

Minutes of Open Committee Meeting 7.30 1st Oct 2012

In Attendance

Committee Members: Hubert Carr (Chair) Hilary Porter (Vice chair) Flip Cargill, Caroline Brown, Cheryl Allen, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Ann Cardew, John Hayball ,Fran Smith, Kristina Kenworthy

Other Members: Jane Pratt, Percy Hawkins, Neil Granger, SCCllr Tim Hall.

Visitor: Martin Newey

1 Apologies for absence: Ray Brown, Paula Sabine, Ray Ward, Dave Howarth

2. Minutes of the meeting on 4 Sept 2012: These were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: None.

4. Correspondence

4.1 MVDC questionnaire "Have your say on changes to Council Tax benefit

4.2 Notice of CPRE meeting "Reliable Water, Healthy Rivers" to be held on 9th October 2012

4.3 Notice of Charity supper and concert 17 Nov 2012. Proceeds for Leatherhead Festival committee, Teazle Wood and the Community Garden

4.4 Leaflet about the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner on 15th Nov 2012

4.5 Letter from M C Roberts 21/9/12 concerning provision of a cycle crossing of River Mole by Young Street as a legacy of the Olympics (**Action HC?**)

5 Members Concerns

Tim Hall raised the proposed relocation of the Help Shop to the Library. The portfolio holder, Vivienne Michael, councillor for Charlwood, did not consult the 6 local councillors, and there is no report in the public domain, so the councillors have put in a series of Freedom of Information requests. Five of the Leatherhead councillors were shown where the Help Shop staff would go in the Library, and were not impressed. . The Town Centre Manager would be in a location other than the Library, perhaps Fairmont House. TH estimated the footfall to the Help Shop to be about 1000/week and moving to the Library would halve this. CB pointed out that the access to the Library is not easy or safe, along a very narrow pavement. It is also county council policy to move libraries into the centre of towns. The Help shop is where tenants go to pay their rent. CA added that the proposal was discussed at the Leatherhead and District Forum and it was unanimous that the library was inappropriate and maybe Park House would be better. It was decided that HC would draft a letter and circulate it to the committee stating our objection to this proposed move. (**Action letter HC**)

6 Reports

Planning

http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Planning_October_2012.pdf

CB brought to the attention of the meeting that Cherkley Court hotel and golf course has been given approval unless it goes to Judicial Review.

CB expressed concerns about the fence at 101 Cleeve Road.

The plans for the proposed bungalow on land to the rear of houses on Oxshott Road were shown. JH asked if we objected to all back garden developments. HC replied we did not, as infill developments took pressure off developing in the Green Belt. FS felt it was important to ensure that there was no over development of a site, as for example on Clinton Road where 8 dwellings have replaced 2 houses, and there is very little parking.

The appeal against refusal for 25 Linden Road to install double glazing was felt to be valid. It is in a conservation area, but there is no statement about double glazing. The ground floor windows have already been replaced, and many other houses in the road have UPVC double glazing. **(Action CB/HC to write letter)**

CB stated that the Local development Framework Newsletter are asking those who offered land for the Housing Land availability (2008) document are being asked to confirm if the land is still available.

Environment

http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Environment_October_2012.pdf

CA proposed FC be reimbursed the cost of joining the Open Spaces Society (£30) from the Leach Grove Fund This was agreed. **(Action FC/ PS)**

CA said the Barnett Wood Residents are still unhappy. HC replied that the councillors are handling it. There has been a report from the planning enforcement officer Bob Primrose stating that there is no planning issue. Cllr.Shimmin has reported to resident that filters have been added to the chimneys. The resident reports that this has done nothing to abate the noise. Residents await more information from Councillor Shimmin.

HC raised the fact that the Highways subcommittee dealt with the issues of overgrown hedges, and felt it would be better handled by the Environment subcommittee. This was agreed. **(Action HC to pass on relevant paperwork/draft letter to CA)**

HC raised the issue of 29 St Johns Ave. The house is being vandalised, and Cllr Lewis-Carr is aware. The council's estates dept. is trying to establish who owns it. Highways are going to get the hedges cut back, and the clippings will be left in the garden.

HC reminded us that we spoke about carrying out a survey of trees in the area which contribute to the environment. It is not possible to get a tree preservation order (TPO) until a tree is threatened. HC suggested we should make a list of significant groups of trees that have amenity value (e.g. the trees in front of Leatherhead Hospital) and ensure

the planning dept. have a copy. FC suggested photos are included. CB was concerned that there was not enough of us to do it, so it was suggested that all members of the LRA are asked to help. CA believes the trees in Church St should be included. They have never had any attention, and need pruning. It was not sure if this was the responsibility of MVDC. **(Action All)**

The heavily infected stump at the end of Windfield was mentioned. The management committee is hoping to grind the stump out, but it will be impossible to plant a new tree due to the honey fungus.

Highways

HC suggested that this subcommittee should be abandoned, as any issue such as the High Street is discussed with all the committee. This was agreed, with the provision that a working group would be set up if needed to look at an issue in depth.

Publicity and Membership

HP said the subcommittee had not met. HP felt there was a need to have a stall to publicise the following events and issues: Election for Police Commissioner, fundraising for Teazle Wood, Decluttering workshop, Charity concert, and collect comments (written) about the relocation of the Help Shop. It was agreed to have a stall on Sat 13 Oct as it will be mainly locals. There will be no charge for the stall. **(Action HP/all)**

7 Meetings attended by Committee Members

MVDC Council meeting & Police Report

This was to advise us that there is to be an election for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner on 15th Nov 2012. All the names were published in the Leatherhead Advertiser 27 Sept 2012.

Leatherhead and District Forum

Leatherhead and District Forum

C A said Lucy Quinnell gave an excellent presentation about Teazle Wood. Reports were received from Ashted and Fetcham. Ashted have met to discuss the formation of a committee to deal with the Local Plan like Bookham has done. Rod Shaw was not present to give an update on the High Street Project. In his absence Colin Langley gave a brief report and Cllr. Sharland said that there may be an alternative to bollards.

HP Said it was not clear from Colin Langley's report on the High Street consultation, as to whether or not there was going to be a public consultation as he had used the word public meeting. CA suggested that as Rod Shaw had missed the LAP and Forum meetings with the High St. as an agenda item, that HC contact him to ask what form the public consultation would take.

HC said at the minimum there will be notices put up with 2 weeks to comment. FS asked that HC, when speaking to Rod Shaw, request that there should be the option of 'Do not want any of the schemes outlined' included in the choices. **(Action HC to contact Rod Shaw)**

Community Garden AGM

CA reported that the AGM and Open Day/BBQ at the garden had been a success, and they stated their appreciation for the support the LRA had given them.

Highways

HC said that the Highways Dept. is complaining that they are not fully staffed. HC brought up the subject of salt bins. Residential roads are not routinely salted, but salt bins will be kept full for residents to use on the public highways. One authority dyes the salt to prevent it being used on private drives, and this was thought to be a good idea. HC reminded everyone that if there is an issue with highways (which includes roadside vegetation) it is important to report it on the website so that there is a reference number assigned to the complaint. **(Action All)**

Concern about the state of Fortyfoot Road was raised again by CA as it is the access road for several places, including Woodlands School. HC explained that SCC Education Dept. will not maintain access roads, and for the council to adopt the road it would have to be brought up to full county standard first, which would be extremely expensive.

It was observed that the railings at the top of Bull Hill are missing by NTT.

HC was concerned that when road closure notices are put up by the council they are for a very long period, and wants the council to add an advisory note as to the estimated actual, minimum closure time. **(Action HC)**

8 Future Meetings and events members attending.

Town Festivities

HP said the Festivities Committee meeting has been postponed for 2 weeks, however Halloween festivities will take place on Sat 28th October

De-cluttering workshop

FC said the workshop is to be held in the Institute on the 20th Oct 2012, 2-5pm. There will be professional advisors at the workshop.

CPRE

KK brought the meeting "Reliable Water, Healthy Rivers" to be held on the 9th October 2012 to the attention of the committee. HC, FC and HP all expressed interest in attending.

Charity supper and concert by Inside Out

HP gave details of the event to be held on 17th Nov 2012. Tickets are to cost £10, with the proceeds split equally between three causes: Christmas lights for the High Street, Teazle Wood, and suggestions for the third were asked for. FC proposed the Community Garden, and CA said that this was a good idea since this is a self funding organization, This was agreed by all.

9 AOB

Response to Code of Conduct Hearing

KK read out a statement that she and MN were writing to the Leatherhead Advertiser about the report of the Code of conduct of Cllr Rosemary Dickson. They invited the LRA, as a complainant to the conduct of the councillor during the planning process for Cherkley Court to also sign the statement. The wording was adjusted, and then it was agreed by a majority vote of all but one, that the committee sign it. **(Action KK/HC)**

We are dissatisfied with the report and the manner in which the process has been conducted.

In our opinion the Investigating Officer has not provided a reasoned analysis or attempted to evaluate or weigh the evidence before reaching his conclusions.

Moreover, given the substantial body of evidence made available by the complainants to the Investigation Officer and the conflicting accounts expressed in his report, it is our view that the Monitoring Officer was wrong to close the matter without referring it back to Standards Sub-Committee for a hearing.

Date for next newsletter

All articles are to be sent to the editor by 14th October

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 5th Nov 2012 at 7.30

The meeting closed at 9.30pm