

EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on 19th March 2018 at 37 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green.

Present. Annette Fairweather (Chair), Clyde Garrett, Linda Glithro, Bill Harper, Richard Hawkins, Christine Moore, Neil Tayler, John Winstanley.

Apologies

Jen Luyten, Liz Lyke and prospective member Tony Hill.

1. Committee Membership

Annette welcomed as new members of the Committee Clyde, Richard, Christine, Neil and John and thanked them for coming forward to support the work of EGRA. Jen, who could not be present, would be working with Richard.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 The new members volunteered to take on the following roles:

John would take over from Bill as Treasurer when he stepped down in the near future.

Christine would be Secretary, managing the Committee's agendas and minutes and also monitoring the EGRA contact email address.

Neil would be Membership Secretary, also monitoring the EGRA members email address and would be a point of contact with Emmer Green Primary School

Richard and Jen would work on social media communications. Communications will be requested via the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer

Clyde would monitor transport issues and as a current member of the Emmer Green Surgery Patients' Group could act as a link.

2.2 It was noted that volunteers are in place for other areas of activity:

Margaret Ormonde monitors environmental issues and her husband Clive maintains the web site.

Harvey Smith reviews planning applications being made in the area.

A team manages the Notice Board

A team distributes paper copies of the Newsletter

A working group has been formed to consider the feasibility of adopting the redundant phone box at the top of Courtenay Drive.

3. Planning Issues

3.1 Annette and Bill reported on a recent meeting with representatives of the newly formed group "Keep Emmer Green" (KEG). There had been indications that this group had been unhappy with EGRA's handling of the proposals that had emerged for possible development on the golf course. The group now seems to understand what EGRA had been doing. There is room for a dedicated action group in addition to EGRA. KEG can say things that EGRA could not, it is already carrying out research on planning details that are beyond EGRA's resources and appears to be willing to raise funds. It had been agreed that the two groups will stay in contact.

3.2 There appear to be no immediate issues that the EGRA Committee will need to deal with. The Gladman appeal will be heard during the first week of May and the outcome may take months to emerge. EGRA continues to support the CAGE group. The draft Reading Local Plan will be reviewed by the government, but no timetable is known for this. It is unlikely that any specific proposals will emerge for the golf course or Caversham Park in the near future.

4. Spending Proposals

4.1 Two requests for funding had been received. Bill had produced an outline budget that showed there is a balance in hand of £1013, and that income and known expenses would be broadly at break even for the next two years. Any further spending would reduce the balance, and it is necessary to keep money in hand for unforeseen events (e.g. damage to the notice board).

4.2 A suggestion had been received that EGRA make a substantial donation – up to £500 - to the fund being set up by CAGE to fight the Gladman appeal. £50 had already been promised. The majority of members were concerned that making a much larger payment would reduce the balance in hand below an acceptable level. It was agreed that no additional donation above the £50 would be offered at the moment. A more informative message would be sent to EGRA members inviting them to contribute directly as individuals. The situation would be considered again at the next meeting in the light of progress of the progress made by CAGE in fundraising.

4.3 £100 has been offered to the working party considering the future of the phone box to help meet initial expenses in setting up any new use. It was agreed that it would not be possible to give a continuing subsidy to the scheme in the future.

5. Next Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 25th April, 7.30pm at 6 Cherwell Road, RG4 8QH