

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 12th April 2010 at 7.00 pm
in the Letherhead Institute.**

Present:

Members: Cheryl Allen, Mrs B. Bennett, Anne Brodrick, Pat Brodrick, Caroline Brown, Ray Brown (Secretary), Hubert Carr (Chairman), Tom Musoke, Hilary Porter (Vice-chair), Jane Pratt, Paula Sabine, Pat Tate, Alan Thornhill, Emma Vivian, Meredith Vivian, Heather Ward.

1 Apologies

Fran Barnby-Smith, David Banko, Bridget Lewis-Carr

2 Minutes of Meeting on 1st February November

The minutes were accepted as correct.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. "Garden Wildlife" - presentation by Heather Ward.

Gardens can contribute to bio-diversity - can help keep species as farmers use more pesticides and insecticides. They enable us to watch birds, bees, dragonflies and other insects. Look around and what you already have and make the most of it; consider whether soil is clay or chalk, and the garden sunny or shady.

Buy decent mix for bird feeders; nest boxes encourage nesting; sparrows need especial help and are fond of meal worms. Butterflies need flowers that produce plenty of nectar and suitable plants for their caterpillars. Moths are attracted by evening primroses. Both bumble bees and honey bees need nectar plants; bumble bees need places to live in such as old walls.

Ponds and other water features encourage wildlife. Ponds should have a shallow end so animals can get out; encourage reeds, emergent vegetation and floating plants.

Trees such and shrubs such as elderberry, ivy and holly encourage wild life. Use native plants such as agronomy, anemones, knapweed and marjoram, depending upon soil type.

5. Newsletter

a. Spring 2010

These had all been delivered before Easter. Chairman regretted that Heather's report had missed the deadline for this Newsletter and suggested a report be submitted for the Summer Newsletter.

The Secretary said he had received some returns of the questionnaire and asked those who had not returned them to let him know their choices.

b. Summer 2010

The Secretary said we hoped to produce at least three Newsletters this year; the deadline for the Summer was likely to be end of June and contributions from

members would be welcome.

6. Reports from Sub-Groups

(a) Membership - Paula reported that so far half of the people who had paid for one year only had renewed their subscriptions, some for three years, and that other renewals were still coming in. We have also picked up a few new members.

(b) Planning:

Caroline Brown reported on the LRA reaction to:

1. Land Allocation Document with the following comments:
 - the possibility of shops combining Internet sales with retail outlet in town centre;
 - the request for explanation regarding the whole of the Station area for housing development;
 - the expression of regret over the offer of the field behind Randalls Road, which is owned by Merton Borough Council, for housing development.
2. Other planning issues, namely:
 - Application for gypsy/traveller site for one caravan at 141 Kingston Road - no result yet.
 - Application for two neighbours in Cophorne Road to demolish their garages and erect a detached house on the site. This could cause parking problems, but we have had no representation from those affected.
 - 12 Byron Place has had planning permission granted for an extension, despite fourteen written objections.
 - The Beaverbrook Foundation has been unable to raise enough money from Cherkley Court to support the various charities that look to it for help and is, therefore, about to put the property on the market as a one-family dwelling.
 - Brook Willow Farm has put in an application to retain the buildings and small businesses, which currently have no planning permission. The application is virtually the same as the retrospective planning application which was refused last year by MVDC. Caroline has been unable to contact Aidan Gardner about this but will continue to try and contact him.

Questions:

Meredith Vivian asked about the field behind Randalls Road.

Caroline said that the requirement for housing development covered a period up till 2026 and did not take into account any "windfall sites." Sites in the Green Belt, such as this field, were not likely to be used while other sites were possible.

Cheryl Allen agreed that Green Field sites would not be used in the immediate future.

A question was asked about the future of the shop which Currys.digital had vacated; no information was known about its future use.

Hilary Porter said she had heard there was a possible take-over of the florist's

shop in the High Street. She assured the meeting that it would continue to be a florist's shop.

Tom Musoke said that he understood Mr Abramovich, Chairman of Chelsea F.C., was interested in buying Cherkley Court.

The Chairman referred to the proposal to refurbish the Pumping Station as an arts gallery. Colin Langley has been in touch with the Water Board and it said the Board was still using the building.

Cheryl Allen reported that the Blue Cafe has opened in the former Duxiana premises as from today (12th April) despite there being no design for an extractor flu presented to the Council. Building Control is to monitor the site. Meanwhile the residents of Montagu house have referred the question of the original granting of planning permission to the Local Government Ombudsman.

There was some discussion concerning this. It was felt that the South Leatherhead Councillors should be acting for these residents and that the LRA could only step in if the Councillors refused to act.

(c) Highways:

The Chairman reported that:

- For a long time the signs at on the cycling path on both sides of Kingston Road at the pedestrian crossing north of the Railway Bridge both showed "end of route". This was raised again at the last Highway's Forum and Brian Mulford agreed to put the signs right..
- Derek Poole has promised to see to adding the words 'No cycling' beneath the sign on Church Walk and to adding wording to the priority and give-way signs at the nib in North Street.
- There is still problem with drainage on Randalls Road at the junction with Oaks Close; there is an ongoing problem caused by water flowing from station property and there are ongoing discussions between Surrey County Council and Southern Trains.
- It is not possible for the lights on the pedestrian crossing by the railway bridge on Randalls Road to be phased with the traffic lights at the road junction.
- As regards the lighting on the footbridge over the bypass and M25 from, Brian Mulford recognizes that the existing light does not light the path; but there is no money available to raise the light.

Tom Musoke said a street light in Clinton Road had been rumoured last December as not working; nothing has happened since.

The Chairman said that all road lights throughout the county were to be replaced; but work in Leatherhead was two years away.

Meredith Vivian reported that now on-street parking had been largely removed from Randalls Road, there was now a problem with speeding traffic. Can the police be asked about speeding?

This is a traffic issue and must be taken up with traffic police, not the local

police. It was conceded that this problem affected other roads from which on-street parking had been removed.

Alan Thornhill reported that the muddy patch on Leatherhead Road between the Knoll Roundabout and the junction with Grange Road and Eryn Way was still flooding.

Alan also reported that the tactile strips and white lines marking the cycle lane between the Knoll Roundabout and the town centre had been taken out.

The Chairman said the contractors had done the lines incorrectly and the whole thing was a total disaster. He wondered the Mole Valley Cycle Forum had had any input over these white lines. He said the matter needs to be raised again.

7. Notice of the Annual General Meeting on May 10th

The Chairman gave notice of the meeting

The Secretary explained that it was on the second Monday of May, as the first Monday is a Bank Holiday. He reminded members that we shall need more committee members to be elected. He also asked that members spread the word so we get a good attendance.

7. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 10th May at 7.00 pm in the Letherhead Institute.