



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, 2013 At 20 KIDMORE END ROAD.

PRESENT

Margaret Ormonde, Bill Harper, Mark Hutchings, Barry Prior, Liz Lyke, Linda Glithro and Jane Handley

APOLOGIES

Vera Bodman, Vanessa Cozens.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting dated 29th April 2013 had been circulated, read and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Liz Lyke and Seconded by Barry Prior.

MATTERS ARISING

Rescue

Mark Hutchings had taken over from Jasmine Waters. M.O thanked JW for her hard work in the past, although she was not present at the meeting and thanks to M.H. for stepping in to do this valuable service.

M.H. said that he had not had sufficient time to organise the October event so this would not take place. However, he would be planning the March Rescue. People would be approached for help very soon as they need to get this into their diaries. He asked for ideas of areas that need attention. J.H. suggested the pond area, as it is an iconic place for Emmer Green. RBC would be approached with this regard and also for moving the rubbish bin from Buckingham Drive to the seat at the pond, where rubbish often collects. Bill Harper told the committee that he felt that the insurance for the Rescue event should be reverted back to the original figure. The committee agreed.

Stall at The Hill Summer Fair

Linda Glithro reported to the committee about this event. The weather had been dreadful with torrential rain. However, our stall looked good and there was considerable interest. There were some new members signed up and a small profit was made via the Quiz etc. (The winner was announced in the newsletter.) Later in the day, the weather improved and although numbers were down, overall it was a good day.

Notice Board

J.H. told the committee that the notice board had been refurbished. All the notices had to be taken down and replaced after the paint was dry. The wood is marine ply which makes it difficult to keep the pins in, so the team who look after the board, now take a small hammer. The committee agreed that they do an excellent job.

It was decided that notices should not be removed if staples etc. are used, but a new notice should be put up to urge advertisers to use drawing pins only and it will be placed in a more prominent position. Any notices fixed to the frame would however, be removed, also any screwed into the notice board.

Planning

Pond Cottage. Planning permission had been granted to demolish and rebuild a new dwelling on the same site. It was hoped that photos before and after would be taken.

Gravel Hill. B.P. and V.C. met with Mr Lee. The vice-chairman reported to the committee about the meeting. It was decided no further action should be taken until a formal planning application is submitted to the South Oxfordshire Council. Mr Lee had been informed of this stance.

Freedom of Information Legality This matter was briefly discussed and V.C. will investigate further on EGRA's behalf.

Marchwood Avenue

M.O told the committee that in 2009-2010, planning permission was sought and approved for a property to be built in South Oxfordshire. This 3 year period had expired but a new application had been made for planning permission of a new build. There was a meeting in August. B.P. V.C. and M.O. attended.

Annual EGRA prize

We had received a very nice letter of thanks from the Scout, Charlie Bellars, who received the prize this year for his services to the community. Photos were sent by Chris Butlin.

Clayfield Copse

B.P. reported that there had been a disappointing issue with the waymarks, but this had now been resolved and arrangements are being made for the erection, hopefully very soon.

Mapledurham visit

B.P. told the committee that this had been a very successful visit and enjoyed by all. He had received very positive feedback. The miller at Mapledurham had given the group a very interesting and entertaining guided tour.

Budgen's Car Park

B.P. had a meeting with Tony Hill as he had shown interest in helping with this ongoing problem. The onus is on the shop keepers to share the cost of repair to the car park, but at great expense. B.P. will meet with Tony again but

EGRA cannot commit finances to this issue, but our members continue to be in danger when using the car park and shops.

Summer Newsletter

M.O. thanked Linda Glithro for producing the newsletter. It was interesting and informative. The winter newsletter will be delivered from the end of November. Linda said that she is happy to continue and the committee thanked her.

Membership Secretary

Thanks to Liz Lyke for agreeing to take over this role.

Recruitment

Liz Lyke reported that there had been positive results from the recruitment drive. There are approximately 500 members. 9 new members from newsletter, word of mouth and general feedback. Many of the lapsed members have been replaced by new members. Liz thanked J.H. for the telephone follow-ups of lapsed members which resulted in showing that some people had moved, passed away or lost interest. However, this resulted in some new members being signed. M.O. had asked deliverers to post recruitment letters. 200 were sent out and approximately 10 new members joined. M.H. was investigating "house moves or lettings" with the view of recruiting new people to the district, who may like to join EGRA.

AGM

Linda's excellent article appeared in the Caversham Bridge, in June, about our 2013 AGM.

Our 2014 AGM will mark the 30th Anniversary of EGRA and it was felt that we should celebrate the event at our AGM. It was suggested that we should have a cake and Jane will contact her relative who designs and makes celebration cakes to order. B.H. will check the availability of St. Barnabas hall and report back with possible dates. The matter of a speaker was discussed and one idea was to invite the miller from Mapledurham Mill. Another suggestion was to have a speaker who has knowledge of school places in the area as this is a local issue of concern to our members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Harper reported that the accounts were still looking healthy but the issue would always be, will our incomings cover our outgoings? That is why recruitment of new members is very important.

FEEDBACK OF OTHER MEETINGS

N.A.G.

M.H. attended the last meeting. All the usual topics were discussed. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 19th. He had sent emails to the committee which reported on the previous meetings in May and July.

AOB

IMPROVING READING WOODLANDS

RBC are having a consultation meeting 26th September, at Mapledurham Pavilion.

MAPLEDURHAM PAVILION FUNDRAISING

WADRA and local residents have worked hard to raise funds for the forthcoming refurbishment of the pavilion. There was discussion by committee with regards to a donation but overall it was felt that, as an association, we should not make donations to organisations out of our area.

EVA VISIT

Environmental Visual Audit. Next visit to Emmer Green by Tina West of RBC will take place on Thursday, October 3rd at 10.30am. Locals are welcome to accompany the representative to view any areas that need attention.

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

This matter is proceeding at a pace but the location is yet to be decided by the Department of Education. M.O. has emailed the team to report that we would not support the grounds of Highdown School as it is out of the catchment and difficult to access.

ARTHUR CLARK/ALBERT ROAD DAY CENTRE

The council voted to close this centre. A new initiative/survey by Cllr. Mark Ralph and Lu Cozma is to be conducted with the view to create a new centre.

ROAD SURFACING

It is expected that Grove Road and Old Peppard Road will be completed in mid-September.

BUSES

Buses now stop at the north side of the station. Journeys take a little longer to Friar Street, but returning to Emmer Green is quicker from the north station exit.

EGRA MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The maintenance of the seats provided historically by EGRA will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.10pm with thanks to Margaret for her hospitality.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, December 5th at 7.30pm.
Venue TBA.**

