



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 5th March 2012, 7.00PM AT 37 Kiln Road

(Time of meeting brought forward due to extended discussion expected, due to Jubilee Picnic planning and guest)

PRESENT: Bill Harper, Barry Prior, Vera Bodman, Richard Hammond, Margaret Ormonde and Jane Handley.

Guest : Chris Butlin, arrived later. Scout Leader and Jubilee Picnic advisor.

1 APOLOGIES: Jill Verran, Jennifer Leach, Andrea Robinson and Jasmine Walters

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Proposed by Barry Prior. Accepted as a true record, by all the committee.

3 MATTERS ARISING

1. **Climate change meeting, January 12th.**

MO attended. Reading Borough Council has lots of information. A proposed site for "Food for Families" community allotment was proposed on the land behind Knight's Way. The one at Emmer Green School was successful, last year.

2. **Graffiti**

RH reported to the committee about the training that he hosted. 5 people did the training, including Richard Denney from Caversham Globe. Richard has got the graffiti kit and will endeavour to respond to any requests for removal.

3. **Caversham 100 years on**

A book compiled from the larger display panels was circulated. A "History Pin" project may be launched with sessions at St. Barnabas Parish Centre. They would welcome EGRA support and volunteers, from possibly, September. A history of Caversham and Emmer Green is to be produced and they would welcome photos etc. for this production.

4. **Planning**

New Hockey pitch at Highdown permitted. One objection with regards to floodlighting. We continue to monitor proposals for development in South Oxfordshire. Our concern is that there would be increased traffic, passing through our area.

5. **Shopping Precinct Car Park**

BP wrote again to Wolfe Associates. He received a reply but still there has not been any action. It was felt by all, that this car park is an accident waiting to happen as it is so unsafe with huge potholes and no lighting within the car park. He will write again.

6. re3 Stakeholder meeting

March 20th. MO would attend.

7. Police Museum Visit.

This is now confirmed for April 19th. BP will contact people on the waiting list and then any others who may like to attend. They can accommodate up to 25 people.

8. Bell Tower Community Association.

There will be a residents' association meeting at the Civic Centre on March 13th. MO will be attending with Helen Lambert of CADRA and Vera hopes to join them.

9. Trees

Courtenay Drive initiative has been successful and work is to begin in March. BBC Jubilee tree planting went well but held up by snow. We have been assured that the trees in the park will have stakes replaced in future. A new tulip tree in the park was donated in memory of relatives.

10. Litter Pick.

JW will oversee the litter pick in the area on March 10/11.

11. Clayfield Copse Wood Carvings.

The carvings will be on show at the AGM and Jubilee day.

12. AGM and Chairman's Report.

Dr. Clive Edmonds is to speak about the Emmer Green caves at the AGM, at 8.00pm on Thursday, May 17th, Grace Church. It is likely to be well attended this year. It was thought that it would be beneficial to deliver paper copies of our Chair report and updates.

A volunteer organiser is needed for the refreshments on the night. MO would ask JW if she would be able to do this. MO had received enquiries from people outside our area to attend our AGM, probably because of the content of the topic. We are aware that our meeting cannot be in any way political and in general it was agreed that we should keep the focus on our Emmer Green residents, as space will be limited and we would not like to have to turn them away.

At 8pm we were joined by Chris Butlin who is the 89th Reading, Scout Leader.

Margaret Ormonde welcomed Chris and asked each committee member to introduce themselves to him and their responsibility for the Jubilee Picnic in the Park.

JH. Judo-Gymnastic-Hip Hop displays. She had contacted all three organisations and they show great enthusiasm although there is some difficulty in getting people there, as it is a half term.

The Hip Hop and Gymnastics are confirmed and the Judo leader will report later, to confirm.

BH. Brownies will perform and St. Barnabas Church will provide a stall with preserves etc.

JW/AR. The two primary schools are keen to be involved and will run an Arts and Crafts stall and Fancy Dress Competition. (This will need to be mentioned on any flyers that are distributed.)

BP. A live jazz band, who were giving their services free.

The stage school and Highdown School are still to confirm. MO had managed to confirm the attendance of an Ice Cream man.

We will need to have a PA system for the attending band and for the performers and this must be booked very soon to avoid disappointment. There will be forms to complete for RBC and First Aid.

We are keeping RBC and the Police informed of our arrangements and Risk Management will be done by each relevant group, as well as ourselves.

Chris Butlin said that the Scouts would help all they could and he had many ideas for the committee. His wealth of experience in arranging functions would be a great help to us.

A BBQ would need a risk assessment and hygiene certificate. The Scouts have a lot of experience in catering and would serve the tea and coffee. They also have tents and would supply a small marquee. They have experience with regards to gas bottles etc. Tables, benches and an urn had already been arranged. Also a coconut shy with nets, tombola and shove h'penny games. It was felt that food that had not been prepared at the event could be served, without falling foul of the hygiene laws. It was hoped to provide a display of model helicopters but there was issues to address, re health and safety and any local byelaws. MO

would contact RBC with the possibility of shutting off part of the allotments area, temporarily, for the take off of the model helicopters.

Publicity would be crucial and it was decided to send out the Chairman's report in April, with extra copies for each household, giving details of events. Flyers are to be printed and hand delivered by volunteers. It is estimated that there are 2000 households. It was agreed to print 5000 single colour, A5 flyers at a cost of £50. These would be distributed close to the event to residents and key places where the public go (eg Budgens) maybe two weeks before the event. The two public houses on the green have been informed of our intentions and are supportive.

A First aider has been organised.

The agreed budget for the event was £500.

Another meeting will be called of key groups, for planning and co-ordination, approximately three weeks before the event.

The Chairman thanked Chris Butlin for attending and for the immense help and advice offered. The Scouts clearly have a lot of experience in this area and are willing to help us to make the event a day to remember for all.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

BH reported that the accounts are still in a healthy state, £3,472 in the Building Society and £55 cash.

There are still subscriptions outstanding but renewals are coming in slowly. RH will have a table at the AGM to encourage those who have not yet paid and to invite new members. It was suggested that there should possibly be a house-to-house collection done at a later date.

5 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEES/MEETINGS

Neighbourhood Action Group. VB will attend the next meeting. BH went to the last meeting. It was well attended and informative. Parking in our area was debated at length.

North Reading Youth Project. There was a meeting on January, 29th. They are a worthy group who do a lot to help the youth. They will report back to us on any local issues.

6 AOB

1. The Gardener's Arms are under new management and have invited the committee to have lunch there. MO will respond to the manager, who has joined as a member of EGRA.

2. An EGRA member has sent correspondence with regard to his ideas of traffic proposals. EGRA does not have a primary interest in the lower Caversham area, since this is covered by CADRA. Nevertheless, members are not convinced that these ideas will solve the fundamental problems posed by the volume of traffic crossing the river. There is certainly no clear case to justify the cost and loss of amenity involved.

7 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 18th. 7.30pm. Venue to be arranged.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his hospitality and the meeting concluded at approximately 9.10pm.