

**MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014  
AT 37, KIDMORE END ROAD.**

**Commencing 7.30pm**

Present

Margaret Ormonde, (MO) Linda Glithro, (LG) Barry Prior, (BP) Doris Hiscox, (DH)  
Jane Handley, (JH) Annette Fairweather, (AF) Bill Harper (BH) and Veronica Leeke (VL)

Apologies

Liz Lyke, (LL) Vera Bodman (VB)

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AS A TRUE RECORD**

Proposed by Barry Prior and seconded by Doris Hiscox

The Chairman (MO) welcomed everyone.

She confirmed her intention to stand down at the next AGM. She will spend some time gathering together information about her role as Chair. This will enable a possible successor to know what is involved. She has a personal EGRA email account, so a general email address would be advisable, with a list of active contacts transferred to that. She said that she is grateful to Annette (AF) for taking over the position as membership secretary. They will work closely for a while.

**MATTERS ARISING**

WINTER NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be produced at the end of November for distribution early in December. LG will be able to complete in the near future.

There was a discussion about the newsletters being sent electronically and only members without email receiving the newsletter as a hard copy. It was pointed out this already happens and it is only the Annual Report where hard copies are sent to every member household. It included an invite to the AGM, and helped mop up those who may have moved or changed email addresses. The possibility of a charging for hard copies was discussed and deemed unacceptable. Some of our elderly residents and others do not have email or even computers and it may discourage new members from joining. Annette offered to make contact with members who have not renewed their membership. JH offered help if it were needed.

As we found that a personal invite to the AGM was very popular last year, it was decided to do the same this year, hopefully with positive results.

**THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL**

An invitation had been sent for two people to attend a school visit on November 26<sup>th</sup> or December 10<sup>th</sup>. VL and AF will be attending. Four sites are being re-considered including Bugs Bottom. A local campaign has been set up. Although part of the school's catchment area falls within Emmer Green, the issue as a whole is more a consideration for Caversham Heights but we are now involved. MO had received a leaflet asking for support against the location being at Bugs Bottom. It is early days of negotiation so a bit premature to make judgements until all issues are decided. MO suggested that we recruit more members in the Hemdean Valley as, if they require help, we would aim to support our members. EGRA has been invited to send representatives to stakeholder meetings to discuss the consultation process.

### WILFRED OWEN TRAIL

LG told the committee that the weekend 7th -9th November had been a successful one for Dunsden Owen Association events. A concert, 'Letters to my Mother' was held in a packed All Saints' Church on Saturday evening. An exhibition, 'Wilfred Owen and WWI' took place at Dunsden Village Hall over the three days. On the 7th, two local schools visited the exhibition and church. Over 400 people attended the exhibition, including a small group from France and the MP for Henley. The exhibition panels are now available for other organisations to borrow and it was suggested that EGRA display them at the AGM. A blue plaque for Wilfred Owen has been installed in Dunsden Village Hall. The Wilfred Owen trail will now open in the Spring.

### THIRD THAMES BRIDGE UPDATE

In October Rob Wilson MP co-chaired the latest Third Thames Bridge Summit at the Oxfordshire County Council offices. There will be a traffic study involving a full model upgrade.

### ST. MARTIN'S PRECINCT

The Hermes redevelopment revised plans have been submitted to the council. The oak was an issue and the final planning decision has been delayed.

### AGM 2015

Our AGM is planned for Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with a start time of 7.30pm. It was decided that the refreshments would be served at the beginning of the proceedings as this worked well last year. Rachel Sanderson from the Chilterns Conservation Board will be our speaker. She will speak about the five year Chilterns Commons Project.

### REPLACEMENT OF THE EGRA TREE IN THE PARK

The tulip tree was planted on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of November. MO thanked Diana Hartrup and also Dave Kenny for helping with the planting. The cost was £75 which included the delivery. EGRA will pay for this.

### HIGHDOWN SCHOOL SWIMMING

AF contacted Roy Withers. There are plans to refurbish. He suggested that we compile a list of questions that he will respond to, via Annette.

Q1. When access resumes how do we apply. Q2. Will the cost escalate.

Q3. Timescale. Q4. Intentions.

Q5. Clear guidance for access. Q6. Organisations using it.

Q7. Will Passport to Leisure still be used?

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Harper gave the committee a copy of the report which shows that all is running well. We are holding a balance for the Blossom Tree Fund. MO thanked Bill Harper for his continued excellent management of the accounts and keeping everything in good order.

### FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

NAG DH attended the September meeting. The police and council were represented but traffic was, as usual, the main topic, particularly the school pickups and drop offs. Crime is slightly down. Doris told the committee that she is happy to represent EGRA at the NAG meetings and the next meeting is November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

## **AOB**

### **READING BRIDGE**

BP had a meeting with Martijn Gilbert from Reading Buses. There will possibly be disruption on our side of the river when the bridge work commences. Timetables have not yet been changed and it is hoped that the disruption will not be this side of Christmas. The footbridge work has started.

### **RECRUITMENT**

Our numbers are down. It is planned to have a concerted effort to get new members. Mark Hutchings has offered help. The people delivering the newsletters will be asked to also deliver EGRA information. LG suggested that we should ask St. Barnabas Church if we could include our membership information with their notices. BH will put this to the PCC in February. It was discussed that cards should be printed for committee members to offer residents when approached. JH will speak to the owner of The Bite and the manager of the Sue Ryder charity for possibly having our cards on display.

There is a Reading Climate Network meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a discussion on climate change. VL will be attending. LG will email Dave Richards to arrange the possibility of a group visit for our residents.

### **NOTICEBOARD**

JH told the committee that it was disappointing that the notice board was already showing signs of damage due to staples etc. being used to fix advertisements. Commercial advertising will be discouraged and the advertisers contacted to explain that we like to promote personal ads and local events.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7.30pm.

Venue TBA.

The meeting concluded at 9.50pm.

The Chairman thanked Bill for his hospitality.