



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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## EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 37 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green.

**Present.** Annette Fairweather (Chair), Bill Harper, Veronica Leeke, Liz Lyke.

**Apologies.** Michael Denoon – Slater, Linda Glithro

**2. Minutes** of the previous meeting of the Association Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed.

#### **3. AGM Review**

3.1 The speaker had been interesting, but had spoken for rather too long. In future we need to be clear on the scope of the presentation and give guidance on the time expected.

3.2 The refreshments had been well received, but next year only (non- perishable) nibbles will be provided.

3.2 Possible topics for next year might be drawn from the Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre, The Berkshire Gardens Trust or the Reading Historical Society. Specific subjects would be identified for decision at the next meeting.

3.3 Possible dates for hire of the hall around next Easter will be researched. (Action Bill)

#### **4. Support Roles**

4.1 Roland Wiles has stepped down as Notice Board Co-ordinator, but Sue Drayton has agreed to manage the volunteers' rota. She would like to arrange a meeting of the volunteers. This was agreed, and any (modest) costs will be reimbursed.

4.2 Doffi Parkinson has taken on the Membership role, but does not yet wish to join the Committee

#### **5. Committee Numbers**

5.1 Numbers are now lower than previously, but this is in part because other members take on support roles but need not also be committee members. It is also agreed that on more difficult topics it would be desirable to canvass the views of the membership on not rely on the committee alone. Against this background the present number is seen to be satisfactory, and potentially more efficient.

5.2 Support volunteers could be invited to attend meetings on a one-off basis.

#### **6. Membership**

Around 30 have not renewed, but they would probably not have been long term members anyway.

## **7 BBC Outing**

7.1 Dates are now to be proposed by the BBC, probably Thursdays or Fridays.

7.2 There are likely to be two other talks at the BBC and the Antiques Roadshow will be visiting. This should not cause the EGRA visit to be postponed, but the dates of these other events must be avoided. There is no objection to publicising all the dates provided the EGRA event is prominent.

## **8. Wild Flowers**

8.1 It is pleasing that Veronica's persistence has paid off and RBC permission granted.

8.2 The meadow area will be sited in the corner of the Recreation Ground adjacent to Chiltern Court, using a Lime tree as a feature. Seeds have been received from Friends of the Earth.

8.3 The aim is to undertake the sowing in September with volunteers. This should be given as much publicity as possible, including in the Newsletter.

8.4 Contact will be maintained with Globe – who are enthusiastic – and FoE Reading.

8.5 Efforts will be made to involve the Emmer Green and Hill Primary Schools next year. A proposal will be prepared to submit to them in the autumn. (Action Veronica)

## **9. Notice Board**

Although it now seems unlikely that a grant will be received, £150 has been received from local businesses. It was agreed that the project should proceed at an estimated cost of £800. (Action Annette)

## **10. Village Sign**

Advice has been received that the Sign only needs washing. Prices to engage someone to do this will be researched. (Action Annette)

## **11. Queen's Birthday**

Only limited information on cleaning initiatives has been received, but there is no time limit and members will be reminded.

## **12. Safety and Security Talk**

12.1 Following information circulated about local burglaries (hopefully now stopped) views have been received that people would benefit from being given more information on security. It has been agreed with the local police that a talk will be arranged, subject to the availability of St Barnabas Hall. (*Note. The Hall has now been booked for 18<sup>th</sup> June 12.30 to 14.30*)

12.2 If successful this could be repeated in future with relevant topics e.g. online security.

## **13. Planning**

13.1 The development in Kiln Road has been permitted, but more information on possible conditions is required, particularly as regards the footpath. (Action Veronica to enquire)

13.2 There is no decision on the bungalow in Autumn Close.

13.3 A Pre-Planning Application for 28 homes in Highdown Avenue has been passed to RBC by South Oxfordshire. Whilst this is not the time for public consultation, news of the proposal is in the public domain. Given the history of difficulties with this site in the past,

EGRA will proceed using due process and in liaison with other local bodies – principally CADRA.

#### **14. Treasurer's Report**

Up to date information was circulated. There is nothing unexpected to report, and the balance in hand is high.

#### **15. Reports Back on Local Meetings**

15.1 Annette reported on a recent NAG meeting.

15.2 The notes of Patients Group meetings are being circulated.

15.3 Veronica had attended two local EVA events. There had little of concern to report. (The next will be on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10.30 at Surley Row.)

#### **16. Storage of EGRA Items**

Bill and Liz will each take a gazebo from Barry. Leaflets will go to the Membership Secretary. Other items are with Annette.

#### **17. Replacement Tree**

A tree in the Recreation Ground opposite Unity Court has died. It was agreed to offer £90 to Globe as a contribution towards replacement.

#### **18. Facebook**

Annette's daughter – as a voluntary service initiative – is developing a Facebook Page with considerable success. It contains local news, issues and publicity items and has generated a good level of interest. Members expressed their appreciation of her efforts.

#### **19. Newsletter**

Items to Linda by the end of June for the July issue.

#### **20 Future Meetings**

Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> with Liz at 141 Peppard Road, RG4 8TR.

A provisional date was fixed for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November with Veronica at 22 Marchwood Avenue, RG4 8UN