



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

www.egra.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 22nd September 2011, 7.30PM AT 35 Kiln Road.

PRESENT: Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior, Bill Harper, Richard Hammond, Jill Verran, Jane Handley, Doris Hiscox and Jasmine Waters.

Guest: Bethan Hopkins who was invited to speak about Street Tree Replacement.

Everyone introduced themselves for the benefit for those who had not attended before.

Jasmine told the committee a little about herself. The committee welcomed her and offered any help and support, if required.

Jill Verran told the committee that Richard Hammond had worked on the updating of the membership database. He had offered to take over the membership secretary duties and the committee were very grateful. Jill had done a splendid job over the years and all the committee thanked her for her dedication and hard work. Jill remains as a committee member and will offer support to Richard when required.

1 APOLOGIES Vera Bodman, Jenny Leach and Andrea Robinson.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Accepted as a true record, by all the committee. Approved by BP.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Trees

The newly planted trees were mostly doing well but some need to be staked. Margaret thanked the tree waterers who cared for the trees in the dry periods through spring and summer.

Clayfield Copse Wood Carvings

Carvings are under way. There will be 6 and the designs will be bat, squirrel, rabbit, owl and red kite.

Street Tree Replacement

The committee welcomed Bethan Hopkins who attended the meeting to talk about the subject. In Courtenay Drive some healthy trees are to be felled, one is diseased and another dead. She had been in consultation with Reading Borough Council with a positive response in respect of replacement. However, the trees would cost £300 each to replace and there could be issues with root problems to drives etc. Root barriers would be needed and watering required for two years. It was suggested that residents might be able to help with digging and watering. A note had been delivered to residents and there had been a 25% response. Plans are to be made to have a group of supporters in e-mail contact requesting help, support and fund raising. Partners could include Caversham Globe, Reading Borough Council and EGRA. It was agreed that the EGRA title could be used in an official way and we would offer help as a holding manager of the funds.

MO suggested that issues could arise with the focus being on only one road when so many others in our area are in the same position. It was felt that there could be more response from residents if the project was widened to other areas. We could appeal to EGRA committee and members for support and an EGRA email could be sent out at the appropriate time to members asking for support.

Buses and Stops

In general, Emmer Green had come out quite well with the changes. Some routes have been re-instated. New routes and timetable are to be implemented on September 26th 2011.

Stakeholder Meeting

MO attended at Smallmead Recycling Centre on July 18th. The focus was on communal refuse to flats. No street or park litter is recycled.

Police Museum Visit

Provisional date for visit is April 19th 2012. BP will contact members who had shown interest before and then invite others, to have a good turnout.

St. Barnabas Garden Party

Andrea was not at the meeting so an update will be given at a later date.

Notice board Refurbishment

JH told the committee that there had been an enthusiastic and dedicated group who set about the refurbishment in August. The huge amount of staples that had been used previously was the biggest problem and took a long time to remove. Everyone worked very hard and the whole job was completed by lunchtime. JH started to polish the plaque but it would be a while before it was shiny, as it had been neglected for some time. Since the refurb, people had been far more respectful of the notice board and were pinning up the notices neatly. There had been many compliments by passers-by.

Caversham 100 years

BP showed the committee our display board for November 9th at the Baptist Church. It will also go to libraries, schools etc. Leaflets have also been printed.

Planning

Scout Hut plans approved. Sonning Common project had been rejected (it was felt that a housing project would have a serious impact on traffic through Emmer Green to Reading).

Diamond Jubilee Picnic in the Park

Monday, June 4, 2012

BP and MO had a meeting with Jonathan Wood of RBC. Tentative contacts had

been made already. A meeting date should be arranged for October and contact information is required. Other organisations have been contacted, eg Church, Scouts etc and all were keen to be involved. RBC is happy with any fundraising. We must pay for the park. The toilets will be opened and water can be used. We will contact other interested parties for a discussion meeting.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was circulated and accepted. The subscriptions had been coming in and there was a healthy balance. A slight increase in expenses. Membership now stands at 502. Notes had been posted to Lyfield Court and The Conifers and there were 6 new members from there. There are some areas that had not been visited, so it was suggested that householders should be contacted to boost membership.

5 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER MEETINGS

NAG

RP attended and felt that there was a more positive feeling at the meeting. There was affiliation with the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. It was a good meeting but no specific plans. Petty crime had improved. When crime is reported e.g. Burglary, others in the street are contacted with warning and support. The list of concerns. 1. Burglary, 2. Speeding, 3. Parking. Cycling on pavements was also a concern.

North Reading Youth

No news to report.

Bell Tower Comm. Ass.

MO went to the meeting. It is a successful association although it appears that motivation is flagging and membership is dropping off.

Caversham Park Residents Association

MO was invited to attend a meeting. It was very interesting and we share many ideas and concerns. We agreed to work closely with them and they were going to conduct a survey in their own area to see how to move their association forward.

6 AOB

Shopping Precinct Car Park

The shopping precinct car park is still in bad repair and dangerous. The lack of lighting is a serious concern for health and safety. BP will write to Woolfe, the company who own the site and therefore responsible. He will put them on notice that in the event of damage to cars or pedestrians they will be held responsible. The public warnings and lighting are poor and the disabled bays should be made clearer.

AGM

BP suggested that James Freeman, who is the chief executive of Reading buses, could be invited as guest speaker. Committee members could think about other possibilities for the next meeting.

Gardeners Arms

There was a letter regarding the request by The Gardeners Arms for changes to

their licence. They requested permission for performances inside and out, until late. It was felt that we should back the local objection.

7 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Margaret thanked Barry and his partner for their hospitality and the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, December 1st 2011, 7.30pm at 10 Unity Court.