



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 29th April 2013 at 3, Phillimore Road. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior, Jasmine Waters, Linda Glithro,
Jane Handley, Mark Hutchings.
Guest Liz Lyke.

The Chairman welcomed the new committee members and introduced Liz. All the committee introduced themselves. Mark Hutchings is a returning committee member.

MO explained, for the benefit of the newcomers, about the operation of the committee. Most business was done on email as things develop, to share and invite comments. Meetings are the opportunity to meet face to face and confirm together the matters that have arisen and to discuss any issues that committee members may have. A special meeting could be called if anything contentious arose between meetings. The operation works well. There are sub-committee groups that tick along well and report to the committee.

APOLOGIES:

Vera Bodman, Bill Harper and Vanessa Cozens.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes dated 21st January 2013 had been circulated, read and accepted as a true record. Approval proposed by Barry Prior.

MATTERS ARISING

AGM.

This was the most successful meeting for some time. MO thanked Jasmine and her helpers for the catering arrangements and Linda for the article that she wrote for the Caversham Bridge magazine. The Chairman's report was sent out prior to the meeting and this served as information and an alert to our members of the forthcoming AGM. There was an excellent turnout, in spite of

the awful weather conditions on the evening. There were 70-80 people present.

The Chairman had told the meeting that we are in need of volunteers on committee and helpers. New people always bring fresh ideas, and that is important.

RESCUE.

Jasmine Waters and Mark Hutchings helped with the litter pick in March. It was in terrible conditions, as there was snow. They were surprised and pleased with the number of volunteers who attended. In spite of the weather, they had fun and the helpers were enthusiastic. They collected 10 bags of general waste, 5 bags of recyclable and some "unpleasant rubbish." There was a 2 hour session in Scott Close. The landlady of the Gardener's Arms provided sandwiches and hot drinks, which was greatly appreciated. Jasmine attended an evaluation meeting at Reading Borough Council where insurance of these events was discussed. There is another litter pick in the autumn. We had a good notice on the RESCUE website and newsletter.

SUMMER STALL.

We have been invited to have a stall at The Hill School, summer fair on June 15th. This coincides with the St. Barnabas Church Fair. After discussion, it was decided that we would take up the offer of The Hill School as this will give us the opportunity to promote EGRA there. Linda will organise an Emmer Green Quiz, which would be fun for children and adults. As we only have resources to attend one event, we would make a donation to the St. Barnabas Church Organ Fund. MO will be writing to them.

NOTICE BOARD.

Jane told the committee that she had a very trustworthy and dedicated team of helpers who work on a monthly rota, to maintain the board, doing a week each. In the last month the notice board had begun to have problems. On one occasion, when the staples were being pulled out, the inner board came away. It was agreed that JH should contact a carpenter to estimate for the replacement of the central wood panel, fitting and painting. She would email the estimate when it was received. Staples continue to be a problem as they need to be forced out. She was pleased to say that Doris Hiscox had come forward to volunteer. This would relieve Paula, who had been doing 2 weeks per month. There had been interest from another party, but this had not materialised. Jane was delighted to meet the notice board team members at the AGM, as her only contact with them in the past had been by email.

PLANNING.

Pond Cottage. Demolition of the cottage and a period-style rebuild had been applied for. EGRA had issued a statement to RBC.

We would wish that a member of the Planning Committee should visit the site. Also, **if permission to demolish was granted**, photos should be taken beforehand, for prosperity.

The Planning Committee meeting had been deferred until May 29th.

Gravel Hill Development. The general views from our **members'** survey **was that they were opposed** to the plan. We are taking a stand on this matter, to support our members. Mr. Lee, **who has recently joined EGRA**, has asked for a meeting and we would listen to his comments.

ANNUAL PRIZE.

It was decided to offer the prize of £50 to the Scouts this year and they had gratefully accepted. It would be given to a scout of their choice, who in their opinion had contributed to the local community.

TREES.

The project started in Courtney Drive had been very successful. We have been holding funds on their behalf and it had now been paid out. The Blossom group were seeking help from RBC.

CLAYFIELD COPSE WAYMARKS.

Barry told the committee that the waymarks panels were completed and on show at the AGM. RBC and the carvers agree that the bases should be of concrete but the fitting could be difficult. We are paying for the wooden posts and RBC will be doing the installation. There had still not been a response for Friends of Clayfield Copse. BP will follow this up.

MAPLEDURHAM VISIT.

There had been a good response to this private tour but there are still places available. The visit is on June 13th 2013 at 2pm and would cost £9.25 to be paid in advance. Those attending will make their own travel arrangements. Refreshments would be available to buy at the end of the tour, should anyone wish.

BUDGEN'S CAR PARK.

The potholes in the car park are an ongoing problem. Patching was done, but soon new holes appeared. It is a dangerous situation as many of the holes are large and deep. The cost to resurface would be the shared responsibility of the traders in the arcade, and this would be a burden for the smaller shops to bear. **EGRA member Tony Hill was investigating things further on our behalf.**

SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

The newsletter will go out in June or early July. Linda offered to undertake the production and the Chairman thanked her for doing this.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Harper was not at the meeting so MO spoke on his behalf. She distributed the accounts. There are over 30 subscriptions still outstanding. MO will send out reminders and then JH will phone any who have not responded. We are now in need of a new Membership Secretary. JW has been covering on a temporary basis and MO thanked her.

FEEDBACK OF OTHER MEETINGS.

NAG.

This meeting took place on March 21st. Mark Hutchings attended. People were unhappy about the speeding problems in the area. There was discussion about the possibility of calming measures in Rotherfield Way. The next meeting is on May 23rd and MH will attend and ask the question of the Traffic Manager, who is attending. MH said he is happy to go to these meetings on EGRA's behalf and MO said it is good to have our own representative attending. He will also ask about the police activity in Budgen's car park on April 29th. He will ask what issues there were and the outcome.

AOB

MH suggested that we should promote EGRA to new residents. It is noticeable that properties are selling now, meaning that there are new residents. It is important to invite them to join EGRA and to keep the member numbers up.

Liz Lyke asked for an explanation of the role of Membership Secretary. She was given an outline and MO will contact her further.

MO asked the committee to sign a card for Vera Bodman as she is unwell. All the committee wished Vera well.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

TBA

The Chairman thanked Linda for her hospitality.
The meeting closed at 9.40pm.