

## Bowerhill Residents Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2014

At Bowerhill Village Hall at 7.30pm

### Present

Mike Mills	Pauline Helps	Marilyn Mills
Graham Howe	Dale Robinson	Janet Gould
Roy While	Mike Sankey	

### 1. Apologies

John Simmons	Barry Dalton	Jenny Butcher
Graham Butcher	Rolf Brindle	

	Action
<p>Before items on the agenda were discussed MM read out the email he had received from Dan Richards. Dan stated that he was resigning from the BRAG committee because he didn't like the fact that the Parish Council had not taken into account the report that BRAG had submitted with the views from the residents obtained at a meeting about the proposed MUGA. He also felt that BRAG should have written to the Parish Council objecting to their decision when it was known.</p> <p>MM said he had then received an email from Dave Gazzard supporting the points raised by Dan Richards and submitting his own resignation.</p>	

### 2. Minutes last ordinary meeting 15 July 2014

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as a true record

### 3. Matters arising

#### a) Benches on estate

Five more benches have been sited around the estate. Residents have generally liked them but the only criticism was that they could have been higher – this will be rectified for any future benches. The benches were previously paid for, and installation costs have now been paid. There is now £900 left over from the Area Board grant.

As benches for the Hornchurch open space were still needed and we had been told that residents wanted better benches than the other ones on the estate this was discussed. The residents had not got back to us with details of what they wanted and how much they would cost, so it was agreed that we would go ahead and order more benches. MS had identified some that appeared suitable and were made of recycled plastic. They cost £180 each. It was agreed that 3 benches would be purchased – MS will give MM details of where to order them, then Andy Strange will be asked to install them. (He charges £100 per seat.)

MS & MM

#### b) Bird boxes at Picnic area

The bird boxes already obtained will be fitted in October / November.

MM & GB

#### c) Cleaning of bus shelters

RW has sorted this out now and Balfour Beatty will be cleaning the bus shelters in a couple of weeks, and then they should be cleaned about every 6 months.

<p><b>d) MUGA</b> Work starts tomorrow and should take about 2 weeks. Then there will be a break of one week before the markings are painted. Tarmacing the site will include the new path from the existing path to the MUGA.</p> <p><b>e) Bins</b> It has been confirmed that Balfour Beatty will not empty any new bins that are not in their contract. There is a possibility that a bin from Park Road can be relocated to near the MUGA. (The Parish Council is looking to engage someone to empty all the bins on the sports field.)</p> <p><b>f) Extension to path around Hornchurch green.</b> The Path Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) would probably fund this. MM has been told that it will be treated as “high priority” as they think it a good idea. Once we get the go-ahead then estimates will be obtained, but it probably won't be until next year. (Another path that is on the cards is the one behind the school linking the two paths. This may be funded as part of the “Walking to school” campaign.)</p> <p><b>g) Does Wilts CC object to us clearing sides of cycle path to canal</b> MM has spoken to Bill Maynard and he is delighted at the prospect and it will be OK. Colin Bush will do the work shortly for just the cost of the fuel for his machines as his contribution to the community. In October he will cut all the growth back, including at the picnic area ready for winter. His machine picks up the grass so the effect will be very tidy. RW will mention Colin Bush in his newsletter and DR suggested putting a letter of thanks in the Villager.</p> <p><b>h) Streetlights on Brabazon Way</b> Although some members of BRAG thought it a good idea that the lights were not replaced, they have been. The new lights have still to be switched on and the old posts removed.</p> <p><b>i) Overgrown bushes at pond at Hastings Road</b> DR described the exact place of the problem – it is the path to the pond. MM said work on cutting back overgrown bushes on the estate did not take place previously as the Parish Council machine broke. The work is now scheduled to be included on their next “working day”. Bushes at Pathfinder Way will be included; and brambles at Brabazon and Falcon way will be dealt with at some time.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>?</p>
<p><b>4. Correspondence</b> MM has been invited to a Presentation Day on Thursday week for the SW in Bloom competition. He has taken £18 out of BRAG funds for the cost involved. He is going to find out what others are doing and how we can improve our chances in the future.</p> <p>Mrs Slade who planted flowers on the green at the end of Locking Close is angry that Balfour Beatty strimmed them down. She wanted to make an insurance claim on behalf of BRAG for her costs. RW has spoken to her to tell her that she must make any claim in her own name and to try to resolve the issue.</p>	<p>MM</p>

<p><b>5. Working party plans for the next 2 months</b> The picnic area needs to be weeded and tidied ready for winter. A date at the beginning of October will be agreed later for this work.</p> <p>JB's notices about what wildlife can be seen are proving to be very popular but they are not substantial and are getting blown about. She suggested we ask the Area Board if they would fund a Lectern display (like the one opposite the Pilot) for her notices. It would cost about £789. This plan was agreed.</p> <p>Rats are becoming a problem at the picnic area as they are after the bird food. Wiltshire Wildlife says that poison cannot be laid. It was suggested squirrel proof bid feeders may work. Members will try and think of any other possible solutions.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MM</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b>6. Treasurer's report</b> JB had given MM details of our funds. MM read out details of various expenses paid and said that income had been £250 from Pattie Lockett for one of the benches, plus installation near the canal that she will put a memorial plaque on. Also, £250 had been received for another bench from JB and GB to commemorate their Ruby anniversary. This leaves a balance of £2099, not including the £900 from the Area Board for benches.</p>	
<p><b>7. Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Without South report</b> RW is in the process of producing one of his regular newsletters to advise residents of local matters.</p> <p>RW is also, on behalf of the Area Board, launching a Bowerhill &amp; Hampton Park Business Initiative. This is to bring businesses together to explain the changes going on in the area and to help them set up a working group to address their local issues. Representatives from Wiltshire Council's Economic Development team, the community, Chamber of Commerce and police will assist the working group to improve all aspects of the Industrial estate.</p> <p>A planning decision will be made shortly in respect of the Gompels development. Plans for houses at Spa Road, Pathfinder Way and Berryfield are going before the Strategic Planning Committee in October. The plans for 13 properties at Woolmer House were rejected.</p>	
<p><b>8. MWOPC Report</b> MM's report has already been largely mentioned.</p> <p>MM is taking up the issue about the open space at Manston Close (the new houses on the "community land") as the landscaping shown in the plans is not to specification. The hedge, trees and path is not up to scratch and there are no seats. As Persimmon have left, the Parish Council will take this up with the Enforcement Officer at Wiltshire CC.</p>	<p>MM</p>
<p><b>9. Police Report</b> JG reported that on one night there were 3 thefts from front gardens at Barnes Wallis and Bader Park of solar lights and plants. There was a burglary at Spa Road when someone got into the property through a forced bathroom window and stole jewellery.</p>	

At Tesco someone left a mobile phone at a till and when they shortly went back it was missing. Also 2 females were caught on CCTV stealing 2 bottles of WKD – this is being dealt with.

There was recent police activity involving several units and the police helicopter – a wanted man on bail was caught on Hurricane Road.

Hornchurch Road and open space has been labelled a priority area for the police due to the impending MUGA, so patrols have been recording activity. So far there have been 44 recorded patrols for reassurance / engagement and there have been no reported problems. There were a few isolated instances early on, before recording started and the sub-station issue has stopped as the people have moved on.

**10. Other issues**

MM has received, through the post, a packet with a wooden cross from the British Legion and wondered if a memorial to war dead could be put somewhere on Bowerhill. MS thought there should be a War Memorial somewhere in the Melksham Without area, and the Parish Council is asking for suggestions as to where it could be. The war Graves Commission would be involved as part of the 1914-18 commemorations.

MS said that the Parish Council agreed in principal for an opening ceremony for the MUGA, but it was agreed that this was not a good idea and it should just be left when finished for the children to find. DR suggested that an article could be put in the Villager saying it was now there.

**12. Date for next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11 November 2014.

The 2015 meetings will provisionally be held on 13 January, 10 March. 12 May (AGM), 14 July, 8 September and 10 November. PH will book these.

PH

**Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 11 November 2014 – Next meeting at 7.30 in Bowerhill Village Hall**