

# THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

**Present:** Peter Seaward(chair), David Smith, Chris Pullan, John Allen, Margaret Lawson, Les Huett, Julia Dickinson, Arthur Field, Nick Forrer, John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Michelle Smith, Carolyn Elson, David Cox, Richard Davey,

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

**Ordinary Members:** Cllr. Paul Kennedy

**Apologies:** Michael Agius, Keith Francis, Cllr Simon Edge, Phil Harris, Michael Anderson, Liz Pemberton, Tony Alsbury, Ray Pritchard, Frances Fancourt, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Marian Williams, Geoff Tranter,

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## 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 There was no correspondence to note.

## 4 Group Updates

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

### 4.2 Planning Group

4.2.1 **Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee met on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and considered 12 planning applications, of which the Committee decided to submit two letters of representations as follows:

- 19/0518 – 4, Childs Hall Close - Erection of first floor extension with front and rear dormer windows over existing garage, part conversion of garage to habitable space and alterations to rear windows and doors.
- 19/0605 – Land to the side of 4, Brodrick Grove - Erection of 1 No. 2 bedroom detached dwelling.

4.2.2 **Weales Clock:** The owners of the premises is not willing to have the clock reinstated until the planning application has been determined, the latest of which has been refused, but an amended application is likely. The same applies to the shop, i.e. it won't reopen until any new planning application is determined.

#### 4.3 **Environment Group**

4.3.1 **Flood Forum:** The Forum will be meeting in 2 weeks' time when the issues at the square-about design plan will be discussed.

4.3.2 **Flooding:** It was noted that the previous flooding in Little Bookham Street appeared to have disappeared, although the reason is unclear.

4.3.3 **Rectory Lane/Lower Road:** It was noted that improvements are planned at the roundabout, particularly to benefit cyclist, and that a new pelican crossing is planned by the new development.

4.3.4 **Litter Picks.** Margaret Lawson reported that the amount of litter picked up during the last litter-pick was less than previously when there were 22 volunteers. Some of these people, and others, are doing their own litter picks and it was agreed that a thank-you notice should be published on notice boards or in Look Local. **Action: Les Huett/Margaret Lawson to agree the best mechanism for thanking litter-pick volunteers.**

4.3.5 **The Crown Public House:** It was noted that, by some, the pub is of great architectural interest but is not listed, however many public houses are closing therefore it was discussed whether an application should be made for designating it an Asset of Community Value. Margaret Lawson is in contact with CAMERA on this issue.

#### 4.4 **Community Group**

4.4.1 **Howard of Effingham School:** David Cox reported that children within Bookham should be able to go to the HoE this coming year as there should be adequate spaces. It was noted that the admissions policy is the responsibility of the school governors, not SCC.

4.4.2 **Other Educational Points of Interest:** Clare Curran reported that there is likely to be a new Free School in Guildford, that the independent sector is still thriving and expanding and that if additional state secondary school places were needed, then Therfield School could be expanded.

4.4.3 **Youth Centre:** David Cox also reported that the youth centre closes on the 27<sup>th</sup> July and that most of the current occupants had made plans to re-locate their services, and that the contents were being sold off or given away to needy groups. Bookham Youth Project will continue in the community but without its hub. As to the centre's replacement, there doesn't appear to be much progress although a proposal may be forthcoming soon.

4.4.4 **Car Sharing Scheme:** It was noted that, of those that responded to the survey in the Newsletter, there was a clear majority in favour although the sample number was low. **Action: The committee needs to decide who should take the car sharing scheme forward.**

4.4.5 **Keyholder Scheme:** It was noted that as part of the local emergency planning there is a need to maintain a list of keyholders to halls etc. that could be used in an emergency. The current list is probably out-of-date and in need of review. **Action: Nick Forrer has a copy of the current keyholders. Peter Seaward will contact MVDC as to how to get the list updated.**

#### 4.5 **Communications and Membership Group, Business Group, History and Memorials Group**

4.5.1 **Newsletter:** It was noted that two versions of the Newsletter had been distributed. The normal one had been distributed to roads where there is a road steward. A second version, funded using Vanguard monies, was personally delivered by Les Hewitt and Carolyn Elson, to all houses where there is no road steward, some 1,500 dwellings! This version had, on its front page, a headline to say there is no road steward for their road and a plea for help.

4.5.2 **Online Payments:** Online payments commenced last month and the uptake has been reasonably good with 65 payments to date, of which 80% paid the higher amount of £5.

4.5.3 **Look Local:** Les Hewitt has temporarily taken over from Ray Pritchard although a permanent volunteer is requested.

4.5.4 **Website:** Les also reported that he had expanded the capacity of the website due to the growing number of visits, 800 in the last month. There was a view expressed that the website promoted some of the bigger schemes the BRA get involved with, e.g. Christmas lights, hanging baskets, etc. it didn't actually promote the "hidden" thing we do such as planning, school catchment areas, etc. and these are issues that are important and of interest to the public. **Action: Richard Davey to work with Les Hewitt on reviewing the website.**

4.5.5 **Road Stewards:** Carolyn Elson also reported that 2 new road stewards had come forward to offer their services.

#### 4.6 **Business Group (External Relations)**

4.6.1 **Trading Conditions in Bookham:** David Smith reported that trading within the village is difficult and there are currently 3 empty shops with two closing their doors on Mondays. Footfall was lessening and the availability of cash was an issue, i.e. there is just the one ATM which often runs out of money. In addition, car parking charges are having an impact as Fetcham and Effingham have free parking, and lease renewals continue to be expensive with no concessions being offered.

### 5 **Projects Update**

**Memorials:** Peter Seaward reported that there are 4 names on the war memorial at Little Bookham Church, whereas a total of 7 names have now been identified. These cannot be added to the memorial so it is likely that a plaque would be added in the vicinity.

## 6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 **AGM:** It was noted that due to several issues that the calling notice in the Newsletter did not get out in time therefore the formal AGM will need to be put back, with a new calling notice issued, probably in the next Look Local. The meeting will go ahead to present issues arising from the anticipated Local Plan, 'Future Mole Valley'. Also, unfortunately the councillors are unable to attend due to a council meeting and Peter Seaward is also unable to attend so John Howarth will be taking the lead.
- 6.2 **Graffiti:** It was noted that graffiti had appeared on the hoardings at the Weals store. Apparently the owners had removed graffiti previously and the Council had done so this time around, but in future it is the responsibility of the owner.
- 6.3 **Station Phone Booth:** The phone booth had also been targeted. Whilst probably not used very often, BT are obliged to maintain one there.
- 7 **Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7:30 pm.

### Action Summary

Action	Owner	Reference
Health & Safety Policy: 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. Les Huett will work with Margaret Lawson to develop such a policy.	Les Huett / Margaret Lawson	01/04/19: 1
Richard Moyse to invite a representative of the Brockham Emergency Voluntary Service (BERT) to attend a future meeting to speak about the work they are doing in Brockham.	Richard Moyse	01/04/19: 2
Les Huett/Margaret Lawson to agree the best mechanism for thanking litter-pick volunteers.	Les Huett / Margaret Lawson	13/05/19: 1
The committee needs to decide who should take the car sharing scheme forward.	Committee	13/05/19: 2
Nick Forrer has a copy of the current keyholders. Peter Seaward will contact MVDC as to how to get the list updated.	Nick Forrer / Peter Seaward	13/05/19: 3
Richard Davey to work with Les Hewitt on reviewing the website.	Richard Davey / Les Hewitt	13/05/19: 4