



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD on MARCH 24, 2011 AT 7.30PM, 35 KILN ROAD.

PRESENT: Jill Verran, Barry Prior, Vera Bodman, Bill Harper, Margaret Ormonde, Jane Handley and observers Andrea Robinson and Richard Hammond (Doris Hiscox also intended to join as an observer but was unable to come this time).

1 APOLOGIES: Jenny Leach and Cathi Edwards.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes proposed by M.O and accepted by committee.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Committee roles and long-term recruitment

M.O welcomed the 2 observers. It was agreed that a mix of representatives was needed to voice the needs of **all** our members. New committee members when they are recruited, must have e-mail contact, as easy communication is vital, but the meetings are important too, as e-mails can be misunderstood.

Proposed Police Museum Visit

The visit was cancelled as we were informed that the museum was closing. However, it is now to be kept open and the curator is to stay. He has requested we contact them again in July to review the situation.

Trees Replacement in Park

After a year of waiting the trees are in place. Some trees are in need of staking and M.O has been in touch with the park manager and he told her that the trees have been staked underground so they should be secure. She asked him to inspect them for reassurance.

Clayfield Copse Wood Carvings

B.P told the committee that the wood is now being seasoned. There has been a long wait for response from RBC. The council will be issuing the press release outlining a design competition but it would be prepared and agreed by B.P and J.L.

School Parking on Green

There has been parking on the green in recent years opposite the church and school, destroying the area and making it unsafe for children. After the long negotiations we have been rewarded with fencing and planting of daffodils and crocuses, which are now in flower, looking wonderful. A couple of EGRA members have expressed concern about the parking on the verge in Kidmore End Road. M.O has asked C.E. to speak to mums who go to the park, for feedback about the parking situation. It was felt that there was a safety issue with this matter.

Notice Board

M.O suggested that Paula Rayer Dyson one of the notice board monitors would be a good organiser and J.V was happy to liase with her to handover the responsibility. A rota was now being prepared of helpers to keep the notice board in good order.

EGRA AGM

This is to be held on Tuesday, May 10, 8.00pm at the Grace Church, Peppard Road. Chris Aldridge from the True Food Coop is to be our speaker. He has offered some produce for refreshment. The draft report is to be circulated soon. Members should receive the report, at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

****People who deliver the newsletters should let us know if they cannot deliver within two weeks of production.****

CADRA Celebrations of 100 years in Berkshire

Celebration on November 9, 2011. EGRA will combine with them for the event.

Tree Warden Scheme

Information sheets have been sent out. Two new trees are to be planted at the pond area.

CADRA Transport meeting on January 26 2011. B.P. attended meeting and told the committee of the developments for the rail improvements. Funding is now available for the northern entrance of the station. This will be for rail, air, taxi and ticket office. He said that the long-term plans were impressive. Jill asked if it might be possible to have something to show our members at the AGM.

Planning

Nothing local has happened since the last committee meeting. Local Development Framework. Areas with potential for housing:- There was nothing that would affect our area at present, but B.P. will study the report in the next week to see if a response is required.

5 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEES/MEETINGS

NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group)

B.P. attended the meeting on March 18, 2011. There was a good turnout. Penny the local inspector has moved on. There is a new Community Officer. Barry reported that there had been 28 burglaries in the whole area and 4 in the EGRA area. There were 3 distraction thefts and a warning to residents had been distributed. Leaflets will follow. There had been speed checks with handheld cameras, but nothing untoward. Next meeting, May 17, 2011.

North Reading Youth Project

RBC has taken over control, so they will meet in the future to discuss the way forward. The Community Centre has been re-furbished under the Children's Surestart Initiative and committee have been invited to tour on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. 10am.

6 AOB

Volunteer Reception

The committee said "thank you" to all those volunteers who help run EGRA with tea at the Parish Centre on Sunday, March 13, 2011. It was very successful and was well attended with some very positive comments. People seemed to appreciate the personal invitation. The children's section run by Cathi Edwards was a great success. The committee all thanked Margaret for organising the event, Vera Bodman for serving the teas and Bill Harper for making arrangements possible.

Age Concern

VB will attend the next Age Concern meeting at St Barnabas Church Hall on Monday, April 4, 2011.

CADRA AGM

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at Thameside School.
Talk on the history of the BBC monitoring.

Environmental Visual Audit (EVA)

Next walk about with local officials Thursday, April 7, 1011 at The Ridings.

Litter and Graffiti

As part of Reading's annual Rescue event areas had been identified that required litter collection, in our area. Margaret went to help. Litter and graffiti continues to be a problem. Graffiti is on the increase. It was felt that more help was needed for its removal and members should report when it occurs, as we cannot always know where it has taken place. Fly-tipping is also increasing in our area.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

There was discussion by the committee about a plan for a picnic to celebrate the jubilee. It is to be a Bank Holiday. If we are to do our own event, it would be a huge project. After discussion, it was decided that maybe the best way forward, would be to hold a joint event with other Emmer Green organisations, (Scouts, Guides, Church etc.). It would need a lot of planning and committed helpers and planners. The topic will be put on our AGM agenda for feedback from our members, and Bill Harper will make enquiries from Scout and Guide leaders and the church, to find out if they also have plans and if they would like to have a combined event. It was felt that if there was little enthusiasm we should think seriously about taking on such a big commitment.

General Comments

Vera commented about the bad car parking arrangements at the doctor's surgery. There have been incidents lately, of stealing from churches and lead being taken from church roofs. Jill drew attention to the extremely poor condition of Budgen's Car Park. In spite of the conversation that Margaret had had with the owners, still nothing improved. It was felt that very soon, there will be a serious motor or personal accident. Committee wondered why the shopkeepers were not taking action with their landlord to improve the area, for their customers.

7 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday May 19th 2011, 7.30pm at 37, Kidmore End Road.