



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON January 21, 2013 at 37 Kidmore End Road.

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Margaret Ormonde, Bill Harper, Barry Prior, Jasmine Waters, Jane Handley, Vanessa Cozens and guests, Blanche Hunter and Linda Glithro.

APOLOGIES:

Vera Bodman and guests Mark Hutchings and Tony Hill.

Margaret welcomed the guests and thanked them for their interest. She told the committee that unfortunately Andrea Robinson had found it necessary to resign from the committee, due to work and family commitments. Margaret wished to thank her for her help and involvement, and all wished her well.

The chairman then thanked everyone for coming and for their continuing support and commitment.

Everyone introduced themselves individually, for the benefit of the guests.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes circulated prior. Acceptance of minutes. Proposed by Bill Harper and seconded by Barry Prior.

MATTERS ARISING

The Committee

MO wished to thank all those who had worked so hard in the last few months. She particularly mentioned Jasmine Waters who was covering as Membership Secretary. She had already done a great deal of work with the membership renewals, which had been coming in steadily. JW said that everything was ticking along well, with no particular problems.

Clive Ormonde had spent time streamlining the management of the Access database.

MO had contacted the people who deliver the paper newsletters and many had offered help.

BH commented that it seemed difficult to recruit new committee members and many of EGRA members were reluctant to get involved if they would be asked to "do" something, but supported EGRA in general. It was felt that maybe the committee was not representative of the whole of Emmer Green, particularly the younger members. He put to the committee an idea of decentralising the committee, having smaller groups involved in their particular interest and concerns. They would form their own sub-committees, reporting to the central committee, as and when necessary. There was general discussion about this and BH offered to put

together a structure of his ideas and would present it at the AGM to test the opinions of the membership. Email was the key in the project as this could cut down the number of face to face meetings. He observed that so much is done these days by email and it was his experience that the decentralised committee with sub-committees, generally work well. This idea was discussed at length and some felt it may encourage new members to help if they were doing something that they enjoyed, without having to attend general meetings.

AGENDA BUSINESS

Litter Pick.

JW reported that she has been in communication with RESCUE. There is a meeting on 4th February. The Winter newsletter appeal had resulted in one reply. Jasmine had also been liaising with Alison Steedman who looked after the local Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Areas in need of the litter pick had been identified for consideration. It was suggested that the event should be only one day this time (over a weekend last time) and in two hour slots. JW said that the helpers were well cared for and had rest and refreshment times. She said that the group enjoyed it last time as there was a jovial atmosphere. She will get more information to circulate after the February meeting of RESCUE.

Mapledurham Visit.

BP reported that there had been 11 people interested to date for the visit to Mapledurham. MO will write to Mapledurham to say that we have a group interested in a visit and most will be over 60. A date and cost will be distributed at a later date.

Gravel Hill Development.

Vanessa Cozens told the committee that she had had a lot of response from our members after the proposals to build 14 new houses on a paddock in South Oxfordshire, had been circulated by the property company involved. Vortal Properties had sent 3000 documents inviting response, to local households. In general the people surveyed were not at all happy. Some had filled in the survey but had attached their letters of disapproval. The report from Vortal was somewhat ambiguous and raised more questions than answers. They are offering a Pre-school building and the area does not need another Pre-school. A Primary school was needed but in Caversham Heights, not Emmer Green. Child safety would be an issue as the traffic would be funnelled into narrow roads with the risk of accidents. Gravel Hill is a natural border of suburban Berkshire and rural South Oxfordshire. VC planned to send a letter of objection to Vortal with a copy to South Oxfordshire council and making it clear that EGRA would support any of our members who have grievances.

Trees.

The Courtenay Drive tree planting was a huge success and there was further planting in December in Burnham Rise and Brooklyn Drive. What was a very successful project in Courtenay Drive starting two years ago, had now extended to include 30 more trees in adjacent streets. The neighbourhood got behind the project financially and also turned out for the planting. More trees are planned. EGRA is still holding funds for this group.

Clayfield Copse.

BP reported that no further action had occurred. Peter Ambrose the co-ordinator had no space for storing the waymarks. BH had offered to store them, but had not heard back from them. No decision had yet been made with regards to the fixing of the posts, whether it should be wood or concrete. BP had asked RBC for an estimate to fit the posts, but had not to date, had a reply. Now that the waymarks are completed, we need a final decision from Friends of Clayfield Copse.

AGM.

The AGM will take place this year at St. Barnabas Hall on April 10th, 2013. Chris Butlin who is the Scout Leader will give a talk on Scout activities and the mines in Emmer Green. BP has access and authority to the BBC documentary film of the mines and will liaise with Chris Butlin if he would like to use this film for his presentation. The chairman's report will be ready for distribution in mid-March. The newsletter deliverers will be happy to distribute the paper copies of the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurers report was distributed to the committee. BH asked the committee for permission to open an internet account. It will make management of the account a lot easier and more practical. The committee were in full agreement and this was signed off by the signatories present.

FEEDBACK OF OTHER MEETINGS.

NAG

MO attended the meeting on January 17th, 2013. She found the meeting interesting. A representative from RBC's Trading Standards was present. Burglary, speeding and parking were the main topics for discussion. Overall, crime was low. The police and council were working together with regard to parking around schools. Next meeting will be March 21st, 2013.

AOB

Book prize to Highdown School.

Historically we had given a book to the school annually (initial agreement was for 5 years which is now up) to reward a student who had done something exceptional for the community. It was felt that we should now broaden this gesture to other groups in the community, e.g. Scouts – Guides etc. who were nominated by their leaders as helping their community. In general it was agreed that a different group should be awarded the prize, each year.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. To be arranged after AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm and the chairman thanked Bill Harper for his hospitality.