

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on**

**Monday 4th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in**

**St Nicolas Church, The Church Room**

**Present:** Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, Andrew Freeman, Keith Francis, Les Huett, John Allen, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Margaret Lawson, John Howarth, Michael Agius, Richard Davey, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Julia Dickinson, Phil Harris, Marian Williams

**Invited Councillors:** Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr. Clare Curran,

**Ordinary Members:** Jacky Seaward, Andrew Matthews, Mike Herbert,

**Apologies:** Arthur Field, Carolyn Elson, Frances Fancourt, David Cox OBE, Michael Anderson, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Paul Kennedy, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre,

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## **1 Minutes**

1.1 Subject to a few amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

## **2 Matters Arising**

2.1 There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

## **3 Correspondence**

3.1 **St. Nicolas Church Donation:** The church had written to thank the Association for the recent donation of £200.

3.2 **Street Cleaning:** The Council's contract had recently been let to a new contractor and streets are now only cleaned "as and when needed". How this could be monitored was discussed without reaching a conclusion except for members to keep an eye-out for roads that need cleaning and to report them.

3.3 **MVDC Survey:** It was noted that the BRA had been asked to respond to a survey as to how the council should, preferably, raise income. The 3 options were; 1) increase Council Tax by the full 2%; 2) increase fees such as parking charges; or 3) reduce costs. Overall it was concluded that there was insufficient detail to make an informed decision therefore a return to this effect would be submitted.

## **4 Group Updates**

4.1 **Management Group** -Nil to report.

### **4.2 Planning Group**

4.2.1 There had been 17 applications received which the committee considered. As a result of their deliberations, no letters of representation were submitted.

### **4.3 Environment Group**

4.3.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 28 people had participated in the most recent litter-pick in various sites, inc. the Grove estate collecting 18 bags of refuse, plus a car wheel.

4.3.2 **Roadside Weeds:** Simon Edge said that he would be willing to take the lead role on the fight against unwanted roadside fauna. To consider tactics, he will meet with Peter Seaward and Margaret Lawson to discuss.

4.3.3 **Howard of Effingham:** Michael Agius reported that he had written to Guildford Borough Council in respect to the proposed replacement of the Howard of Effingham School to raise 3 points:

- The impact of the proposed development on the Green Belt gap separating Little Bookham and Effingham;
- The impact on the local transport network in and through Bookham, including ensuring safe walking and cycling routes between Bookham and the school;
- The effect of surface and foul water drainage from the school site towards Bookham's drainage system which is already under great pressure.

4.3.4 **Road Closures/Road Works:** In summary it was noted that:

- The resurfacing of Eastwick Road had been delayed due to the bad weather;
- The utility works at the crossroads by the Esso garage, which has been ongoing for a while with traffic light controls, is due to complete on the 5th November; and
- Investigation works will commence at the square-about on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

4.3.5 **Frontage of the BT Building:** It was noted that BT had given permission for the BRA, or a representative of the association, to maintain the area outside of the BT building in Church Road.

### **4.4 Community Group**

4.4.1 **Bookstall:** Due to the lack of storage space and someone to manage the books, etc. it has been decided to no longer run the bookstall and that all the remaining books would be donated to the Queen Elizabeth Foundation.

4.4.2 **Churches Together:** Martin Hollins reported that the Christmas edition of Team Spirit would be published shortly which will include details of the various services.

### **4.5 Communications & Membership Group**

4.5.1 **Membership:** Les Huett reported that the Kim's Café sessions had been successful with a number of residents registering and road stewards handing their collected subs in. Les also said that:

- £8,400 has been received to date with about 16 road stewards still to submit fees collected;
- The website had been further improved, a new tab for more detailed news items; and
- The number of hits continued to grow with 1,630 views, of which 30% were new visitors.

#### 4.6 **Business Group**

4.6.1 David Smith reminded the committee that late night shopping is on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### 5 **Projects Update**

5.1.1 **Benches:** Peter Seaward reported that PIC funds could be used to repair benches that needed it.

5.1.2 **Christmas Lights:** This year the Christmas lights will be plugged into external sockets as opposed to the street lamps. This solution simplifies the approvals process with Skanska and SCC. Lights will be erected during the latter half of November.

### 6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Christmas Shopping Parking:** It was noted that free car parking will be available all day on 5<sup>th</sup> December, which is the late night shopping evening.

6.2 **Remembrance Services:** It was noted that a service would be held at St. Nicolas' church on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, when road closures will be in place. There will also be church services as usual on the Sunday.

6.3 **Public Liability Insurance:** It was questioned whether the insurance covered children, e.g. when accompanying adults on litter picks, and/or adults when clearing weeds. **Action: To investigate the coverage of the PLI in respect to children when participating, for example, in litter picks, and when removing weeds from public areas, including roads.**

6.4 **Recycling Bins:** Metin Huseyin reported that some recycling bins were not being emptied due to them containing inappropriate material, although the contractors were unable to say what inappropriate materials had been uncovered. Metin's suggestion, and fe's in discussion with the relevant authorities, is to place a sticker on the offending bin so that the refuse collector can state the reason. A response is awaited.

6.5 **Blocked Pavements:** Julia raised the issue of cars parking on pavements and the inconvenience to pedestrians, particularly people with a disability in wheelchairs, for example, in Overton Way.

6.6 **Leatherhead Post Office:** Keith Francis reported that the PO would be re-opening soon on the same site.

6.7 **Surrey County Council Headquarters:** Keitha also said that SCC would be moving into their new Woking offices in 2020.

7 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 7:30 pm.

## Action Summary

Action	Owner	Reference
<b>Car Sharing Scheme:</b> Elizabeth Daly to raise this possibility of Bookham having a car sharing scheme with the Policy planning Group. Closed	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 2
<b>Weeds:</b> Elizabeth Daly to speak to the portfolio holder re. the encroaching weed situation. Do note that MVDC has the responsibility for the clearance of weeds.	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 1
<b>Square-about:</b> Clare Curran to find out status of the pending drainage design plan for the square-about. 01/07: Waiting for an officer response.	Clare Curran	13/06/19: 2
<b>Road Stewards:</b> Richard Moyse to speak to Keith Slark as to perhaps joining forces for the collection of annual subscriptions. After some discussion one of the issues is that the BCA is a charity whereas the BRA is a not for profit organisation.	Peter Seaward	06/08/19: 1
<b>Litter Bins:</b> Margaret Lawson to be asked to advise whether there are problem areas where bins would be helpful, next to benches, in reducing litter. Closed: Two sites identified.	Margaret Lawson	06/08/19: 2
<b>Weales Bus Stop &amp; Litter Bin:</b> Richard Moyse to speak to the contractors at Weales to reinstate the bin. At the moment no progress from the contractors	Richard Moyse	06/08/19: 3
<b>Shape the Future of Bookham Village Centre:</b> Cllr. Richard Moyse agreed to speak to officers at MVDC to try and find someone to take the lead on the Shape the Future of Bookham Village Centre initiative. 04/11/19: Richard is awaiting a response from officers.	Richard Moyse	07/10/19: 1
<b>Public Liability Insurance:</b> To investigate the coverage of the PLI in respect to children when participating, for example, in litter picks, and when removing weeds from public areas, including roads.		04/11/19:1