

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.30 pm in
St Nicolas Church, The Church Room**

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, Keith Francis, Les Huett, John Allen, David Cox OBE, Nick Forrer, Martin Hollins, Carolyn Elson, Margaret Lawson,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Richard Moyse, Cllr. Roger Adams, Cllr. Metin Huseyin, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Clare Curran,

Ordinary Members: Sarah Chambers, Simon Chambers, Anthony Matthews, Jacky Seaward, Cliff White,

Apologies: John Howarth, Michael Agius, Arthur Field, Richard Davey, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Michael Anderson, Julia Dickinson, Phil Harris, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Paul Kennedy,

1 Minutes

- 1.1 Subject to one minor alteration, 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 **Car Parks:** Peter Seaward had been in contact with Karen Brimacombe, MDDC's CEO, regarding the the state of the car park at Lower Road in Bookham, raising concerns about the general appearance especially weeds, rubbish, lack of simple painting which makes this area looked uncared for. Karen's response was that the relevant contractors have been asked to address the weeds, litter and blocked drains in the carpark, adding that "The whole carpark is scheduled for an overhaul but this is some time away".
- 3.2 **St. Nicolas Church Donation:** The church has requested a donation towards the cost of refurbishing a path. As part of the discussion it was asked whether the BRA had a policy as to when requests are approved. It was noted that there is not a firm policy with decisions made on merit by the committee. A donation of £200 was approved.
- 3.3 **Square-about Signage:** A local resident had pointed out that there is no signage, when approaching the square-about from the High Street, to indicate to motorists, cyclists, etc. what action to take. Michael Agius had spoken to Highways and this has now been rectified.

4 Shape the Future of Bookham Village Centre

- 4.1 On Tuesday, 17th September a workshop was held, led by Eloise Appleby, CEO of the Grange Centre, to discuss "Shaping The Future of Bookham Village Centre". Over sixty people attended including local business owners, Councillors, members of the BRA committee, I Live in Bookham Facebook team, members of The Grange community and Bookham residents.
- 4.2 Presentations were given by Eloise, Jane Smith (Principle Planning Policy Officer), Candida Goulden (Economic Development Officer) and Heidi Isa who shared her experiences in market towns in Hampshire.
- 4.3 After the presentations the delegates broke up into groups the groups provided their outputs which will be consolidated into a briefing pack a It was noted that Eloise did not wish to lead this piece of work and hoped that MVDC would take up this initiative.

Action: Cllr. Richard Moyses agreed to speak to officers at MVDC to find someone to take the lead.

5 Group Updates

5.1 Management Group

5.1.1 Finance Update: Chris Pullan reported that:

- the bench purchased, in memory of Ray Pritchard, has been paid for and installed near the cricket club. Another, in memory to Jim Smith had also been installed in Little Bookham Street. A third bench is also available for installation.
- hall hire fees are due.
- Public Liability Insurance, at the new £10m level, is due in November, and quotes are being sought. It was suggested that, as MVDC required this level of cover, then they should be approached to pay in increased premium.

5.1.2 Corporation Tax: In accordance with the regulations, John Howarth has submitted the Corporation Tax return, value £nil.

5.2 Planning Group

5.2.1 No letters of representation were made following the last Planning Committee meeting.

5.2.2 **Local Plan.** It was noted that publication of the Plan has been deferred until February/March 2020.

5.3 Environment Group

5.3.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 28 people had participated in the most recent litter-pick collecting 24 bags of refuse.

5.3.2 **Roadside Weeds:** Margaret and Frances Fancourt reported that they had removed weeds and soil from areas of growth from Crabtree Lane and Hale Pit Road. They had asked the Council for some green bags but were advised that they couldn't sanction the public operating on the highways due to safety concerns.

- 5.3.3 **Planters:** A new planter will be installed in Church Road at the end of October. Casselden's has kindly offered to keep it watered.
- 5.3.4 **Virginia Creeper:** It was noted that growth of the Virginia Creeper at the top of the High Street Has got out of control and requires attention.
- 5.3.5 **Waste Bin Collections:** It was noted that the number of missed bins is of concern. MVDC's contractor collects 30,000 bins per week, fo which 700 had recently been missed, although this was down from !,700 at its peak. The country average is 300, so further improvements are required. Members of the public are urged to report all missed bins online within 24 hours, as should roadside weeds, blocked gutters, missed grass cutting, etc. In the case of missed bin collections, the contractor will then be asked to come out, although there is no guarantee if the missed bin isn't reported within 24 hours.
- As an aside, it was noted that the online reporting system wasn't functioning particularly well as no feedback is provided as to whether the issue has been resolved, etc.
- 5.3.6 **Rectory Lane:** It was noted that The Grange have been organising a series of traffic counts prior to petitioning MVDC Local Council in December regarding improving pedestrian crossing facilities for their Clients.
- 5.3.7 **Flood Forum:** Further investigations into the drainage issues at the Squareabout will be carried out over three weeks in November.
- 5.3.8 **Trees:** Julia Dickenson reported, in her absence, that the company that she works for will provide 30 native trees (plus associated stakes and animal protection), and help with planting if needed. The challenge will be finding suitable planting locations, suggestions being some locations on Lower Road and Christie Recreation Grounds. The Committee welcomed this initiative and supported it wholeheartedly.
- 5.3.9 **Polesden Lacey:** The National Trust wishes to refurbish some old gardens that have been lost over the years. They have sought lottery funding and are looking for some local groups that would be willing to look after a small garden.
- 5.4 **Community Group**
- 5.4.1 **Howard of Effingham:** David Cox reported that no children had been refused entry to the school during the last round of schools admissions.
- 5.4.2 **Youth Centre:** David also reported that the Youth Centre had now closed although plans for the future were still under discussion, and there had been a suggestion that the new youth centre could be erected in the Lower Road rec.
- 5.4.3 **Police.** Keith Francis reported that the police are trying to recruit police officers and support staff but are having problems in recruiting suitable personnel.
- 5.4.4 **Transport:** Keith also reported on buses, and that one bus company was moving to zonal ticketing fees. Parking at the station also remains an issue for buses trying to access the car park. Regarding trains, a new autumn/winter time table had been introduced as from the 7th October.
- 5.4.5 **Molebridge GP Surgery:** It was noted that a new GP had taken over the practice nd it was no longer at threat.

5.4.6 **Eastwick Surgery:** It was noted that the surgery had reached capacity and was looking for a potential new site.

5.4.7 **Hanging Baskets:** The future of the hanging baskets is under threat. A total of £5k is needed but commitment is needed from the local traders. One issue is watering the baskets, which the traders used to do, but this had trailed off in recent years, and the cost of employing a contractor to do this would cost around £1.5k.

5.5 **Communications & Membership Group**

5.5.1 **Membership:** Carolyn Elson and Les Huett would be in Kim's Café to collect subs on the 12th and 19th October. £7,600 has been received to date with about 30 road stewards still to submit fees collected.

5.5.2 **Newsletter:** The Newsletter will be with road stewards week commencing 14th October. This will go to all households

5.5.3 **BRA Website.** Les Huett reported that our website had been updated and there had been 1,200 hits during September.

5.6 **Business Group**

5.6.1 **Bookham Retail and Business Association:** It was noted that the Association was temporarily in abeyance, although it is hoped to resume business as usual in the not too distant future.

6 **Projects Update**

6.1.1 **Benches:** Peter Seaward had spoken to the Council regarding the state of the benches within Bookham (Nick Forrer's Report) and bids against the PIC fund would be accepted to improve some benches. In addition, David Belsham will clean and fix some benches.

7 **Any Other Business**

7.1 **Christmas Shopping Parking:** It was questioned as to whether free Saturday car parking would be available this year in the run-up to Christmas. The councillors were not sure but would investigate. If free parking will be available, then this needs publicising.

7.2 **Late Night Shopping:** It was noted that Christmas late night shopping evening is on the 5th December.

7.3 **Cricket:** Metin Huseyin reported that more cricket teams will be playing in the Christie Rec in the future, which the The Vineries would be sponsoring.

7.4 **Bookham Station:** Clare Curran mentioned that, because buses could not access the station, temporary parking restrictions have been imposed. The effectiveness of this measure needs to be assessed before making a permanent application. The outcome is likely to be parking along Church Road and further lines may be needed to deter this consequence.

7.5 **Eastwick Road:** Clare also reported that there is a pinch-point near the traffic lights which is being looked into. One of the issues is cars parking on the pavement and there will be new legislation introduced regarding this in the future.

- 7.6 **BT Frontage:** Frances Fancourt said she had now made contact with the relevant person regarding the patch of barren land along the front of the BT building, and hoped to be able to make improvements in the near future.
- 8 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 4th November 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Action Summary

Action	Owner	Reference
Car Sharing Scheme: Elizabeth Daly to raise this possibility of Bookham having a car sharing scheme with the Policy planning Group. This was raised but would require the council to have the ability to enforce space at the car parks to house. There is a need to set a policy for this.	Elizabeth Daly	13/06/19: 2
Weeds: 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: 1b
Square-about: Clare Curran to find out status of the design plan for the square-about. 01/07: Waiting for an officer response.	Clare Curran	13/06/19: 2
Road Stewards: 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
Litter Bins: Margaret Lawson to be asked to advise whether there are problem areas where bins would be helpful, next to benches, in reducing litter.	Margaret Lawson	06/08/19: 2
Weales Bus Stop & Litter Bin: 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
Memorial Bench – Ray Pritchard: To investigate the purchase of a memorial bench. The sum of £350 has been allocated for installation. Closed: Bench procured and installed.	Arthur Field	06/08/19: 4
Benches: Arthur Field said that he will be investigating the robustness of the 40 plus benches that Nick Forrer had identified across Bookham. It should be possible to use PIC funds for some improvements. Closed: The Council has agreed that PIC funds can be applied for.	Arthur Field	05/08/19 1