

## **Bowerhill Residents Action Group**

### **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held 6 May 2014**

**Present** – Committee members from Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG) and Bowerhill residents as signed in.

#### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

#### **2. Minutes of last AGM**

There were no comments about the minutes of the previous AGM so they were accepted as a true record.

#### **3. Bowerhill Residents Action Group Chairman's report**

The Chairman, Mike Mills, read out his report – see Appendix A

#### **3A Additional topic – MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) issues**

As there were residents present who are concerned about the proposed MUGA on Hornchurch green this agenda item has been added.

There has been a meeting between Dave Gazzard, Dan Richards and Mike Mills following a meeting Dave Gazzard held with concerned residents who live near the green. Mike was able to tell them that following protests the planning committee of MWOPC (Melksham Without Parish Council) is recommending to the full council that the planning application for the fence surrounding the planned MUGA area should be withdrawn, a decision to be ratified at the next council meeting.

Dave wants to discuss possible options for the green. As he has no mandate to act on behalf of residents he wants a public meeting planned. Some residents may want another location so any residents around any possible site should be invited to the meeting. The meeting would be to get a majority decision as to where the MUGA was put, what it consisted of and any other ideas for that area. Mike will attend to facilitate the meeting and would ask Cllr Wood of MWOPC to also attend. The majority decision would be put to MWOPC to make the final decision.

The S106 agreement was discussed. Both Dave and Mike have found that the play equipment that will be funded does not specify a particular area in MWOPC, nor does it describe a MUGA.

The main reason behind the thinking of the MUGA was to get older children out of the young children's play area. A resident said that the condition of the green was poor. Mike and John Glover said that the grass was the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, but once any “all weather” surface was installed then the Parish Council would upkeep it. Roy While said that he didn't think that the green would be better maintained due to budget cuts and the current “buzzwords” were “partnerships” and “volunteering”.

Dan said that he had spoken to some youths and all they wanted was somewhere to sit. As money has been received by BRAG from the Area Board for benches to be installed on Bowerhill, it was agreed that 6 would be purchased from Timbertack and Andy Strange will be engaged to concrete them in. Places to put them include half-way down the cycle path to the canal, on Hornchurch green, on the green opposite Tesco and on the banking between Falcon Way and Sunderland Close. Mike said that the risk of vandalism is minor as little has been done to the picnic area near the canal.

Pauline will book a date for the meeting, probably 3 or 4 June at the Village Hall, and it will be publicised in the Melksham News, Villager and by a leaflet drop.

#### **4. Bowerhill Residents Action Group Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer, Jennifer Butcher, read out the report – see Appendix B

#### **5. Bowerhill Residents Action Group plans for next year**

The Chairman, Mike Mills, read out the report – see Appendix C

#### **6. Police Report**

Barry Dalton said that he gives monthly updates in The Villager. The NPT has been established for a few years with Maggie Ledbury and Janet Gould being the PCSOs. There has been a change at a higher level as there is a new Sergeant for Melksham.

There is very little to report about crime on Bowerhill. For the year, including the industrial estate there were:-

Burglaries – 2 non-dwelling, 2 dwelling; Criminal damage – 19 (mainly to cars);  
Drugs – 4 (all on industrial estate with people smoking cannabis in cars) and a cannabis factory found on the industrial estate;  
Theft – 13 (mainly from cars); Violent crime – 6 (some drink related), however the Pilot is a good pub and belongs to the Pubwatch scheme;  
Driving – 4 vehicles had no insurance so the drivers were fined and vehicles seized; and one was a drunk driver.

Barry said that the public can contact them by email and internet and now they are starting a Facebook page. There is also the quarterly Tasking Group meeting that Mike attends as the BRAG representative. Barry said that the police were now out and about on bicycles and that had been effective.

Roy said that the NPT presence around Bowerhill stops crime, and it will be good when they have a place at the new campus. Barry agreed that being at the campus would be an improvement.

#### **7. Election of new committee**

Committee members present said they would like to continue. Roy While will continue to attend to represent Wiltshire Unitary Council, and Mike Sankey will represent the Parish Council. Dave Gazzard and Dan Richards were accepted as committee members for their roles in the MUGA issues.

#### **8. Matters arising**

Anthony Tidey commented that now that the double yellow lines were installed drivers were speeding on Halifax Road and it was dangerous turning right into Bader Park.

He also said that many dog bins were overflowing. He was told that if he reported it to Wiltshire Council it would be dealt with. Mike said he had a contact who would deal with it if Anthony contacted him.

Anthony also said that the timing on the street lights had been altered and they went off before dawn and did not light up if it was foggy. Mike said that he would contact Wiltshire Council about this.

#### **9. Question and Answer session**

There being no further questions or issues the meeting was closed, and refreshments served.

Pauline Helps  
Secretary, Bowerhill Residents Action Group

**Future BRAG meetings for 2014 are 8 July, 9 September and 11 November**