

EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th February 2018 at 8 Stuart Close, Emmer Green.

Present.

Members. Annette Fairweather (Chair), Linda Glithro, Bill Harper, Liz Lyke.

Guests. Clyde Garrett, Jen Luyten, Christine Moore, Neil Taylor.

1.Future Management of EGRA

1.1 The Guests had joined the meeting to learn about EGRA following an appeal to Members for volunteers to help with the running of the Association. The roles of the various office holders and supporters were explained. The range of activities was discussed, explaining the pressures that had arisen from the loss of volunteers during 2017.

1.2 The changes in the nature of the role of EGRA were considered in the light of the use of social media and the growth of single issue action groups. The value of having an ongoing organisation taking a balanced and informed view of the interests of residents was confirmed. It was noted that an approach to CADRA to merge had been turned down, but it was agreed that it would be better if the resources of the several residents groups in this area were combined.

1.3 The Guests indicated that they would be willing to take active roles with EGRA. The allocation of tasks and the management of the handover of activities would be considered at the next Committee meeting after the AGM.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Association Committee held on 6th November 2017 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Phone Box. Bill reported on the actions being taken by the Group that had been formed to take responsibility for the development of the redundant box in Courtenay Drive. The views of local residents on possible future uses had been sought. Another Group meeting was arranged for early March. It was agreed that the group be offered a budget of £100 for refurbishment work. Investigations into the insurance situation had been carried out and quotes received.

4. AGM

4.1 The AGM would take place at St Barnabas Church on 13th March – 7.00 for 7.15. Committee members should arrive a little before at 7.00 to help set up.

4.2 No refreshments would be offered.

4.3 Margaret Ormonde would be asked if she could organise local pictures that could be displayed on the screen as people assembled. Action Bill

5. Membership

New members had not been actively sought, and the 2018 renewal of subscriptions postponed, pending the clarification of the future of EGRA. A few renewals had been received and would now be accepted. The renewals will now be followed up after the new Committee had been formed.

6. Annual Outing

It was agreed that the outing was valued by members and should be organised again. Ideas will be brought to the next Committee for discussion. Action All

7. Tree Replacement

A contribution of £200 had been received to meet the cost of a replacement for the tree vandalised at the recreation ground. This would cover the tree, delivery, planting and protection. It will be organised by Dave Kenny, one of the Tree Wardens.

8. Recreation Ground Archaeology

Information had been received drawing attention to a survey which had revealed the sites of four burial barrows, one of which was deemed to be potentially important. The Council can list sites of interest, but the qualifying criteria seem unlikely to cover such sites. The information will, however, be drawn to the Council's attention. Action Annette

9. Treasurer's Report.

The examined accounts for 2017 were tabled. The largest item was the cleaning of the Village Sign which had been covered by donations and sponsorship. Funds in hand at the year-end were £1,013. Transactions in 2018 were very limited in view of the reduced level of activity.

10. Planning Updates

10.1 Land off the Peppard Road – Gladman. The appeal against SODC's refusal to grant planning permission will be heard during the first week of May in Henley. CAGE had recruited two experts to speak, and would be launching a "crowdfunding" exercise to meet the costs. SODC and Reading will need to mount a good defence of the current planning policies for the area.

10.2 Reading Golf Club. Rumours about the development of the Golf Course had been circulating and the Club had requested a meeting with EGRA. At the meeting it had been suggested to them that a statement should be issued to put information into the public domain. This had been done and circulated to Members. It had created considerable media interest, and a local action group had been formed. The comments that had been made had often been seen by the Club to be inaccurate, and they have said that in future they will only communicate via EGRA. The draft Reading Local Plan makes reference to the possible development of only a small part of the course, whereas the Club is now thinking of vacating the whole course. There is no further action to be taken until either the Club makes proposals or the Local Plan is further considered.

11. Feedback from Meetings

11.1 The NAG had now become the Police and Safer Caversham Group. Notes of the last meeting had been circulated. There was little relevant to Emmer Green except the action taken on the anti-social behaviour at the Precinct.

11.2 There was no information about the Patients Group, which seemed to be in some difficulty.

12. Age UK Request

Age UK runs a home support service in the area and has asked if EGRA could publicise the need for helpers. It was agreed that a notice could be put on the notice board, but that information on the web site was not appropriate.

13. Next Meeting

To be held on Monday 19th March, 7.30 at 37 Kidmore End Road, RG4 8SN