

BOOKHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 10053863

DIRECTORS MEETING

Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5th June 2024

Held at Maddox Cottage Little Bookham

In Attendance: Simon Edge(Chair), Les Huett, Carolyn Elson, Geoff Tranter, Neil McDowall, C Cllr Clare Curran, Cllr Roger Adams, David Armstrong.

Apologies/New Director: It was noted that David Smith (a BRA Director) had not attended a Meeting for sometime. It was agreed he should be consulted as to whether he wished to continue in this role.

It was agreed that Keith Whale should be invited to become a Director as part of his role as Chair of the BRA Planning Committee.

1. Chairmans Introduction: The AGM was planned to take place on Thursday 18th July and Les Huett confirmed that all would be in place. The meeting would be followed by an address from Seonaid Webb of the MVDC.

2. Finance: The Treasurer stated that the total from donations and subscriptions stood at £4.9K. The new public notice boards on Bookham Station had yet to be paid for but the position of the board on the up London platform was not in a sensible place, Our application to place BRA on a Charitable Status had been turned down but certain changes had been suggested which could allow the decision to be revised.

The MV Grant towards improvements to Lower shott had not yet all been confirmed.

It was noted that any surplus left over from the Quiz Night would be paid to BRA. In response to a query from Les Hewitt, the Treasurer confirmed that BRA did not have a Debit Card although there could be a case for having one in the future.

3. Secretariat: AGM arrangements confirmed in Chairman's Introduction.

4. Communicatons: Les Huett confirmed that the June BRA Newsletter had now been printed and would be circulated by the Road Stewards as soon as possible. It contained three important articles namely the Preston Farm Planning Applications, the modifications to the Local Plan and the proposed new Youth Centre. Also included were summaries of

improvements under way in the Bookhams such as pavement uplifts and new planting in Lower Shotts.

5. Membership: Carolyn Elson reported that total membership showed an increase of 38 as compared with last year.

6. Projects: Nothing to report.

7. Planning:

7.1 Bookham Master Plan: Work had commenced on the preparation of the Bookham Master Plan but to date BRA had not been properly consulted. The main objectives were to improve access to the High Street and upper part of Church Road and to make the area more attractive to shoppers.

7.2 High Street Traders: It was recognized that the proposed Improvements would be of great benefit to the Traders but to date they had shown little interest either in the plan itself or the enhancements provided by BRA in the shape of hanging baskets and Christmas Lights. After discussion, it was agreed that a questionnaire should be sent to all traders simply asking are they willing to cooperate in making enhancements to the High Street and willing to pay their share of the cost. If a negative response was received it was agreed that BRA support would be withdrawn except perhaps for the Christmas Lights. A time limit of 2 weeks was agreed to be applied. A possible saving in costs could be to substitute artificial flowers in the baskets to avoid watering.

7.3 Beckley Parade: Although not part of the Master Plan the shops along the Beckley Parade could benefit from the improvements being suggested to the High Street. However this would be difficult to achieve as the land was privately owned.

7.4 Public Consultation: It was understood that the MVDC were proposing to consult a number of people Including BRA about the Bookham Master Plan during the summer and to the public in October. It was agreed that BRA should advise residents of the proposal through a series of notifications.

7.5 Banking Hub: C Cllr Clare Curran stated that a further attempt was being made to introduce a Banking Hub in Bookham.

8. Environment:

8.1 Benches: Geoff Tranter suggested that a request should be made to the SCC for a grant towards the cost of new benches. It was realized

that no action would be taken until after the Election. In the meantime an application would be filled in.

8.2 CIL: The Chairman was very critical of the shambolic way requests were dealt with by the CIL Committee.

9. AOB:

9.1 Political Meeting: After discussion, it was agreed that BRA would not host a Political Hustings in Bookham.

9.2 BRA Deputies: Carolyn Elson expressed concern over the lack of deputies in the event of a BRA Official being indisposed. It was agreed that although desirable, this would not be possible.

9.3 Village Day 2024: All had been organized for the Quiz and the BRA Stand at the forthcoming Village Day :