



<b>Committee Meeting held on:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>At:</b>	Church Room, St Nicolas Church
<b>Committee members present:</b>	Simon Edge (Chair), Les Huett, Gill Caldwell, Frances Fancourt, Julia Dickenson, Neil McDowal, Geoff Tranter, Dianne Poole, Neil McDowall, John Dowman, Carolyn Elson, David Armstrong.
<b>Guests present:</b>	Jonathan Harrison
<b>Councillors present:</b>	C Cllr Clare Curran.
<b>Apologies received from:</b>	Keith Whales, David Cox, Margaret Lawson, Cllr Paul Kennedy, Cllr Elizabeth Daly.

**Corrections from previous meeting:**

<b>Item 1</b>	No corrections

**Actions from previous meeting(s):**

Reference (date / number)	Owner	Latest update
3/02/2025	Les Huett	1. Submit Annual Return to Companies House.

**Agenda**

.	<b>Minute</b>
2.	<p><b>2.1 Finance:</b> The Treasurer had paid £50 for BRA's pitch at this summers Village Day. The Examiner had passed last years accounts as correct.</p> <p><b>2.2 Secretariat:</b> The Secretary confirmed that the Annual Return had been submitted to Companies House. Les Huett stated that the next Newsletter would contain, besides the main features, other items of interest such as bulb planting, the history of Bookham Railway Station and Shire Horses on Bookham Common.</p>

	<b>Minute</b>
	<p><b>2.3 Membership:</b> Carolyn Elson confirmed that following an email reminder, outstanding subscriptions totalling £200 had now been received. The latest newsletter would contain a reminder for next years subscriptions.</p>
<b>3. Planning</b>	<p><b>3.1 Preston Farm:</b> John Dowman confirmed that the MV Planning Committee had passed the Plan becoming effective on the 7<sup>th</sup> April.  <b>3.2 Bookham Master Plan:</b> Residents engagement was too low to be seen as an endorsement of the Master Plan. It contained many undeliverable projects ad projects with minimal support. However, the Master Plan was still due to be discussed by the MV Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> April. Whatever the outcome, it was considered that not sufficient consultation had taken place.</p>
<b>4. Policing and Community Safety</b>	<p><b>4.1 Recent Incidents:</b> A serious incident had recently occurred at the rear of the High Street where bins and a small ornamental tree had been deliberately set on fire. It was understood that the incident was being investigated by the CID.</p>
<b>5 Environment</b>	<p><b>5.1 Litter Picking:</b> A Session had been held on the 6th April at which 21 bags had been filled with a wide selection of contents.  <b>5.2 Blue Hearts:</b> Dianne Poole stated that contractors had mown all grass verges although without a great deal of finesse. Most of the Blue Heart sections were doing well with a fine display of flowers.  <b>5.3 Trees:</b> Frances Fancourt said that a number of kind residents were watering the new trees planted and overall, the roads looked most attractive now that the blossoms were out. The supply of free trees by the SCC would soon come to an end.</p>
<b>6 Projects</b>	<p><b>6.1 Notice Boards:</b> Geoff Tranter stated that the refurbished Notice Board next to the car park in Lower Road was now in full use.  <b>6.2 Benches:</b> Four new benches were being delivered in 3 weeks time. Also a replacement bench was being delivered but with a delivery charge of £200.  <b>6.3 New Toilet:</b> The refurbished Toilet Block in Lower Shotts had now been completed other than some minor details. The provision of the 3 murals had yet to take place, the Howard of Effingham School being asked for designs.</p>
<b>7 Local Government Re-Organisation</b>	<p>C Cllr Clare Curran gave an outline of the planned procedure.          *The SCC and Surrey District Councils had submitted a draft outline to HMG.          *More detailed plans were to be submitted by mid May.          *The proposals ranged from a 1, 2 or 3 Councils in Surrey although it was expected that the 2 Council Proposal would be accepted.          *A Surrey Mayor was to be elected with overall responsibility for Policing, Fire, Housing, Health and Strategic Planning.          *HMG would make a firm decision in 2026 for introduction in 2027.</p>
<b>8. Other Organisations Updates</b>	<p><b>8.1 Churches Together:</b> Gill Caudwell stated that events included Cream Teas, and two Concerts.  <b>8.2 Youth Centre:</b> David Cox had advised that the proposal was still awaiting planning permission following the introduction of new regulations.</p>

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<b>9. Councillor updates</b>	<p><b>9.1 Road Works:</b> C Cllr Clare Curran stated that gas enhancement work was being carried out by the Squarabout in connection with the transformation of the Old Crown Public House into a Heartwood Pub/Restaurant. Work was also being undertaken in Church Road introducing 20 mph speed limits down as far as Sole Farm Avenue. A number of roads were being re-gritted and the SCC were employing a firm to remove weeds from certain roads.</p> <p>It was recognised that the current mowing of the grass verges was not satisfactory and attempts would be made to improve mowing in the future. Also, improvements to Chalk Pit Lane were being considered by the SCC.</p> <p><b>9.2 Building Enhancements:</b> The exterior fabric of the Bookham Library was to be improved while Keswick House was due to be converted into a Care Centre for the elderly needing supported living. Also, a Horticulture Centre had been introduced in The Grange.</p> <p><b>9.3 Local Schools:</b> Owing to a decline in the rate of childbirth in the area, a number of local schools were currently under supplied with pupils, which was particularly concerning for the Polesden Lacey Infant School.</p> <p><b>9.4 Flood Forum:</b> C Cllr Clare Curran asked for views on a new Flood Forum to be reformed with the local MP in the Chair. This it was hoped would permit more active responses from particularly the Environment Agency. This was supported by all those present.</p> <p><b>9.5 United Charities:</b> The Charities would like to enlist the help a an experienced person from BRA to advise on the fabric of its Alms Houses and relevant Planning Matters.</p>
<b>10 Chairmans Updates</b>	<p><b>.1 Brava Brequest:</b> It was agreed that the sum of £885 received from Brava should be used to install a High Street Bench.</p> <p><b>10.2 Local History:</b> It was agreed that Vivienne White's request for help with the printing of her latest book on Lower Bookham's history would be considered when costing was available.</p>

### 2025 Committee Meetings

Date	Location
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM – Old Barn Hall 7.30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm

Bookhams Residents' Association

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Date	Location
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Church Room, St Nicolas Church. 7.30 pm