

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

Present: David Smith (chair), Chris Pullan, John Allen, Margaret Lawson, Julia Dickinson, Arthur Field, Nick Forrer, Frances Fancourt, John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Smith,

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

Ordinary Members: Nancy Goodacre, Marian Williams,

Apologies: Peter Seaward, Michael Agius, Les Huett, Keith Francis, Carolyn Elson, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. John Chandler, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Liz Pemberton, Tony Alsbury, Ray Pritchard, David Cox,

1 Stan Miles

- 1.1 Before starting, David Smith spoke about the sad loss of Stan Miles who had been the chair of the Planning Committee for many years. Stan will be missed, not only the BRA, but also his friends and family, the scouts and many other organisations that he was involved in. A minute's silence was held.

2 Minutes

- 2.1 Subject to several minor typos, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 There was one query regarding the bit of land outside the BT building in Bookham. The land appears to be quite barren due to the contractor perhaps using weed-killer to keep growth at a minimum, but one resident feels this could be quite an attractive plot if maintained, and the resident would be willing to maintain it. **Action: Frances Fancourt said that she would inquire as to whether this would be feasible.**

5 Group Updates

- 5.1 **Management Group**

- 5.1.1 **AGM:** John Howarth reported that the AGM is on the 21st May, but this will need to be deferred as all members need to be given 21 days notice which won't be met with the current Newsletter distribution plans. It was agreed that the meeting would proceed although the formal AGM business would be deferred until a later date. It was also noted that David Smith and Peter Seaward would be standing down but are willing to stand for re-election.
- 5.1.2 **Year-End Accounts:** Chris Pullen reported that the year-end accounts had now been examined and showed a small overspend in the year of £728 which was mainly due to on the recreation ground project. It was also noted that subscriptions remained virtually the same as the previous year.
- 5.1.3 **Grants:** Chris also reported that two grants had been received. One was for £1,700 for the war memorial and another for £1,400 for a grass roller.
- 5.1.4 **Public Liability Insurance:** Chris also said that the BRA would need to upgrade its Public Liability Insurance from £5m to £10m, although a decision is not needed until November when the current insurance expires, although the cost would be £680, up from £390. **Action: Metin Huseyin agreed to see if some cheaper quotes could be obtained.**
- 5.1.5 **Health and Safety Policy:** Last month it was noted that it would be useful if we had a Health and Safety Policy, so as to cover any activities that we ask residents to do. This would apply to the Litter Pick activities. **Action carried forward. Les Huett will work with Margaret Lawson to develop such a policy.**
- 5.2 **Planning Group**
- 5.2.1 **Planning Applications:** It was noted that 18 planning applications were considered between 14th February and 15th March. Of these, the committee made 2 representations (56A Dorking Road and 48 Dowlans Road).
- 5.3 **Environment Group**
- 5.3.1 **Flooding:** It was reported that the exploratory work by the square-about had been completed and the design plan was now awaited.
- 5.3.2 **Gully Cleansing:** Work had begun and would be carried out during the night/early morning to minimise disruption.
- 5.3.3 **Roads:** Clare Curran said that fixing of pot holes is ongoing and that micro-surfacing would be starting soon as a preventative measure to improve longevity.
- 5.3.4 **Eastwick Drive:** Clare Curran reported that the first stage of the re-surfacing of Eastwick Drive would commence in the summer.
- 5.3.5 **Abandoned Cars:** It was noted that abandoned cars should be reported to MVDC, and that there is an online facility for doing so.
- 5.3.6 **Station Parking:** There are concerns that the Bookham Station car park is often full. As a result, people driving to the station have no option but to park on the road and this is causing issues and perhaps we should ask SCC Highways to undertake a site visit to assess the situation and possible remedies.

5.3.7 **Litter Picks.** The next litter pick is on the 4th April which is part of the Britain Spring Clean initiative. All are welcome. Disappointingly it was also noted that the waste collected was not being separated by the Council, therefore recyclable items are going into land-fill!

5.4 **Community Group**

5.4.1 **Police.** It was noted that the police are holding a series of “Policing Your Community” events across Surrey. The one for Mole Valley is being held on Wednesday 3rd April in Dorking Halls starting at 7.00pm. Also, it has been announced that Surrey Police will be moving their headquarters to Leatherhead.

5.4.2 **Transport.** Keith Francis reported that 479 bus would be continuing until the end of July. This is a non-subsidised service so its long term future is not known.

5.5 **Business Group (External Relations)**

5.5.1 **Co-op:** David Smith mentioned that the former Co-op shop at the top of the High Street was now empty with no definitive plans, although dividing it into 3 shops was a possibility.

5.5.2 **David Fuller:** David also reported that David Fuller was retiring after circa 50 years in the village.

5.5.3 **Banking:** The former Lloyds bank remains empty with little interest to date. Also, there is only the one ATM which does run out of money at times which means shoppers go elsewhere, and the increase in parking charges had also had an impact on footfall.

5.6 **Communications and Membership Group, Business Group, History and Memorials Group**

5.6.1 **Newsletter:** It was noted that contributions for the Newsletter are required by Wednesday 3rd April.

5.6.2 **Subscriptions:** It was noted that residents can now pay their subscriptions online.

6 **Projects Update**

Nothing to report.

7 **Any Other Business**

7.1 **Village Signs:** There had been a query as to the siting of the new Bookham signs in Little Bookham Street, i.e. in the wrong location. Although it may not be in the ideal position, the siting was approved on the basis of safety by SCC Highways.

7.2 **Local Plan:** Metin Huseyin reported that the Local Plan is likely to propose 2 sites in Bookham for significant development, although these sites are not in the public domain at the present time.

7.3 **Great & Little Bookham:** The survey that the BRA undertook as to whether the Post Office should be requested to identify Great Bookham and Little Bookham as separate villages had been heavily in favour. The Post Office will now undertake its own consultation.

- 7.4 **Eastwick Road:** Due to gas repair works, Eastwick Road will be subject to disruption, including road closures, for up to 9 weeks. Work will then move to Keswick Road.
- 7.5 **Youth Centre:** Clare Curran reported that the Youth Centre would be closing as expected in July although existing services would continue albeit from several different locations.
- 7.6 **Brockham Emergency Voluntary Service (BERT):** Richard Moyse said that a representative from BERT would be happy to attend a future meeting to speak about the work they are doing in Brockham. **Action: Richard to approach BERT.**
- 8 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 13th May 2019 at 7:30 pm.