

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Monday 4th February 2019 at 7.30 pm in
St Nicolas Church, The Church Room**

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Michael Agius, Carolyn Elson, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Les Huett, Ray Pritchard, Julia Dickinson, John Howarth, Keith Francis, David Cox, Nick Forrer, Andrew Freeman, Dan Coffin, Geoff Tranter

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

Ordinary Members: Clifford White, Richard Davey, Win Magyar (Transition Bookham)

Apologies: Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. John Chandler, Cllr. Richard Moyse, Margaret Lawson, Frances Fancourt, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Arthur Field, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Michelle Smith, David Smith, Liz Pemberton, Tony Alsbury, Stan Miles, Marian Williams

1 Minutes

1.1 Subject to several minor typos 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 Neighbourhood Watch: There had been an approach from Neighbourhood Watch as to whether the initiative could be revitalised within Bookham. Action: Peter Seward to the police.

3.2 **Heathrow Airport:** The airport authorities have issued a consultation document regarding changes to their flight paths. A link to the consultation is now available on the BRA's website.

3.3 **Bookstall:** Several queries had been received regarding the future of the bookstall that is usually held at the Old Barn Hall (due to ill health this has not been held recently). It was noted that a volunteer has come forward with an offer of help if needed. For discussion at the next meeting, subject to contact being made with the current bookstall lead.

3.4 **Bookham Vanguard:** It was noted that the residual Bookham Vanguard funds of £2,700 had been donated to the BRA to enhance the village. It was agreed that a decision as to how the funds could be used would be deferred until the various options had been considered.

4 Group Updates

4.1 **Management Group**

- 4.1.1 **Finance.** Chris Pullen reported that MVDC would contribute £1,250 towards the cost of the Christmas lights, and The Anchor pub had also donated £500.
- 4.1.2 **Barclays Internet Banking:** Chris Pullan reported that the account was now set-up, although Andrew Freeman, as an approved authoriser, still needs to be verified with the bank.
- 4.1.3 **Year End Accounts:** Chris also reported that there was a small surplus for 2018.
- 4.1.4 **Directors:** John Howarth reminded the Committee that at the forthcoming AGM, two directors must retire, although they are eligible for reselection. Action: John to discuss with the directors concerned.
- 4.2 **Planning Group**
- 4.2.1 **Planning Committee Membership:** It was noted that three new members had joined the committee – Nigel Smith, Judy Smith and Julia Dickinson.
- 4.2.2 **Planning Applications:** It was noted that, of 17 planning applications submitted between 7th December and 11th January regarding Bookham, the Planning Committee had written in response to 2 of them, namely land to the rear of Northdown House in Leatherhead Road and Corner Cottage/Crossways also in Leatherhead Road.
- 4.2.3 **Mole Valley Future Plan:** Peter Seaward reported that the Future Plan would be issued in June for a 6 week consultation. The options are brownfield sites, of which there are virtually none left with Bookham, or Greenfield sites. Peter added that the number of new dwellings required in Bookham wasn't known but, as Bookham has approximately 2/15 of the population of Mole Valley, then, to be equitable, this would equate to between 800 and 1,000 properties over the next 15 years, but the Likelihood is that the number could be much higher given the trend to develop already developed areas, i.e. the north of the district. The arguments against such a large increase in numbers could be, 1) harm to the character of the village, and 2) the inadequacy of the infrastructure.
- 4.2.4 On the latter it was noted that infrastructure issues are most likely to be addressed through larger developments, but it was not a criterion for planning generally as CIL funding is expected to pay for infrastructure improvements (although this is inadequate).
- 4.2.5 It was agreed that the campaign should start soon with an email communication to our distribution list; that it will be on the Agenda for the AGM; explore the possibility of finding an expert to help formulate objections. Peter and Les Huett to come up with a communications plan.
- 4.3 **Environment Group**
- 4.3.1 **Gullies:** It was reported that the Dorking Road/Poleston Lacey gullies works had now been completed which should help the drainage issues.
- 4.3.2 **Squareabout:** The £50k survey of the issues was nearing completion. The report should be available soon.
- 4.3.3 **Toilets:** Peter Seaward reported that he is chasing MVDC to refurbish the toilets. Signage is also lacking.

4.4 **Community Group** – Nil to report.

4.5 **Communications and Membership Group**

4.5.1 **Campaigns:** Les reported that increasing number of people are visiting the BRA's website and Twitter account. Forthcoming comms will be regarding the Mole Valley Future Plan.

4.5.2 **Business Group**

4.5.3 **Car Parks:** A message from David Smith noted that if there is a significant increase in the local population due to the extra dwellings being proposed, then additional car parking spaces would be needed, and better quality car parks.

5 **Projects Update** - Nil to report

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Car Club:** There had been a survey in the most recent Newsletter. The results were largely positive with 20 out of 28 respondents saying they would be interested, however, to be viable there would need to be approximately 100 participants. Such a scheme would probably be based in Lower Shott care park with a designated parking bay. It was agreed that such a scheme could be viable and that the BRA should continue to drip-feed comms to residents to raise awareness and interest. Julia Dickinson agreed to take the lead on this initiative.

6.2 **Police Precept:** It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro's proposed rise in council tax for policing in return for 100 extra officers in Surrey was approved by the county's Police and Crime Panel. The decision will mean the policing element of a Band D Council Tax bill will increase by £2 a month – the equivalent of around 10% across all bands. In return, the PCC has pledged to increase the number of officers and PCSOs in the county by 100 by April 2020.

6.3 **Aviation 2050 Green Paper:** Keith Francis reported that there is a Green paper out for consultation regarding legislative airspace change proposals. The closing date for responses is 11 April 2019.

7 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 1st April 2019 at 7:30 pm.