

**MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.
COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON Monday, October 8, 2012, 10 Unity Court.**

Meeting Commenced at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Jasmine Waters, Margaret Ormonde, Jane Handley, Bill Harper, Barry Prior.

APOLOGIES:

Andrea Robinson, Vanessa Cozens, Vera Bodman.

Margaret told the committee that sadly, Richard Hammond, Julie Robins and Jennifer Leach had resigned. She thanked them for their work for EGRA and wished them well in the future.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Accepted as a true record. Acceptance proposed by Barry Prior.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

AGENDA BUSINESS

Committee roles and recruitment.

Margaret thanked the committee for their support and commitment. There was somewhat of a paradox. EGRA had had a most successful year, but unfortunately, three members had resigned in a month. This meant that the committee was very depleted and new members were needed urgently. Richard Hammond's key role as Membership Secretary needed urgent consideration. Clive Ormonde had kindly offered to take over the database, in the interim. M.O will send out monthly messages and newsletters. Jasmine volunteered to assist in the management of new members and all collection of subscriptions. JH offered to help with collections/phone calls, if Jasmine needed support. JW will respond to contacts from residents, as they occur and will pass any monies collected, to the Treasurer (BH) and will liase with Margaret and Clive with regard to general matters. She will have a "try out" period until January and will report back to committee at the next meeting.

MO thanked all the volunteers in this matter.

Bill Harper will be contacting Richard Hammond to round up the finances of the membership subscriptions etc.

It was agreed that the committee numbers meant that we had reached a critical stage.

The need for more help will be circulated in the Winter Newsletter and it was hoped that some of the members will offer themselves forward for the committee.

JH said that another person was needed for the Noticeboard Team. One member was finding it difficult, but had kindly offered to continue until a replacement could be found.

Shopping Precinct Car Park

There was still stalemate with regards to the car park. Already the patched holes were beginning to break up. In spite of EGRA appeals, no further action had taken place.

Trees

The tree planting in Courtenay Drive had been a great success and the committee wished to say congratulations to the residents of the streets concerned. The project was progressing well in neighbouring streets as well. There would be planting in Brooklyn Drive on December 1st.

RESCUE (March Litter Pick)

JW reported that help was needed for this project. A large drive to recruit was to be organised and an appeal would be made in the Winter Newsletter. Contact details of interested parties should be kept and photos and information from previous litter picks would show possible volunteers, what could be achieved. It was suggested that the local Youth Centre could be approached for help and possibly candidates of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and Scouts. However, we should be aware of the ages of volunteers (12+ years +) and their leaders would need to be present.

MAINTENANCE OF SEATS AND SIGNS

The restoration of seats and signs in Emmer Green would have to be put on hold until more helpers came forward.

The committee wanted to pass a big vote of thanks to Jill and Brian Verran for restoring the Clayfield Dragon. The dragon was showing it's age, but a job well done.

The Clayfield Copse panels are now completed. We are awaiting Reading Borough Council to come forward with the fixing arrangements. The decision had not been made whether the fixing should be in cement or wood. However, it was decided to leave this until the Spring.

AGM VENUE AND TALK 2013

It was proposed that the venue should be at St. Barnabas Hall in 2013, for the EGRA AGM. Contact would be made very soon. BH will enquire, on our behalf, about the dates available. The committee felt that another discussion/talk should take place, featuring the Emmer Green caves, in particular as that is the interest of our members.

MAPLEDURHAM VISIT

MO visited Mapledurham House and had discussions about a possible organised visit by our members. The house and gardens are usually open weekends, but parties of at least 20 could be arranged, for a guided tour. MO had found the visit very interesting. The proposition will be circulated by e-mail to our members, to find out if there was enough interest for a visit.

WINTER NEWSLETTER

This is in hand.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BH circulated the financial report to members of the committee. He told the committee that the accounts were still healthy. The Jubilee event had raised £210 by way of the raffle, which was a tremendous effort. Thanks to all who made donations to the raffle.

The report showed the monies held on behalf of the Blossom Tree Fund.

He proposed that a new bank account should be opened. The following is the agreed banking arrangement.

The Committee agreed that EGRA open a Current Account and a Business Reserve Account with the NatWest Bank. It is planned to have three signatories, Bill Harper, Margaret Ormonde and Barry Prior. Payments up to and including £50 would require only one signature and for higher amounts, two signatures.

The committee also agreed, that the three signatories are authorised to sign the application on behalf of EGRA.

The entire committee agreed to the opening of these accounts.

Proposed by Barry Prior

Seconded by Jasmine Waters.

Meetings of other organisations

Monday, October 22nd. CADRA – School places. MO will attend.

Thursday, October 25th. Reading Neighbourhood Network – Civic Centre, 7pm. No-one is able to attend.

Tuesday, November 20th. NAG meeting at Highdown School. No-one was able to attend the last meeting, but MO will send out an e-mail for anyone able to attend this meeting.

AOB

No other business.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mid-January.

A provisional date of Monday, January 21st, 2013.

The venue to be decided at a later date.

The Chairman thanked Jane for her hospitality.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.20pm.