



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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## EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at 3, Phillimore Road, Emmer Green.

**Present.** Annette Fairweather (Chair), Linda Glithro, Bill Harper, Liz Lyke.

**Apologies.** Michael Denoon -Slater.

**1.Minutes** of the previous meeting of the Association Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 were agreed.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

2.1 Mailchimp. Remains under investigation. Action Michael

2.2 Fete. Not now considered practical in view of the limited Committee resources.

2.3 Web site updates. Both done.

7. Recreation Ground Tree Event. This can be seen as a successful community event. The publicity was very good – thanks to Linda. Liz was thanked for providing the refreshments under difficult conditions.

8. Phone Box. The current situation is to be investigated. Action Bill Concerns remain about the potential liabilities and the capacity of the local volunteers to manage the project.

13. Inventory. In hand. Action Annette The inventory should cover only assets and not old records, which can often be disposed of after review.

#### **3. Membership**

3.1 Annette now holds and manages the current database. Steps need to be taken to re-establish the membership software. Some of the forms need updating.

3.2 Database security needs to be reviewed. Action Michael

3.3 The newsletter deliverers have been asked to make calls on potential members in their delivery areas. Mixed responses.

3.4 Annette has had an encouraging meeting with Bert Neo, who will be helpful as a supporter on recruitment. He is willing to arrange periodic appearances at the precinct and at local events with publicity material. Liz volunteered to help, and other Committee members could support if dates are convenient.

#### **4. AGM**

4.1 The 2017 meeting has been seen as a success. The format, including limited refreshments, will be repeated in 2018.

4.2 The 2018 meeting will be held again in St Barnabas church. Possible dates in the first two weeks of March to be explored. Action Bill

4.3 For the speaker, an approach will be made to Angela Buckley who writes and talks on local historical crimes. Action Annette Possible reserve themes are Capability Brown in Berkshire and the history of the local hospitals.

## **5. Committee Membership**

Action needs to be taken to fill the vacant positions, where committee membership is desirable but not essential. An appeal to members will be drafted. Action Bill and Linda

## **6. Visit**

6.1 The aim will be to arrange a walk looking at historic buildings in Reading town centre with Stuart Hylton in July – 17/18/19 or later. Action Liz. The maximum number should be 20.

6.2 Stuart will be asked to suggest an itinerary and duration, with a preferred starting time of 3pm.

6.3 A small cash charge will be made on the day to cover the costs of anything purchased as a gesture of appreciation for Stuart.

## **RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street)**

7.1 This initiative by the Council, which is being actively promoted, aims to involve local groups in the care of a street, open space, etc.

7.2 The Committee does not have the resources to administer the scheme in Emmer Green. That role might be suitable for Caversham Globe.

7.3. EGRA could draw members' attention to the scheme.

## **8. Tree Vandalism**

8.1 Two trees in the Recreation Ground had been destroyed by young people. The police and local schools had been involved to identify culprits and take action.

8.2 A parent of one of those involved had agreed to act in a liaison role with Highdown School, where steps were being taken to collect money towards the likely £500 cost of replacement.

8.3 Whilst the incident was highly regrettable, the response of the various interested parties had been positive, and EGRA's role appreciated. It may turn out to be a good example (not least to local children) of the impact of vandalism on the community and its reaction.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported on transactions from January to April. The AGM costs were below 2016 even though they included printing which had previously been separated.

## **Planning**

**10. The Piggery, Gravel Hill.** Attention had been drawn to an application to convert this property for residential use. Whilst there will possibly be some very local implications, EGRA is concerned with wider impacts on Emmer Green and not normally with issues concerning a single property.

## **11. Reading Local Plan**

11.1 The draft Local Plan has been published for comments by 14<sup>th</sup> June. This should be drawn to members' attention.

11.2 EGRA needs to prepare a view. Committee comments should come to Bill in the next couple of weeks. Whilst members are not to be asked for comments, some will doubtless be received. Action Bill

11.3 We should liaise with CADRA. Bill will make contact.

## **12 Gladman Proposal – CAGE**

12.1 CAGE is a grouping of interested local organisations and individuals. Local Councillors attend sometimes. It is aiming:

- To co-ordinate the representations made to the SODC Planning Committee
- To stimulate public attendance at the Planning meeting.

That meeting is now expected at the end of May or the middle of June.

12.2 Its work will increasingly lead to money being required. EGRA has stated that its funds are limited. The Committee agreed that contributions could be made to some of the publicity expenses, but not to provide subsidies to transport.

12.3. If the SODC Planning Officers recommend approval of the application, CAGE plans to seek the "Call In" of the application to government. This will delay the decision and hopefully over-rule the recommendation. Subject to review of the terms in which the request for "Call In" is drafted, EGRA should give its support if required.

### **13. Meetings Feedback**

13.1 Patients Group. Information on the latest meeting had been circulated.

13.2 NAG. There was nothing of interest to report, save that Annette had stepped down as Co-Chair.

### **Other Current Issues**

#### **14. Notice Board**

Nothing has been done despite assurances from the contractors who had been working on site.

Michael to follow up

#### **15. Seat**

The dialogue with the Council continues on the financial responsibility for restoration. Michael to follow up

#### **16. Village Sign**

16.1 A possible source of grant finance has been identified. Michael to follow up

16.2 Bert Noe is approaching local some estate agents for financial support.

#### **17. Newsletter.**

17.1 Possible content discussed. Copy to Linda during June.

17.2 It is hoped to circulate the updated Tradesman List at the same time. Action Michael

#### **18. Chiltern Edge School**

18.1. Following an adverse OFSTED report the school is in special measures. It also appears to have financial problems. Options for its future are the subject of consultation, and there is extensive coverage on social media.

18.2. The EGRA position will be that the responsible Education Authorities must make proper provision for the pupils' education. There is insufficient information available at the moment to judge which of the possible future options is financially and practically feasible.

#### **19. Next Meeting**

Bill to host at 37 Kidmore End Road, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30

