

**MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.
COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2013 at 35, Kiln Road**

PRESENT

Margaret Ormonde, Liz Lyke, Jane Handley, Bill Harper, Barry Prior, Vera Bodman and Mark Hutchings.

APOLOGIES

Linda Glithro and Vanessa Cozens

The Chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome back to Vera Bodman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Agreed as a true record. Proposed by Bill Harper. Seconded by Mark Hutchings.

MATTERS ARISING

Rescue, March, 2014

Rivers and Environment Clean-up Event. Mark Hutchings had taken over from Jasmine Waters and would be looking into things. Last year they worked around Scott Close but the Marshlands Square task was abandoned due to bad weather. There was a discussion about other possible sites (including the area around the pond) needing attention and MH will be contacting Caversham Globe and Alison Steedman, RBC's Youth Worker.

Planning

Marchwood Avenue. MO told the committee that there was an application to renew outline planning permission to build one house in South Oxfordshire. There would be a South Oxfordshire District Council Planning Meeting on December 11th, 2013 to decide. There was a discussion about the general policy regarding cross boundary development but it was felt that our focus would be, on any effect developments might have on Emmer Green and the preservation of its surrounding countryside.

Clayfield Copse

BP reported that he had collected the waymarks and taken them to RBC. There will be arrangements made with Friends of Clayfield Copse to put them in place. BP will be contacting again for an update.

Budgen's Car Park

There are now new freeholders of the site on the green. It was hoped that they would be more flexible with regards to the state of the car park which continues to give cause for concern because of the bad conditions. Some efforts had been made previously to fill potholes, but they are now showing signs of breaking up again.

Winter Newsletter

We had a very good Winter Newsletter thanks to Linda and thanks also to Diana for helping with the distribution.

Recruitment/Membership

There were renewal notices sent with the newsletter for people without email and the emails will go out in the New Year. MH will investigate when homes are sold as this may bring new members to EGRA. The current membership is remaining static at 500.

2014 AGM

The date of the 2014 AGM is confirmed for Thursday, April 10th at 7.30pm, St. Barnabas Church Hall. Corry Starling of Mapledurham Mill has been booked as our speaker. It was decided to have an anniversary cake made. JH had got a quote for this and the cost of this and the speaker was agreed by committee. Help will be required for the catering.

The Heights School

No announcement has yet been made with regards to a new Head or the location.

Arthur Clark/Albert Road Day Centre

RBC's Michelle Brown is the contact for a new initiative on care for the elderly. The council recognise that there is a need. It is possible that there could be joint responsibility with the council and others to regenerate the Albert Road site.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was passed to the committee members. BH said that there was not much new to report. The accounts remain healthy but it was felt that it was important that the membership income should cover the expenditure. The treasurer is looking to reduce the insurance cost for 2014.

FEEDBACK FROM OTHER MEETINGS

NAG

MH reported on the NAG meeting he attended on November 21st. He said the meeting was well-represented and interesting. He will continue to attend and felt it was important to maintain contact to keep us informed. He had sent emails to all the committee after attending the meeting. MO thanked him.

CADRA

MO and LL attended a meeting co-hosted by CADRA and Caversham Traders. Liz reported to the committee that it was a good meeting as it was an important example of co-ordination by CADRA and EGRA. There was a talk about "Sharing our Streets" and an opportunity to take part in a survey. Margaret had also met up with Helen Lambert, CADRA's Chair, for an informal discussion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Felled trees in Grove Road. There was discussion about the possibility of carving the fallen trunks into a sculpture or seat. However, there could be some difficulty as the land is owned by the electricity company and is near to homes that could mean a problem for residents, if there were people congregating.

Replacement of pond railings

MO had contacted RBC who confirmed that they would be replaced soon.

Maintenance of seats

This matter will be addressed in the Spring. Possibly with a 3 year refurbishment plan.

MH told the committee that Reading Library want volunteers for research about WW1 in Emmer Green.

VB reported that Dunsden Church had fallen trees after the storm and so there was wood for sale.

BH said that Emmer Green School is organising a petition with regards to having a crossing patrol in Grove Road, near the school.

LL had been approached by a member to ask if the Rosehill cedar tree that had been cut down, would be replaced. MO will make enquiries.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 27th February at 7.30pm. Venue TBA.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm with thanks to Barry for his hospitality.