



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in St Barnabas Church on Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.15pm

1 Attendance. 42 Members were present, with apologies received from 6 others.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 6th April 2016 were agreed by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

8.1 Some initiatives had been taken in response to the "Clean for the Queen" national project.

8.3 Consideration is still being given to the best way to clean the Village Sign in view of the high cost of professional cleaning.

8.4 It is understood that the Reading BC Local Plan remains at the draft stage, with completion expected later in the year.

3. Annual Report. The Chairman, Annette Fairweather, presented the main points set out in the Report, which had been circulated to Members.

3.1 Gladman Development proposal. Members had been consulted, submissions had been made to RBC and SODC and Annette had spoken at the RBC Planning Committee meeting. EGRA is working closely with other local groups under the CAGE umbrella (Campaign Against Gladman in Eye and Dunsden). The proposal is now to be considered by SODC at the end of May. Plans are being discussed about how best to present local views. EGRA Members will be kept informed.

3.2 Visit. The visit to the BBC site at Caversham Park had been successful. Numbers had been limited but the uncertainty about the future of the site had prevented another visit being arranged.

3.3 Wild Flower Area. An area in the Recreation Ground had been seeded and germination is awaited. It is hoped to involve Emmer Green School in the management of the site.

3.4 Tree Planting and Seats. In recognition of EGRA's commitment to the local environment RBC had made money available to plant four trees in the Recreation Ground, and to carve four seats – two in the Recreation Ground and two in Clayfield Copse.

3.5 Notice Board. A new and much improved surface had been installed. Discussions are ongoing about remedying the instability that had become apparent during the course of the excavation works around the site.

3.6 Examples of other useful local initiatives were given.

4. Annual Accounts. The Treasurer, Bill Harper, introduced the Accounts, copies of which had been circulated.

4.1 Subscription income remained at a good level and was more than sufficient to cover normal running costs. There had been expenditure on a number of one-off items during the year, principally

the work on the notice board. Funds in hand stood at £1,153. It is prudent to keep an adequate balance in hand for unforeseen costs, so future spending needs to be kept under review.

5. Election of Officers

5.1 Annette was willing to be re-appointed as Chairperson. This was enthusiastically agreed by the meeting.

5.2 Bill was willing to be re-appointed as Treasurer, and this was agreed.

5.3 Janette Joyce was willing to serve again as Accounts Examiner. She was thanked for her work and re-appointed.

6. Committee Roles

6.1 Two current members of the Committee wished to step down. Both were thanked for the major contributions they made. Veronica Leeke had been active and effective in the Planning Role and then in the Environment role. Doffi Parkinson had been successful in the Membership role, and had done a tremendous amount of work on the information handling and consultation arising from the Gladman planning proposal.

6.2 Annette was pleased to report that three Committee members were willing to serve for a further year, and thanked them for all their support during the year.

6.3 Vice Chairman. Michael Denoon-Slater.

6.4 Events Management. Liz Lyke.

6.5 Newsletter. Linda Glithro.

6.6 The vacant positions in relation to Planning and Membership will need to be covered by Committee members, but this situation cannot continue for any length of time. If other EGRA Members are not found to come forward and support its work it will be inevitable that some important areas of activity will be scaled back or dropped.

6.7 A proposal from the floor to give a vote of thanks to the Committee was supported by the meeting with applause.

7. Support Roles

Annette drew attention – with thanks – to the support given by a number of Members on tasks such as newsletter delivery, notice board maintenance, tracking environmental issues and web site upkeep. The wider involvement of Members to supplement the work of the Committee members is really appreciated, and offers of help are always welcome.

8. Constitution

An updated and improved version of the founding Constitution had been circulated to Members and was accepted by the meeting.

8. Topics of Local Interest

8.1 Broadband Coverage. Attention was drawn to the poor broadband service in the area around St Benet's Close (off Kidmore End Road). Representations to secure improvements had not been successful to date as it was said that a service upgrade would be uneconomic. EGRA will support efforts to get an improvement.

8.2 Island Bohemian Bowls Club. The Club, which meets on the Thames island near Caversham, is seeking new members. Details will be circulated to EGRA Members.

Presentation.

At the conclusion of the formal business Mr Stuart Hylton gave an interesting and informative presentation on the part played in Reading's history by some of the prominent buildings and structures in the town.