

Emmer Green Residents Association; committee meeting 88

Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 6 Cherwell Road, Reading RG4 8QH

Present Annette Fairweather, Bill Harper, Liz Lyke, Neil Tayler, John Winstanley, Clyde Garrett, Richard Hawkins, Christine Moore

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2. **Apologies** Linda Glithro, Tony Hill, Jen Luyten
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 19th March 2018** were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising and actions**

Two members questioned the amount of the donation to CAGE, £50 or £100? It was confirmed that the £50 donation had been sent and although various sums had been discussed over the last few months, the minutes records of EGRA and CAGE confirmed that this was the sum promised.

5. **Preferred emails and contact details to be used for committee members**

Members said which emails they prefer to use. A separate list will be sent to the committee by Christine. Any resident or agency who wants to contact EGRA or committee members can be forwarded to or directed to egra.contact@gmail.com. Committee members own email addresses are not made available. At a future date EGRA gmails for roles may be created.

ACTION Christine

Handover of roles

Membership –

ACTION: Neil and Annette to liaise

Trade list -- available only to members, not on the website. They contact EGRA and it is sent to them. Traders get on the list through recommendations. They leave the list if too many complaints or go out of business. Reviewed annually. Six voted to keep this service to members. Annette keen to hand over but no takers at present.

ACTION: Annette

Social Media – A new role. Working party to form.

450 households are members, 100 non-email. Potential for 75% of members to access social media platforms. EGRA Facebook page has approx. 270 followers but many are not members. Indications are that Facebook will be the main news source with the website. Working party to include Neil, Richard, Jen, Christine and Clive Ormonde who controls the website, Richard to contact him. The working party will report back to the committee by the end of May.

ACTION: working party report by May 31st

6. **Formal resolution to change bank signatories** Bill Harper and John Winstanley

It was resolved that:

- *No change is required to the **current signing** rules for the accounts detailed in section 2 – one signature for sums up £50 and two signatures for higher amounts.*
- *The **authorised signatories** in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.*

Authority with the bank ended for Bill Harper, Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior.
New signatories: John Winstanley, Neil Tayler

The committee voted unanimously for the changes.

ACTION: John

7. Finances John Winstanley

Balance at the bank £848.22 plus £16.44 in cash. A detailed balance sheet was available.

Payments IN: 7 subscriptions

Payments OUT: Insurance £79.80, CAGE £50, Treatment chemicals for village sign £21.25, Replacement tree purchase.

John proposed to close the Restricted Fund called Blossom Tree Fund. This balance is £0. It was held for tree and bulb planted in Burnham and Courtenay Drives 2014 to 2017. All monies used and plants growing well. Agreed unanimously.

8. Courtenay Drive Report Bill Harper

Bill contacted the group. Victoria Marshall is now the liaison person for the group who want to save the Courtenay Drive BT phone box for community use. BT expect an established local group to be the umbrella organisation, sign a contract and maintain and insure the phone box. EGRA will have to enter into formal agreements with BT and the local Highways Agency. The working group need to show future use and care is feasible in terms of people to care for the box and show financial implications have been covered. If this is not done, BT will remove the box.

The EGRA committee felt that Phone Box group should report back by the end of May if they intend to continue with this plan or EGRA could not commit to future support.

ACTION: Bill to feedback to the Courtenay Drive working group.

9. New data protection compliance by 25th May 2018

- Privacy policy to agree and Agreement form for members

Neil, Membership, and Christine, Secretary, will agree final wording. The policy needs to be available on the website; Clive Ormonde to be consulted. The Agreement form can be electronic for members on email. There will have to be paper copies, 100, for non-email members.

Data controller to identify: EGRA Secretary

Method of holding records: must be secure

ACTION: Christine and Neil to agree final wording, distribute and get the majority back by 19th May

10. Planning Update

Dr Harvey Smith reviews Reading Borough Council (RBC) planning requests in our area.

Contacts at RBC send out information. Transport issues can be forwarded to Clyde.

Current issues: Reading Golf Club. The Manager has informed us that potential developers may be seen viewing the sites, but no decisions have been made or are imminent.

BBC site is shown as Under Offer on the agent's website.

Dunsden site: The Public Enquiry is next week, 1 – 4 May. CAGE have sufficient funds to engage a barrister. More financial support is needed and the committee voted for a further £50 donation ; 4 votes for, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

Traffic surveys have been noted on Sonning Bridge. The purpose is not known.

11. News from other organisations

Emmer Green Surgery Patients Liaison: Clyde Garrett. The group has reformed and appointed a new chairperson. There is a suggestion that the liaison groups from Balmore Park, Emmer Green and Priory Avenue should combine. Recent performance surveys are available on line.

Caversham Good Neighbours are doing well. 565 families assisted in 2016, 1300 in 2017. They drive people to hospital, offer befriending services and visit new residents.

Neighbourhood Action Group: Annette

Caversham GLOBE have carried out Nitrogen dioxide surveys on main traffic routes around Caversham. Results on their website.

12. Social Events Liz Lyke

In 2015, visit to Reading International Solidarity roof garden. In 2016, visit to the BBC monitoring station building. In 2017 History walk round Reading town centre.

No plans for 2018, various ideas discussed but agreed we need to establish the Social Media routes first. ACTION Liz and Richard to discuss

13. Any Other Business

Committee Expenses. Any running cost expenses should be presented to the Treasurer. Some members do not claim expenses.

Emmer Green sign. Bill will spray it weather permitting. This is an annual job.

EGRA gazebo Bill stores an old gazebo. Agreed he can donate it to another. A newer gazebo is stored by Liz.

Friends of Clayfield Copse: Richard has been in touch with them. Peter Scudamore does walking tours. He is interested to know if residents have spotted any red-list bird species locally. Will publicise on social media

Grit bins Katy Trigg in Glenrhondda has written to EGRA and Ed Hopper councillor. RBC is removing all grit bins in the borough to save £16,000 a year. Each bin costs £340 to maintain pa. Ninety plus households in Bugs Bottom need to continue using the bins as Tredegar Road and Glenrhondda are very steep and the only roads in and out the development. Ed Hopper has said there is another chance to make representations to RBC in September when the Winter 18/19 plan is discussed. ACTION: Christine to contact the Triggs.

Annette formally thanked Bill Harper for all his work and support for EGRA since he joined the committee in 2002. He has made a very significant contribution to EGRA's progress. This was his last committee meeting.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd July 2018 at 15 Highdown Avenue 7.15 for 7.30 pm (Neil Tayler)