

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

Committee Meeting

Notes of meeting held on Monday 7th August 2023

Church Room St Nicolas Church

In Attendance: Peter Seaward (chair), Simon Edge, Carolyn Elson, Les Huett, David Cox, C Cllr Claire Curran, Julia Dickenson, Richard Moyse, Christine Milstead, Margaret Lawson, Diane Poole, Keith Francis, Nick Forrer, Cllr Roger Adams, Gill Caldwell, Cllr Andrew Matthews, Neil McDowall, David Armstrong.

Apologies: Cllr Monica Weller, Cllr Elizabeth Daly, Cllr Paul Kennedy, Cllr Christine Miller, Simon Baxter, Francis Fancourt, Geoff Tranter.

1 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

2 Matters Arising & Actions

No significant matters arising.

3 Correspondence

No major items recorded.

4 Councillors Update

4.1 New Initiative to help residents: Cllr Roger Adams reported that a new initiative to help MV residents in future years had been developed, particularly bearing in mind the increasing age of the population and the need to curb anti social behaviour.

4.2 Station Improvements Cllr Andrew Matthews reported that a new bench had been set up by the railway station and the toilets had now been refurbished.

4.3 Fashion Show: Cllr Monica Weller had advised that a fashion show had been set up in a local church. All visitors welcome.

4.4 Highways Improvements: C Cllr Clare Curran advised that pavement improvements were progressing plus the repair of numerous potholes.

Two complete road closures were planned for Lower Road, the first near East Street lasting one week, the second by the exit of Keswick Road lasting two months.

4.5 Child Welfare: C Cllr Curran also advised that the SCC were financially supporting children with learning difficulties including autism.

5 Chairmans Update:

5.1 War Memorial: The War Memorial in St Nicolas Church was in urgent need of a gentle steam clean but to do so required permission of the Church Authorities which was being hard to obtain.

5.2 Finance: Currently in a satisfactory state with £1,800 set aside for new benches and a gift from the Anchor Public House for a new Notice Board. Two other boards were in need of repair and Nick Forrer was asked to investigate.

Action: Nick Forrer

5.3 Major Projects: The Bump Track in Lower Road still awaiting 3 quotations rather than the 5 originally asked for.

6 Finance

The Treasurer emphasized that the finances were in a healthy state with public subscriptions topping £10k.

7 Planning

Simon Edge reported that there were no significant Planning Applications to report at present. The Chairman stated that the future of the Local Plan was in some doubt pending the current review being undertaken by HMG. The main concern was in the event of the Green Belts being removed, would the Inspector come back on the Plan and ask if the revised land allocation has enough housing to meet the District's needs. It would be helpful if the MVDC could clarify whether in their view there is sufficient land available.

8 Community Group

8.1 Station Toilets: Keith Francis stated that the Station Toilets had just been refurbished but the booking clerk only held the keys. In the event of the booking office being closed toilet access would present a problem.

9 Environment Group

9.1 Sewage Spill: Christine Milstead reported that there had been a significant sewage spill in the Little Bookham Street area. Thames Water had attended.

10 Communications and Membership Group

10.1 Membership: Carolyn Elson stated that membership was encouraging with both numbers and subscriptions being up on last year. Letters had now been sent to all roads without road stewards.

10.2 AGM 9th August: Les Huett confirmed that all letters advising of the AGM had also been sent and arrangements finalized for the meeting on Wednesday. Refreshments were being provided. The Guest Speaker was the Area Police Commander.

11 Any Other Business

This section was devoted almost entirely to every member present giving their appreciation of the outstanding contribution of Peter Seward as Chairman of BRA for the last 20 years. In particular C Cllr Clare Curran highlighted the incredible way he had established a working partnership between BRA and the Local Councils. In reply, Peter thanked everybody for their fulsome praise but stressed he could only have done so with the wholehearted support of all the BRA Members.