

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Open Committee Meeting 5th September 2011 at 7.30 pm

In attendance:

Committee Members: Hubert Carr (Chairman), Hilary Porter (Vice-Chair), Ray Brown (Secretary), Cheryl Allen, Caroline Brown, Flip Cargill, Ann Cardew, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Ray Ward

Other Members: Cllr Rosemary Dickson, Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr, Cllr David Sharland, Percy Hawkins, Margaret Ludford, Tom Musoke, Sylvia Sharland

Minute	Action
<p>1. Apologies for absence Paula Sabine (Treasurer), Cllr Tim Hall, Cllr Dave Howarth, Nicola Avery</p>	
<p>2. Notice of Matters for Any Other Business County Division Boundaries</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of meeting on 1st August The minutes were accepted <i>nem. con.</i></p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising, from the minutes <i>which are not on the agenda below.</i> Item 5, Page 2: The Secretary confirmed that he had replied to the two residents who had written in response to the recent Newsletter. Cllr Rosemary Dickson said she had contacted Mr & Mrs Goudie; a bonfire had been reported and its source traced; the person responsible had been contacted by Mole Valley (MV) Environmental Health and Mr & Mrs Goudie had been given a diary in which to record offending bonfires.</p>	To await further developments
<p>Item 6, Page 3 (Report from Planning Subcommittee): There had been no report back from Cllr Tim Hall.</p>	
<p>Item 6, Page 5 (Teazle Wood Meeting): The Chairman said efforts of Lucy Quinnel and others had not been successful and Teazle Wood had been sold to a bidder. Fran Smith asked whether Teazle Wood could be given "Village Green" status as it was used for recreational purposes. Cllr Sharland was doubtful but said the wood was a protected woodland. The identity of the buyer was not known. In response to a rumour that it had been acquired by travellers from Essex, the MV Chief Executive had been strongly encouraged to make the site secure.</p>	To await further developments
<p>Page 5 – Deferment of Item 7 (Publicity on the LRA website and blog): The Secretary explained that it was not on the agenda for this meeting since the matter would be forming part of the Membership Subcommittee report later in the meeting</p>	
<p>5.. Correspondence The Chairman had received an email from Cllr Rosemary Dickson and a letter from Cllr Hazel Watson (Surrey County Councillor for</p>	

Dorking Hills) concerning County Division Boundaries. This will be discussed under A.O.B.

The Secretary had received:

- An email from Cllr Rosemary Dickson on 2nd Sept. saying she had written to the Head Post Office and to Martin McColl on behalf of the Access Group as disabled people have problems with the doors into Martins. Cllr Dickson had received a reply from Post Office Ltd expressing their concern and promising to look into the matter.
- Two copies of notice and agenda for Local Committee Meeting at 2.00 pm on 14th September. These were passed to the Chairman and Vice-Chair.
- A letter from SCC concerning Surrey Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Documents concerning can be accessed at www.surreycc.gov.uk/mineralsplan and in County Hall, District Offices and public libraries. The Consultation period lasts until 7th October.

Cllr Dickson to await further reply from Post Office Ltd.

Chairman & Vice-Chair to attend.

Secretary to deal with this

6. Reports from sub-committees and from other meetings

Membership Subcommittee

Fran Smith reported that a meeting had been held on 25th August and which Cheryl Allen, Paula Sabine, Ray Ward and herself had been present and apologies had been received from Flip Cargill.

Paula did not wish to be in charge of the subcommittee but would continue to keep membership records; Fran agreed to take over membership but did not want to lead publicity which, it was felt, needed someone involved with the website.

It was considered that other social media such as Facebook and Twitter should be investigated beside the present blog; that greater use should be made of email alerts in the way that Ashted RA did and that these matters should be discussed with the webmaster.

It was decided the Committee as a whole should reconsider the current policy of allowing only Newsletters of a year old or more to be available on the website.

It was decided we should start looking for renewals for the next calendar year with the Autumn Newsletter, to target roads for new members and to review material given to Road Stewards.

Lack of access to a notice board was mentioned and Ray Ward had said there was community notice board at Leatherhead Station. It was thought the biggest advertisement we have at present is our website and more should be made of this. It was also wondered whether we could have a presence in the Red House grounds during the Olympic Cycle race next year.

Subcommittee to arrange meeting with webmaster

Subcommittee to consider these points further

In response, the Secretary asked if Norma was still part of the Subcommittee as no mention had been made of her name. Norma confirmed that she had had problems with emails and that she still wished to take part.

The Secretary pointed out that reference to *webmasters* in the report was mistaken; the LRA had only one webmaster, namely John Bleackley, and he urged that the subcommittee arrange a meeting

with John as soon as possible.

Tom Musoke asked if the subcommittee had considered advertising in church notices; Fran replied that we have done before and will look at this again.

Caroline asked if we had considered advertising in libraries; Fran said that we had placed posters there when we advertised meetings with speakers. The subcommittee was considering producing a leaflet with a picture and dates of the next four meetings to be displayed in libraries and other places.

Subcommittee to consider these points further

The Secretary suggested that as all Committees members, except one, were present, we should act on the subcommittee's decision to ask us to reconsider the current policy regarding publishing Newsletters on the website.

Cheryl proposed that we publish all Newsletters on the website.

This was seconded by Fran.

There was a short discussion; the only reason given for holding them back a year was that people might not bother paying membership fees if they could read them for nothing; on the other hand there was a feeling that if the most recent information was already a year out of date it did not reflect well on the LRA.

The motion was put to the vote and carried:

In favour: 8

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Secretary to see that all Newsletters are put online

Environment subcommittee

The Chairman said that a copy of the subcommittee's report had been sent to Committee members and he ruled that Section 2 of the report was erroneous and not relevant to the meeting.

Cheryl said she was disappointed but would abide by the ruling and asked Flip to give Section 1 of the subcommittee's report.

Flip reported that:

- she had raised the matter of insufficient doggy bins along Worple Lane, by the River Mole and in the gardens behind Mansion House.
- Allan Thornhill had added his concerns about the lack of doggy bins in Queen Anne's Terrace, Leret Way and North Street; he was particularly concerned with children's safety in the areas near St Peter's School next to Linden Pit Path and had contacted Cllr Chris Townsend over this.
- Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr regularly finds little bags of droppings near the junction of Copthorne Road and Levett Road. She had spoken to Richard, an officer of MVDC, but has not heard back from him.

Caroline asked if it was really true that people scooped up droppings in plastic bags and then just dumped the bags. Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr confirmed that this was so; Flip said that it was not pleasant carrying a bag of hot dog droppings and, in the absence of suitable bins, people were tempted just to dump the bags.

Caroline also asked if we had a Dog Warden; the councillors present confirmed that we do have but could not remember the name of the current warden.

Subcommittee to continue working to improve the situation

Flip then turned to Section 3 of the subcommittee's report (Woodlands School Planning Application). As a result of a meeting with Cllr Tim Hall at the site, there was a followup meeting with all concerned: SCC councillors, two Assistant Heads from the school, the Project Manager, five allotment members and five LRA members. The meeting had been positive. One tree has been saved and Flip is liaising with the Project Manager over the other one and many other improvements have been made.

flip to monitor developments

Cheryl turned to Section 4 of the subcommittee's report (Leach Grove Woods); she reported that:

- Flip had written to the St Helier & Epsom NHS Trust (the current owner of the woods) about the total lack of care for the woods.
- That the subcommittee was exploring the possibility of securing "Village Green" status for the woods as it appears to meet with the stipulations (see <http://www.oss.org.uk/village-greens/>).

Fran reinforced the idea of applying for "Village Green" status; Caroline asked how we would look after it if we were successful.

Flip replied that MVDC did look after the woods but had sold it to the NHS Trust in 1993 and they were in a terrible state.

The Chairman said he thought it had been SCC that had sold the woods to the NHS Trust, not MVDC. Flip said she was not sure which authority it was.

Subcommittee to endeavour to get more factual information and to consider applying for the "Village Green" status for the woods.

The Chairman said we need get the full facts. He also asked Fran if she had the paperwork concerning the successful bid to have Windmill Drive given "Village Green" status; she said she did not it but could obtain the paperwork.

Cheryl next dealt briefly with Sections 5, 7 and 8:

- #5 (Small bin recycling scheme): Mr Kane of MVDC has approved six small bins for a trial run and Cheryl will be able to say more at the October meeting.
- #7 (Community Garden at West Hill School): The Community Garden had graciously accepted £250 for a fruit cage from Green Mole Forum; the money will go to LRA to be kept in a separate fund for buying plants.
- #8 (Flower/ plants fund): Cheryl thanked Ann Cardew for her efforts in raising £252 from her Open Garden Day. We already have £100 raised from the St George's Day/Royal Wedding fund raising event.

Cheryl to report again to next meeting

This prompted some discussion regarding placing of flowers in the High Street, during which the possibility of a bollard instead of the present gate in Church street was mentioned. The Chairman said much of this was speculation; it was not on the agenda for Local Committee meeting on the 14th September.

Ann Cardew said the Subcommittee's anxiety was that it needed to be 'kept in the loop' as regards what was happening. Cllr Rosemary Dickson suggested the Subcommittee send their concerns to Cllr Tim Hall. Cheryl replied that although the Chairman had ruled Section 2 out of order, the Subcommittee had discussed those issues and would be sending a copy of their concerns to the Town Centre Advisory Committee meeting on the 17th October.

The subcommittee to monitor situation its express concerns

Cheryl then turned to Section 6 (Norbury Park) of the Subcommittee's report: a number of individuals and groups have had meetings with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) recently; we have not yet heard the outcomes of these meetings The Saw Mill is up for review by SWT - this is the 6th month of reprieve. The Saw Mill has been without a telephone for about eight weeks and were without the Internet for a long time; this has been pointed out to SCC representatives.

Planning Subcommittee

Caroline reported:

- Although permission has been given to demolish Leckie in Forty Foot Road and build a single dwelling, the appeal against refusal to build a pair of semi-detached houses had been dismissed
- 59 Highlands Road has been granted permission to build a rear extension, and 54 Cophorne Road has permission to demolish a garage and build a side and rear extension to the house.
- Application to replace an old warehouse in one of the yards near the Plough Roundabout with a new 'state-of-the-art' warehouse had been granted.

The Chairman asked which warehouse this was and whether it would have any impact on Kingslea. Caroline said she did not know which warehouse and would find out.

Caroline to check which warehouse is concerned

Highways Subcommittee

The Chairman reported that the Leatherhead Highways Forum scheduled for August 30th had been postponed until the 12th September.

Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr said more potholes had been filled.

Other Meetings: Transition Bookham

Flip reported that Pam Goodall, who, in her late fifties, had cycled solo around the world, had given an inspirational talk at Transition Bookham's meeting on 17th August.

Other Meetings: Cherkley Court

The Chairman asked Flip to report on the meeting with Longshot that she and he had he had attended at Cherkley Court. Flip reported that the Chairman had built bridges between the LRA and the developers and that she had felt reassured by Longshot's plans.

Cllr Rosemary Dickson said there would be an exhibition open to

everyone on the 14th & 15th October. She and Cllr David Sharland gave their opinion that the Longshot proposal should be supported and that the LRA should write in support and urge individuals to write in support.

LRA to consider this.

7. Any Other Business

Surrey Boundary Review

The Chairman said that the proposal that Givons Grove, Leatherhead Downs and Tyrrell's Wood be included in the Dorking Hills division be detached from the Leatherhead & Fetcham East division and be included in the Dorking Hills division was divisive.

Cllr Rosemary Dickson agreed it was highly divisive. These areas had looked towards Leatherhead and worked with Leatherhead. They had little in common with others in the Surrey Hills division.

The Chairman said he intended to draft a letter of representation and that he would send a copy of the draft to Committee members for comment and approval before sending it to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

This was agreed by the meeting.

Chairman to draft letter and circulate to Committee members

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Ray Brown, Hon. Secretary

The next Open Committee Meeting: **Monday, 3rd October** at 7.30 pm in the Leatherhead Institute