*

*The funds are in two parts – Members' Funds and Restricted or Sub Funds. The latter are funds that are earmarked for specific purposes and that have been donated by external bodies for these purposes.*

*In the year Members' Funds increased by £692 to £8,694. Restricted Funds increased by £3,381 to £14,198. Total Funds under the stewardship to the Association as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 were therefore £22,892.*

*Accounts are submitted every year to both Companies House and to the Inland Revenue according to templates on their respective web sites and are done by the Company Secretary.*

### Members' Funds

*Subscriptions of £9,241 were well above the previous year's figure of £7,578. This followed the decision to increase subs from £3 to £5 for 2020 and to encourage members to voluntarily make the increase in 2019! This resulted in additional income of £1,800!*

*Grants amounting to £4,725 were received for expenditure on the Chrystie Road Recreation Ground and on the Barn Hall.*

*The major item of expenditure was on the Newsletter, up from £2,648 in 2018 to £3,276 in 2019.*

*The Association received requests for donations from other organisations. In 2019 this amounted to £1,140 which was an increase from £495 in 2018. The Committee was pleased to make such donations on behalf of the village.*

### Restricted Funds

*Grants were received in respect of the following Funds: £3,300 for Trees, £1,215 for Bookham Heritage and £750 for Christmas Lights. An unexpected bonus was the receipt of £2,792 as a result of the winding up of the Bookham Vision Project. This will be held as a fund to cover expenditure resulting from activities that the Association undertakes in respect of Planning applications and, specifically, in respect of the Mole Valley Local Plan.*

*The Education Fund was formerly money held by the BRA on behalf of DDOCA and is passed to the BRA on the understanding that it is used for matters relating to the education of children from Bookham.*

*Thanks are due to Lawrence Penney for examining the Accounts for 2019.*

On being put to the vote the Accounts were **ACCEPTED**.

*(Note: The Company Secretary confirmed that formal accounts would be filed with Companies House before the end of September, with the Inland Revenue by the end of the year and would be posted on the BRA web site.)*

Because of the difficulties caused by the COVID lockdown that had restricted the activities of the Association the Treasurer (Chris Pullan) gave a brief overview of the financial position in 2020 to date. He mentioned that subscriptions were down but that also general running expenses were down also. There had been two significant payments made during this year. £4,000 had been paid to Lavender Catering that provides 200 meals a day to local people that are in need and £1,000 to the Great Bookham Mask Tree run by Claire Ede who makes machine washable face coverings. These initiatives

were supported by the BRA by facilitating an Emergency Funding Grant from Mole Valley District Council. He also said that work in respect of the Youth Centre and in respect of the Local Plan had been funded from the Association's Restricted Funds that had been earmarked for such purposes.

## **6. Election of Directors**

### 6.1 Resignations from the Board

There were no resignations to note.

### 6.2 Retirement by Rotation

Michael Agius and Andrew Freeman retired from the Board according to Article 55 and offered themselves for re-election. On being put to the vote this was **AGREED**.

### 6.3 Election of new Directors

No nominations had been put forward. The Company Secretary reminded the meeting that the Board could make such appointments during the year and that they would have to be ratified at the following AGM. He said that anyone wishing to join the Board should contact him.

## **7. Election of Officers**

### 7.1 Election of Chairman

Peter Seaward was nominated as Chairman. On being put to the vote this was **AGREED**.

### 7.2 Election of Vice Chairman

Michael Agius was nominated as Vice Chairman. On being put to the vote this was **AGREED**.

### 7.3 Election of Treasurer

Chris Pullan was nominated as Treasurer. On being put to the vote this was **AGREED**.

## **8. Independent Examiner**

Chris Pullan proposed that Lawrence Penney continue as Independent Examiner. This was **AGREED**.

## **9. Membership Subscription**

It was **AGREED** that the membership subscription remain at £5 per household for the year 2021.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### 10.1 Honorary Membership

The Chairman told the meeting that the Board could appoint Honorary Membership to persons who, in their opinion, had rendered long and conspicuous service in the interests of the Association. He therefore proposed that Andrew Freeman be appointed an Honorary Vice President. This was **AGREED** unanimously by the meeting.

### 10.2 Consultations by Mole Valley District Council

Councillors Simon Edge and Richard Moyses both endorsed the view that, within the Council, the voice of the Association was regarded in high regard and with much respect. They were sure that it would be so treated in the forthcoming consultations on the Mole Valley Local Plan and the proposals for a Surrey wide Unitary Authority.

### 10.3 Festival of Sport

Councillor Metyn Huseyin updated the meeting on the progress this year on the improvements to the Chrystie Lane cricket facilities, and on the idea for a Festival of Sport to be arranged (COVID permitting) in the summer of 2021.

### 10.4 Arthur Field and Ray Pritchard

The meeting noted with much regret the passing of Arthur and Ray Pritchard both of whom had given much service to the Association over the years, and that their support would be much missed.

### 10.5 Future Meetings

The Chairman commented on the intention to hold a meeting in the near future (perhaps by ZOOM) on the issue of the Surrey wide Unitary Authority (Ref: Minute 10.2).

**11. Date (and format) of Next Annual General Meeting**

To be advised in due course.