

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on

Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30 pm in

St Nicolas Church, The Church Room

Present: Peter Seaward (chair), Chris Pullan, John Howarth, Andrew Freeman, Les Huett, John Allen, Nick Forrer, David Cox OBE, Martin Hollins, Keith Francis, Julia Dickinson, Carolyn Elson, Geoff Tranter, Richard Davey, Paul Kennedy, Diane Poole, Michelle Smith, David Smith,

Invited Councillors: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cllr. Nancy Goodacre, Cllr. Metin Huseyin,

Ordinary Members: Jacky Seaward, Clifford White, James Chambers, Zena Rose, Mike Herbert, Andrew Matthews, Mary Chambers

Apologies: Margaret Lawson, Michael Agius, Frances Fancourt, Dan Coffin, Cllr. Roger Adams, Arthur Field, Marian Williams, Cllr Simon Edge, Cllr. Elizabeth Daly, Cllr. Richard Moyse,

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 **Ashdale:** It was noted that a new gate had been erected at the end of Ashdale, leading to the Crabtree Lane/Dorking Road footpath. Several people have objected to this, although there are also several residents in favour. It is private land and is not a SCC designated Right of Way. If the gate is to remain open or removed, then a Definitive Map Modification Order is required.

4 AGM

4.1 John Howarth talked through the requirements of the AGM. The Calling Notice will be published in Look Local. Michael Agius and Andy Freeman are due to stand down as directors although both can be re-elected, and are happy to be so.

There was also a discussion as to a speaker and several options were considered and will be taken forward.

5 Group Updates

5.1 Management Group

5.1.1 **Finance:** Chris Pullan reported that the year-end accounts have been passed to Lawrence Penney for examination. These showed a surplus of £692 for the year, a large proportion of which could be accounted for by many residents paying higher voluntary contribution £5 instead of the £3 membership fee.

5.2 Planning Group

5.2.1 **Planning Committee:** The Committee had considered 24 applications and had written 3 letters of representation on:

- 17 Lower Shott (20/0183);
- The Cedars Communal Drive (20/0186); and
- Bookham Railway Station (20/0241).

5.2.2 **Local Plan:** Geoff Tranter gave an update as to the process being followed to determine the BRA's response to the Local Plan. A further meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Group is planned, following which the response will be drawn up. This will be finalised within the next 2 weeks, and circulated to members for comment.

5.2.3 There is also a public meeting planned for Wednesday 4th March in the Old Barn Hall, and the views of the public will also be taken into account.

5.2.4 Julia Dickinson made the point that Effingham, Bookham and Fetcham are all identified by the Environment Agency as "critical flooding areas" and therefore shouldn't be developed.

5.3 Environment Group

5.3.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 26 people had participated in the most recent litter-pick, collecting 21 bags of refuse, plus tree debris.

5.3.2 **Wombles:** Margaret also mentioned that 12 Wombles had volunteered which is an excellent result, and it is hoped more will be recruited in the coming months.

5.3.3 **Roads:** It was noted that Eastwick Drive had been resurfaced and thanks were extended to Clare Curran to have achieved this, along with Crabtree Lane.

5.4 Community Group

5.4.1 **Education:** David Cox reported that he is still looking at the admission's policy and future capacity of local schools. He believes that primary schools should have future capacity although the figures do need to be checked should the number of new dwellings as proposed within the Local Plan comes to fruition.

5.4.2 **Youth Centre:** David Cox also spoke about plans to replace the now-closed Lower Road youth centre. At a meeting earlier in the day with MVDC and SCC. David favours the Lower Road rec site whereas SCC prefer the existing site. Discussions continue next week when it is hoped a definitive decision will be taken.

5.4.3 **Police:** Keith Francis reported that Surrey Police are having difficulties in recruiting staff and police constables. It is also believed that more officers will be issued with tasers.

5.4.4 **Buses:** Keith Francis confirmed that the new operator of the 479 bus service is Arriva. On other services, the 465, operated by London United, will accept Oyster card payments shortly and regarding the 408, a decision is still awaited as to who the new operator will be.

5.5 **Environment Group**

5.5.1 **Litter Pick:** Margaret Lawson reported that 32 people had participated in the most recent litter-pick, collecting 24 bags of refuse.

5.6 **Community Group**

5.6.1 **Epsom & St. Helier NHS Trust:** It was noted that the trust has issued a consultation document having been allocated £500m for a new hospital, potentially in Sutton for emergency services and the treatment of serious/complex cases. A local public meeting is scheduled for 14th March in the Old Barn Hall.

5.6.2 **Late Night Shopping:** Churches Together have organised this December event in the run-up to Christmas. The future of this event is currently under discussion as there is conflicting views as to how beneficial it is for all concerned.

5.7 **Communications & Membership Group**

5.7.1 **Local Plan:** Les Huett reported that a "Bookham Needs You" leaflet had been delivered to 6,000 houses, raising awareness of the Local Plan and encouraging residents to respond to the consultation. The BRA will, after Wednesday, have hosted two public meetings, plus updates on the website. MVDC has also delivered a postcard to each house and response forms are available in the library.

5.7.2 John Howarth expressed his concern regarding some of the figures used in the BRA leaflet, believing that they could be challenged. He had provided comments prior to publication but these had not been taken on board, and requested that it be minuted that he did not endorse the Bookham Needs You leaflet.

5.7.3 **Look Local:** The centre spread of Look Local contained BRA's newsletter and had been delivered to 7,000 households.

5.8 **Business Group**

5.8.1 Nil to report.

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Keswick Road:** Clare Curran reported that there is an ongoing issue with a house that is being developed but the contractor has closed the pavement due to safety concerns. Neighbours are disgruntled but the developer is within their rights.

6.1.1 **Car Parking Restrictions – Bookham Station:** Clare also reported that an order is being submitted to Highways to make the temporary parking restrictions near the station permanent, although the timeline is not clear.

6.1.2 **Auction Sale of Land:** It was previously reported that various patches of land had been auctioned for £60k plus. Now one of those patches of land has been resold just weeks later for £95k!

- 6.1.3 **Coronavirus:** Clare stated that SCC's Public Health team was working closely with Public Health England regarding the Coronavirus, tracing patients, etc. in an effort to contain the outbreak.
- 6.1.4 **Rectory Lane:** Clare also reported that a safety audit had been undertaken by the Safety Group and had subsequently met with SCC to discuss various options to improve the layout, safety and on-street parking. Highways has a budget to undertake the work but not revenue to draw up the plans. The Committee agreed to release between £4k and £5k of CIL funds to enable the plans to be drawn up.
- 6.1.5 **Fairfield Medical Practice:** Keith Francis reported that due to ill health there was limited capacity to see patients at the surgery, therefore patients should perhaps seek alternative ways of being seen, e.g. LIVI or travel to Leatherhead Hospital.
- 7 Next BRA Meeting:** Monday 6th April 2020 at 7:30 pm.