

MINUTES OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.
COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON FEBRUARY 27TH 2014 AT 10 UNITY COURT.

Present. Margaret Ormonde, Vera Bodman, Jane Handley, Linda Glithro, Barry Prior, and Bill Harper.

Apologies. Liz Lyke and Mark Hutchings

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

MATTERS ARISING.

Minutes approved as a true record.

Proposed by Barry Prior, seconded by Bill Harper.

Margaret told the committee that Vanessa Cozens would be standing down due to work commitments. M.O thanked Vanessa for her help and commitment to EGRA and the committee.

RESCUE.

M.O. read the notes from Mark Hutchings in his absence.

There would be a litter pick at Marshlands Square on Sunday March 16th. He had contacted the Youth Team but no-one was available, as the past leader had left.

So far there were 8 volunteer helpers. This included 3 councillors and 5 EGRA members.

There may be some support from Caversham Globe. M.O. would be appealing for more helpers. Refreshments would be available at The Gardener's Arms with EGRA contributing up to £20 towards the refreshments.

PLANNING

1. Outline planning permission had been refused for 16, St. Barnabas Road.

2. Marchwood Avenue. Renewal of outline planning permission. South Oxfordshire District Council had decided to approve this time.

3. Protected sites. M.O. had circulated a list of protected sites in our area. The pond was not included and M.O. would like the green opposite the church included.

CLAYFIELD COPSE

Barry Prior told the committee that notice had been given that the waymarks are on posts and when the ground had dried out, they would be erected. It was felt that, when the waymarks are installed, we should report the event.

BUDGEN'S CAR PARK

M.O. has written to thank Mr. Rashid of Budgen's for arranging the new and immensely improved car park. It has made an amazing difference to the complex and a pleasure for all visitors and customers. There will be a two hour limit on parking.

2014 AGM

The AGM will take place on April 10th at 7.30pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall. Our speaker this year will be Corry Starling of Mapledurham Mill. His speech should be interesting given the terrible winter and the problems that they will have endured at the Mill. Help is needed with the catering. The proceedings are beginning earlier this year. An anniversary cake has been ordered and proceedings will commence with the ceremonial "cutting of the cake." M.O. will be contacting people who made cakes for the Jubilee, to help again, if possible. It was agreed that the miller could bring his produce and copies of his wife's book, to sell at the AGM. The chairman would be preparing her report very soon, ready for delivery in March. Printed copies would go to each household, with a personal invite. The Press is to be invited to attend. The wine and glasses would come from Waitrose and Linda Glithro would arrange this.

RECRUITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

The current membership is pretty static at 500. Renewals are coming in and L.L. is processing them. There have been some new members joining and M.H. will look at house moves and new residents. The cut off for membership renewal is at the end of June.

MAINTENANCE OF SEATS

It was felt that the seats were needing attention. B.P. and B.H. both offered help when the weather improves but help would also be needed from outside the committee. Volunteers would be very welcome.

TREES

There had been no response so far from the council with regard to the felled trees in Grove Road. It had been suggested that carvings could possibly be done but we would not now proceed with this. The decision to replant a cedar at Rosehill Park has been carried out.

TREASURER'S REPORT

B.H. told the committee that little had changed since the last meeting and we continue to be in a healthy position. There has been £144.50. in from subscriptions. On April 1st, 2014 the annual insurance becomes due. An internet renewal of £75 is a great improvement on past costs.

FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

NAG.

M.H. attended the last meeting. It was very short and only 9 people attended. He had submitted his report for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter.

Heights School.

L.G. attended the meeting with regards to the school. She was representing EGRA and as an educational professional. It was a very interesting meeting covering a number of issues. Recruitment is taking place for teachers and pupils. She had previously distributed her notes taken at the meeting. At this time there was been no decision on the location of the school.

The Third Thames Bridge

There was a very lively meeting which took place in February, about the proposed third bridge. Barry Prior attended along with some EGRA members. There was majority cross-party support for a new local bridge to by-pass Sonning. However it remains a controversial topic and the committee will continue to monitor the situation.

A.O.B.

J.H. told the committee that the noticeboard had suffered during the awful weather in the past months. It was a battle to keep the notices on the board and mostly they got soaked very quickly and therefore, unreadable. Apologies to advertisers. The team of notice board volunteers continued to do their weekly duties, regardless.

She said that the Trade List would be prepared shortly for 2014-16, commencing in June. All tradesmen will be contacted to ensure details are correct and new tradesmen that have been recommended, will go on the list

L.G. told the committee that the Dundsden Owen Association had been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant of £22,800 to celebrate Wilfred Owen's time in Dunsden. There will be a concert, an exhibition, a specific trail and many other celebrations. This will be announced nationally on March 21st.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm. The Chairman thanked Jane for her hospitality.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 1st 2014 at 7.30pm. Venue TBA.