



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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Minutes of Meeting 7th November 2016 at 22 Marchwood Avenue, Emmer Green.

Present. Annette Fairweather (Chair), Michael Denoon – Slater, Linda Glithro
Bill Harper, Veronica Leeke.

Apologies. Liz Lyke, Doffi Parkinson.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Association Committee held on 15th August 2016 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising – Actions from the Last Meeting

3.2 Mailchimp. Michael to help Doffi reviewing how this might be used. Action Michael and Doffi

3.4 Memberships. People at the relevant precinct shops have not yet been offered membership.

Action Liz

6.1 Wild Flowers. A request for volunteer support had gone out.

7.2 Village Sign. The appeal for funds had produced an offer of £50. (See also 4 below)

9. AGM. It was confirmed that the AGM will be held in St Barnabas Church on 28th March. No reaction has been received from the possible speaker on Caversham Park. No further action. Stuart Hylton will be approached to talk on a local history theme related to his books. Action Linda

10. Highdown Avenue. The concerns about accident hazard were passed to the Council who will contact the resident who raised the issue.

11. Firework Talk. A major change in local police staffing and organisation had caused the cancellation of this event. (NB The police office in Caversham is to close.)

12. Recreation Ground. The protective mesh has been bought and an account for payment will be requested. Installation is being arranged. (See also 17 below)

13. Caversham Park House. Contacts have been approached and acknowledgement is awaited.

14. Patient Group. Dates were circulated to members. Any matters raised will be passed to Margaret Ormonde. (See also 13 below)

15 Lapel Pins. Michael was thanked producing the pins.

3. Membership

3.1 Five new members have been recruited since the last meeting.

3.2 It has been suggested that EGRA posts a recruiting appeal on streetlife.com. Committee members to look at the site and give comments to Doffi. Action All

4. Village Sign

The quote has been reduced to £350 and after the promised donation the net cost will be £300. This is still more than can be found from current funds. An appeal will be made at the AGM.

5. Newsletter.

The content has been largely identified, with the last pieces required ASAP. It will be printed in colour.

6. Phone Box – Courtenay Drive.

6.1 BT had given notice to the Council of their intention to decommission and remove the box. EGRA will object. Action Veronica

6.2 A group of residents in the area are willing to take responsibility for any future use of the box if it remains. There is a scheme for local community groups to “adopt” a box. EGRA will have more status than local people as such a group, and it was agreed that EGRA will formally adopt the box (nominal charge £1). However, this is on the understanding that EGRA will act only as an “umbrella” organisation for the local group who will be required to take and finance any management actions.

6.3 The extent of any future liability for the box in the event of it falling out of use will be investigated. Action Veronica (Note. This was subsequently shown not to be an issue of concern.)

7. Water Tower – Trees

A number of local residents had met with Thames Water to discuss plans to work on the trees on this site. Veronica and Dave Kenny from Globe were in attendance. It appears that two trees will be removed and others trimmed, but more detail is required. This has been requested and a reply promised. It is desirable to keep the residents informed – even if only with an interim report. Action Veronica

8. Emmer Green Fete

A member has suggested that an Emmer Green fete, organised in the past, should be re-instituted. The Committee had no objection to this in principle, but would not want to take on the management tasks themselves. It appears that a fete at Harpsden relies on outside help to make arrangements. Action Annette to investigate. If encouraging, and with the planting, etc. work further advanced, this idea may be an option for a future year.

9. Planning Portfolio.

Veronica has withdrawn from responsibility for planning matters. She was warmly thanked for all the effort she had put in. Annette will hold the fort for the moment, but another volunteer to take on this task is needed. This may be by way of appeal to members, but it was suggested that the Reading Voluntary Agency may be able to help. Action Annette

10. Proposed Development off Peppard Road

10.1 Drafts of a member questionnaire and an information sheet were considered and amendments proposed. Action Bill to update. A return date of the end of November was agreed, with the distribution to be co-ordinated with the Newsletter.

10.2 Annette has made arrangements for Isobel Ballsdon, a Reading Councillor, to look at the drafts and give advice. Action Annette

10.3 Information is awaited from SODC on the process and timetable for public consultation.

11. Autumn Close

An application to demolish a bungalow and build two houses has been refused.

12. Treasurer’s Report

The accounts summary to November was received. The only changes since the last meeting were additional subscriptions and the payments for the notice board.

13. Patients Group

The Notes of the last meeting had been circulated. Margaret will attend the next meeting.

14. NAG

14.1 The Notes of the last meeting had been circulated. There are no significant matters to report.

14.2 Annette had helped analyse information on traffic issues.

14.3 The next meeting might be asked for reactions to the implications of the Gladman development proposal and on the safety of the nearby lane that is apparently a designated Cycle Route. Action Annette

15. EVAs

15.1 Veronica reported on two recent EVAs with Garry Miles from the Council.

15.2 There are concerns about the surface of the footpath between Jefferson Close and Russet Glade becoming slippery. This is not the responsibility of the Council, and if action is required notice would have to be given to the landowner.

16. Web Site

16.1 Clive Ormonde has asked that a volunteer be found to update the local issues and current information pages. The Committee view is that the web site is best regarded as a reference source rather than news outlet. It may be that Facebook is a better vehicle for current information. Action Annette to review

16.2 The Newsletters should already be appearing on the site. Personnel changes mean that the Committee Minutes are not appearing. Action Bill to get them posted

17. Recreation Ground

Annette reported on current activity:

- i. Tree protection (see 2.12 above)
- ii. Work had been done with volunteer assistance with preparation and sowing.
- iii. RBC staff had offered assistance and had given assurances that grass-cutting would avoid the wild flower area.
- iv. Three diseased chestnuts trees are to be removed.
- v. The use of tree butts (stumps) as benches had been explored but is too expensive for EGRA to proceed.
- vi. Unexpectedly the Council has been able to offer some Sec.106 money (from developer contributions) to provide two benches and four new trees. Liaison is in progress about siting.
- vii. It was agreed in principle to put plaques on the benches acknowledging Margaret's contribution to the upkeep of the area and also the work of the Berkshire Woodcarvers.
- viii. Attention is turning to rationalising the planting around the pavilion.

Annette was thanked for all her efforts in securing some very worthwhile improvements.

18. Reading Prison.

It was noted that the exhibition in the prison is being extended. If it is still open next year it might be suitable for an EGRA visit.

19. Next Meeting

To be arranged when the timetable for the SODC planning application is known. Action Annette and Bill