



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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## **MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> 2011, 7.30PM AT 37 KIDMORE END ROAD.**

**PRESENT:** Margaret Ormonde, Jane Handley, Vera Bodman, Jill Verran, Bill Harper, Andrea Robinson, Richard Hammond, Jenny Leach, Barry Prior.

### **1 APOLOGIES:** Cathi Edwards and Doris Hiscox

Cathi had decided to step down from the committee but wants to continue as committee support. Margaret said that she was invaluable to the committee and we were all grateful for her hard work.

### **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Accepted as a true record, by all the committee.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Committee and Long-term recruitment**

It was agreed that there was still a need for new blood on the committee, to stop stagnation of ideas. There were some areas of Emmer Green that were not represented, particularly in the south, but we do have a good mix of people who can speak for most sections of the community, eg. parents, senior citizens, established and new residents, etc.

Jill told the committee of her role as membership secretary but said that she would want to hand over soon. Richard, who has IT experience, offered to take a look at the system to see if it could be streamlined and was happy to offer his assistance. He will liaise with Jill and report at the next meeting.

Jane offered to take over the co-ordination and upkeep of the EGRA notice board. Jill will let her have all the information and rota list. The committee agreed that we should try again to refurbish the notice board and Jane was asked to arrange this, with a specific date. All the committee and the notice board team would be asked to help out. It needed to be painted but it was felt that with a good team the job could be completed in half a day (a Saturday in August was thought to be a good choice).

#### **AGM**

36 members attended. Although less people than in the past it was a successful evening, which covered a lot of issues and was enjoyed by all. The speakers were very interesting and had a good response. It was thought that it could have been the new location that caused less people to attend. There was discussion about ways to improve the meeting so that more would attend. It was felt that the press could be invited to get the local interest, or a day and time change but the general format was good.

#### **Clayfield Copse carvings**

There had been no designs submitted from the competition, to date. If none were forthcoming, the carvers would be asked to design their own designs, with the suggestion of a theme of insects, animals and flowers. Jenny Leach to liaise with the carvers over the designs.

### **Police Museum visit**

Barry told the committee that it was intended to make contact in July to arrange another visit, as last year the planned visit had to be cancelled.

### **Tree replacements**

The trees on the green had been staked and along with the ones in the play area of the recreation ground. There were a good team of tree waterers and all the trees would be monitored to make sure that they stayed healthy.

### **Caversham 100 years on**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> there would be an exhibition and EGRA would be part of that. The display boards would need to be collected from Highdown School and the original leaflet on the history of Emmer Green reprinted.

### **EVA**

Vera walked around the area for the environmental visual audit with members of the police, neighbourhood watch and council representatives and was impressed by what was identified, including faults with drains and pavements etc. The police found untaxed cars and were very thorough. Margaret would find out the date of the next meeting (Update – none forthcoming in Emmer Green).

### **Diamond Jubilee celebrations**

The AGM had shown that there was general interest in the district and the council were prepared to support, in principal, the plans for the event. Margaret had written to other groups and had a good response. Bill was in contact with the church. It was agreed that EGRA would act a facilitator between the organisations. There were many things to consider. Toilets, parking, safety etc. People could have a picnic in the park but providing their own food. The public houses in the area would probably have their own celebrations, so it was important to find out what their plans were. All interested parties planned a joint meeting for September.

### **Planning**

Minor alteration to Highdown School entrance and upgrading of hockey pitch.  
Emmer Green School. Extra temporary classroom.  
Kennylands Road in Sonning Common. Application for 50 new houses.

## **4 TREASURER'S REPORT**

BH passed the report to the committee. It was very well received and showed a healthy financial state. Proposed and accepted. BH thanked our auditor.

Jill told the committee that there were still some members who had not paid their subscriptions. She had e-mailed to 16 with no response. It was agreed that each committee member should take two names and to call on them to see if they were still at the address. They would collect the subs owed or delete the member from the list. This would also update the membership list if there were new residents etc.

## **5 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEES/MEETINGS**

### **NAG**

RH attended the meeting in May but was disappointed with it. There seemed to be some apathy and many issues did not get discussed successfully. The next meeting is on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### **North Reading Youth Project**

Vera, Cathi and Margaret went on a tour of the Surestart Centre and were impressed. We get feedback from Tara who represents EGRA on the NRYP committee.

## **6 AOB**

**Buses and stops**

It was causing problems to many, as it was a long walk for those wanting to visit Reading Market or the Civic Centre. A survey was handed out on the buses to identify the problems. One stop had "drop off only" notice, but had a well fitted bus shelter!

**Grass cutting**

This has been reduced from 10 times per annum to 5. This will mean the verges will become overgrown.

**Caversham Park Village Residents' Association.**

We will work together and the Chairman, Steve Bell attended our AGM.  
We have had an invite to the Bell Tower Community Association meeting.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Stakeholders meeting at Smallmead Recycling Centre 18<sup>th</sup> July. MO hopes to go.

Cathi and Andrea will be manning the stall at the St. Barnabas Church Fair.

Vera fedback on the last Age Concern 50Plus+ meeting. Due to the change of arrangements for free bus usage, there were now places available for Tai Chi at St. Barnabas Hall.

Margaret thanked Bill for his hospitality and the meeting ended at 10.10 pm.

**7 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm. 35 Kiln Road.