



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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## **MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012 AT 4 ST. BENETS WAY**

Meeting commenced at 7.45 pm after a photo shoot at 7.30pm in the park, of the committee members.

### **PRESENT:**

Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior, Vera Bodman, Jasmine Waters, Jane Handley, Andrea Robinson, Julie Robbins and Vanessa Cozens.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Bill Harper, Richard Hammond and Jennifer Leach.

Margaret started the meeting by welcoming Julie and Vanessa to the committee.

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

The minutes were distributed to the committee in advance, read and accepted as a true record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **AGENDA BUSINESS**

#### **Precinct Car Park.**

Barry reported that work had started, although only patching of the holes. It was felt that this was only a short term remedy as this could shrink in time, allowing the holes to return. The paved area in front of the shops is scheduled to be re-surfaced. Planning permission has been granted. Contractors are funded by the leaseholders and they must share the cost.

#### **Police Museum Visit.**

This was a great success and enjoyed by all that attended. The visitors were warmly welcomed and had a very enjoyable tour. The tour guide was very interesting as he was an ex-policeman with personal knowledge. Excellent value for money.

#### **Trees in Courtenay Drive.**

Nine new trees were planted in March with local residents and Reading Borough Council sharing the cost. This is now to be rolled out in neighbouring streets, with funds being raised by residents and RBC. We may be asked again, to act as fund holders. It was agreed that we should help in this way.

#### **RBC RESCUE.**

JW reported about the March litter pick. She said that she had enjoyed doing this, as all the people involved were cheerful and willing. There was good organisation and help. It was difficult to get volunteers. However this was the first time that EGRA had been involved, directly. There was debate about whether EGRA should do it all and MO thought that maybe we should have more co-operation with Highdown School and local community groups. Some of the rubbish was thought to be fly-tipping. It was felt that we should do this one more time in March and the details would be discussed at the next meeting. There is a woodlands cleanup

in October. It was felt that it was more appropriate for Friends of Clayfield Copse to handle this, but we would offer advice on setting up.

### **Clayfield Waymarks**

There are now 4 carved panels completed for Clayfield Copse and they were on show at the Picnic in the Park. The Scouts had kindly given space for the carvers to work in their hall. They had to move from the previous premises.

There are 2 more panels to be carved and it is expected that they will be completed and ready for erection in the Autumn.

### **Clayfield Copse Car Park/Micro Park and Ride.**

There was a lot of discussion on this topic. There is no fast track into Reading from this point and the Park and Ride charges would be more than the regular fare on a faster route, and the link bus route would take longer. There seemed little logic, as it would be the responsibility of NCP, so there would be no policing etc. People using the sports facilities would not be able to use the car park. The local residents are anxious about activity until late in the evening. There would be car headlights and noise. It was felt that a location in South Oxfordshire would be more apt. Abbey Rugby Club had been suggested as a possibility. MO would be writing to RBC with our opinions.

### **AGM. Venue and Talk.**

This year was unique and we were somewhat overwhelmed. There were a record number of guests, which was very rewarding, but the hall was overcrowded, leading to some safety concerns. MO has asked Bill Harper if we could use St. Barnabas in the future. We will discuss this with the church, in the New Year. The talk about the caves in the area was very interesting, but Emmer Green was not featured very much. It was thought that we may try to remedy this for the 2013 AGM, with a possible display about the caves in Emmer Green. Others may have film or videos about the local caves and that would be of great interest to local residents. However, the meeting went well and we were grateful to Truefoods for the refreshments and to Grace Church for the use of the hall.

### **Jubilee Picnic in the Park.**

This was a great day that exceeded all our expectations. After dreadful weather previously, the sun shone on us and there was an amazing turnout and atmosphere. Everyone entered into the spirit of the day and had a lot of fun. We have had very good feedback from residents. Most were impressed that the entertainment was free. There were very good displays by local groups and they all did a great show with no charge. One local resident commented that, an hour after the event, they could not believe that anything had taken place, as everything was left so tidy. The help and support of the Scouts was invaluable and we owe them a huge vote of thanks. Lots of photographs were taken on the day, and they captured the mood and feeling of the day. A souvenir book is planned with photos. This will also be on the website and the book can be bought and ordered online.

### **Summer Newsletter and Trade List.**

MO showed the draft copy of the Summer Newsletter but there will be amendments and additions to go in. She thanked JH for the work on the Trade List. She had phoned each person to confirm all their details. Some had ceased trading and others had incorrect details. There were several new entries. The committee accepted the A4 copy for e-mail and distribution. The next list will go out in two years. JH said she had had some very good comments from tradesmen on the list, saying that they get good work from the residents in the EGRA district and are very grateful to be included.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Margaret gave the report as Bill Harper was away. The statement of accounts was distributed to the committee. The accounts are still in a good state, although there had been some expenditure. Jill Verran had been a second signatory, but now she had left the committee, it was agreed that Richard Hammond should now take this over.

There are still some outstanding subscriptions due. It was agreed that after 2 overdue reminders were issued with no payments forthcoming, it should be assumed that the resident is not interested. Non-payers had been contacted. There are still 10 left to pay.

## **FEEDBACK OF OTHER MEETINGS.**

### **NAG.**

None attended as it was on the same evening as our AGM, but we were sent a copy of their minutes.

### **STREETCLUB.**

The privacy policy had been distributed to the committee. Concerns were expressed about the personal information required, as B and Q, the sponsor, are a commercial concern. MO has written about our concerns, but no reply to date.

## **AOB**

### **Maintenance of Clayfield Copse Dragon.**

Jill Verran and her husband have offered to paint the dragon in Clayfield Copse. The committee were grateful to them and agreed to pay for the paint required.

It was felt that the village sign, particularly on the North side, was looking a little shabby and this will be inspected to decide the way forward, and to discuss this at a later date.

The seat outside Coral's was also looking in need of attention. When it had been erected, the view in front of it was great. It overlooked the pond and RBC maintained the surroundings. Now the ground is overgrown and the pond cannot be seen.

### **Mapledurham House visit.**

MO and others had a very enjoyable afternoon with a discussion and tour of the house. The owners are keen for more visits from locals. It was felt that we could organise a trip for our members, to visit the house in the future.

### **Highdown School prizes.**

We have given prizes for the past 5 years and this was the last of our commitment to them. It will be discussed by committee at a later date, with a view to widening our options for awards to young people, via community groups such as Scouts, Guides and D of E.

Margaret concluded by thanking Andrea for her hospitality.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

A provisional date has been set for Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with the venue to be arranged.