



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

[www.egra.co.uk](http://www.egra.co.uk)

## MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011, 7.30PM AT 10 UNITY COURT

**PRESENT:** Margaret Ormonde, Jane Handley, Barry Prior, Jasmine Walters, Jill Verran, Andrea Robinson, Bill Harper, and Jennifer Leach.

### **1 APOLOGIES** Vera Bodman and Richard Hammond.

Doris Hiscox had offered her resignation from the committee due to ill health. Margaret said that it was quite understandable and that we thanked her for her interest.

### **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Proposed by Jane Handley. Accepted as a true record, by all the committee.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Trees**

The newly planted trees were mostly doing well but some need to be staked. It was decided to discuss the Diamond Jubilee Picnic at a later date as it would be time consuming and a meeting was set to take place in the near future (Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January}, to decide plans, with the other interested parties.

#### **Caversham 100 years**

Margaret told the committee that the celebrations had been well attended. It was opened by the Mayor. The panels that we submitted will be returned to us at a later date. CADRA had a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### **Planning**

Nothing major to report. An e-mail had been received from a resident about the noise of building work. A general comment was made in response, in the newsletter. The complaint had been made when the work was almost complete. The Gardener's Arms application for changes in their licence had been withdrawn. The illuminated sign application was rejected. Neighbours were invited to the pub and commented that improvements had been made.

### **Stakeholders meeting**

MO reported on the meeting at Smallmead Recycling centre in October. 6 people attended. They are contracted to have 4 meetings a year, but as there was some repetition, it was hoped to widen the topics in future. Grey bin contents are now to go to a hi-tech recycling centre at Slough. A possible visit there may be made. It is encouraging that over the last 10 years, waste collection has dropped as people are separating items of waste.

### **Police Museum Visit**

This is planned for April 19, 2012 and BP will contact them in January to confirm this date.

### **Street Tree Replacement**

MO heard from Bethan Hopkins. The grant application was not successful but there had been £380 collected from residents. Courtenay Drive is on the RBC list for tree planting in February/March 2012 and a 5-year plan is to be drawn up. An update will be posted through residents' doors shortly.

### **Tree Replacements in the Park**

MO attended the RBC workshop. The staking was complete although one has since disappeared. Reading's volunteer Tree Warden Scheme had been successful. The previous week had been National Tree Week and planting of trees had taken place locally, including outside the Hill School and Rotherfield Way. Planting of trees along highways was difficult due to utility pipes etc. underground, and needed specialist work to incorporate root barriers.

### **Clayfield Copse Wood Carvings**

The waymarks are close to completion, but the carvers have lost the facility to work and store at Highdown School. They are now desperate to find a new workshop to continue their carvings. JL suggested the shed behind Truefoods, which has stood empty for some time. BP will speak to the carvers with the suggestion for use of this property. It needs to be a safe place to work and to store. JL contacted Peter Ambrose to do a press release. She will prepare the release and circulate to the committee for approval before printing. All agreed that it would be nice to display the completed carvings at our AGM next year.

### **AGM**

Dr. Clive Edmonds is to speak at our AGM about the caves in and around Emmer Green. MO booked Grace Church on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 8pm. There was some discussion about the venue, as some committee members felt that the former venue St Barnabas Church Hall was in a more central location. However the hall was heavily booked with the only free evenings being the second and fourth Tuesdays in the month, or after the Brownies on a Wednesday, when it was felt that the hall could not be prepared in time for us. There would be further discussion about this with regard to future AGM's, and in the meantime we would focus on better publicity with more emphasis on our speaker. The Grace Church had been very generous in offering the use of their hall and we looked forward to an interesting evening next May.

### **Diamond Jubilee Picnic, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**

MO had attended a meeting with other local interested parties. A general meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and the venue will be decided at a later date. Expenses etc. will be discussed then. BH had spoken to other groups including Church and Guides/Brownies. Each group will make their own arrangements. The new contact at RBC is Marcus Herman. We are able to fund raise as long as it is non-commercial. It is hoped that lots of groups will be involved and each will have their own insurance. The primary school choir will

perform. JW offered to contact a local stage school to see if a performance could be arranged, as some of the students are residents of Emmer Green. JH was asked to liaise with the White Horse management so we could make mutually beneficial arrangements with no conflict of interests.

#### **Shopping Precinct car park**

In 2010 MO had contacted Wolfe Properties, who are owners, but to no avail. BP is to write another firm letter of intent to the company as the situation is becoming critical. It was felt that it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident to persons or vehicles. Also the clamping sign is too small and the lighting is inadequate. It was felt that they were neglecting their duty of care by the lack of upkeep of the area.

### **4 TREASURER'S REPORT**

BH passed the accounts to the committee. RH had sent an e-mail with ideas about recruiting new members, as it was important to maintain current levels. However, there had been little change in the accounts and the balance was very healthy at the moment. RH was not present and will report directly to the committee at the next meeting. It was agreed that the Jubilee Picnic would be a good time to promote ourselves.

### **5 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEES/MEETINGS**

#### **NAG**

VB attended meeting in October. The priorities were speeding, burglary and parking.

AR will attend the next meeting in January when it is expected that the parking issues will be on the agenda.

#### **RBC "We need to talk"**

JW will report on this at the next meeting.

#### **North Reading Youth Group**

No news. The future of the committee is being discussed.

### **6 AOB**

#### **Environment Visual Aid Walk**

Evesham Road on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Rep. from council attended. We were invited to attend to view area problems. (JW)

#### **Reading Means Business on Climate Change**

Meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> 2012. 9am-1.30pm. MO will attend.

#### **Graffiti removal training**

January 12, 2012 at 7pm. Volunteers required.

Margaret thanked Jane for her hospitality.

### **7 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2012, 7.30pm at 37 Kiln Road.