

Bowerhill Residents Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2015

At Bowerhill Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Mike Mills	Pauline Helps	Jenny Butcher
Marilyn Mills	Graham Butcher	Roy While
Graham Howe	Dale Robinson	Mike Sankey

1. Apologies

Barry Dalton	Maggie Ledbury	
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2. Election of Officials

The election of members to official posts were agreed and seconded:-

Chair – Mike Mills

Vice-chair – Dale Robinson

Treasurer – Jenny Butcher

Secretary – Pauline Helps

Village Hall representative – Rolf Brindle (MM advised that Rolf had agreed to this.)

3. Minutes last ordinary meeting 10 March 2015

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as a true record

4. Matters arising

a) New bench on cycle path

This has been installed and a plaque attached. If any residents want benches the cost now for the bench and installation will be £300.

b) Additional bark for picnic area

This is still awaited

c) Lectern display for picnic area

The 2nd lectern has been installed and paid for.

d) Parking opposite bus stops

Roy said he had looked into this, but it is an awkward situation as the offender is just parking outside his house. However he will speak to Maggie about it.

RW

e) Insurance for volunteers

All volunteers are covered by our insurance but they still have to be careful in what they do. In Melksham when they organise clean ups using volunteers they use signage and Hi-Viz jackets for safety. This could be done in Bowerhill. Much work can be done without actually getting in the road.

f) Water-logging at times on Hornchurch Green.

Roy said that Wiltshire Council are aware of this but there is no money to deal with it. MM thought that we could plant trees such as willows and he has asked Wiltshire Council about this but no one has got back to him. Roy will talk to Jonathan Seed about this. The committee agreed that if Wiltshire Council do not

RW

specifically say “No” then we should go ahead and plant trees as necessary.

Other matters arising

Picnic area judging

The judging of the picnic area by the South West in Bloom judges will take place tomorrow afternoon. MM went through the expected itinerary and asked if as many people as possible could be there for the judging. This year the judges will also be judging the route to the picnic area so the committee were asked to check this on their way there.

The judges will also be looking at community involvement so the fact that pupils from Bowerhill school helped finish the bug hotel was useful.

Lecterns was also something they would like to see as was social media involvement, so the lecterns and Facebook page should please them.

MM said that Maggie Ledbury should be joining us at the picnic area.

The judging results will be made known at a presentation in September at Dartmouth naval college, that MM and Marilyn hope to attend.

MM said that the picnic area had been vandalised again with the sign post at the bottom of the path being ripped up and thrown into the canal. Dog walkers had kindly retrieved it and GB now had it to repair ready for replacing. The picnic area has also been weeded and strimmed to be ready for the judging.

5. Correspondence

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has launched a consultation in Shaw and they want something similar held in Bowerhill perhaps in September or October.

We should probably just have to book the Village Hall for this.

It is hoped that someone from each community group would be part of a Focus Group and MM asked if anyone would be interested.

Many messages are being put on the BRAG Facebook page.

6. Working party plans for the next 2 months

No specific plans were made, just that litter picking will continue and the picnic area kept up together.

David Sutton, a volunteer, loves strimming and is keeping the area and paths tidy.

It was agreed that volunteers attend the picnic area at 10.00am on Tuesdays to do what is necessary.

All

7. Treasurer's report

We currently have a balance of £152.63. A grant of £400 from MWOPC is due. £24 has been spent today on repairing the signpost at the picnic area – a metal stake and cement. Other recent expenses have been bird seed and the insurance.

All grant money received from the Area Board and Melksham Charities have been spent and photos sent to show what the money was used for.

DR asked if we should start fund raising, and MM said this was a possibility.

Waitrose has been asked if they would sponsor us, but MM has not heard back from them. Asda will be asked by PH to see if they can sponsor us.

PH

Teresa has sent MM details of how to apply for landfill subsidies for large

<p>projects. MM will see about projects such as picnic benches and trees for Hornchurch green, and facilities at the Jubilee Playing Fields.</p> <p>MM will contact Sharon to see if any more funding could come from Knorr Bremse.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM</p>
<p>7. Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Without South report</p> <p>RW said that there was a council meeting today, and much of the talk was of cuts as money is tight.</p> <p>The free bus to the train station is ending this week, as it can no longer be funded.</p> <p>There is to be a boundary review with a Council meeting on 24 November. The new houses to the East of Melksham should now logically be part of the Town Council, but there can be no decision as yet.</p> <p>The Campus is being scaled back, but the final decisions will not be made until the end of August. At the Town Council meeting they are talking about a replacement for the Assembly Hall also meeting rooms, that could be incorporated in the Campus. Marilyn said that at a meeting she went to she was told that the money for the Campus was ring-fenced, but it now appears that is not the case.</p> <p>The rugby and football development has now started and the cost has snowballed to £7m.</p> <p>GB said that he had learned from the national press that there was a new road surface that was guaranteed to last 10 years to put an end to the constant potholes. RW said he would ask someone to look into this.</p> <p>The Avon Rubber hangers on the Industrial Estate are up for sale.</p> <p>Marilyn complained that large lorries, such as from David Hathaway, are continuing to drive into the residential area of Bowerhill.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>9. MWOPC Report</p> <p>The Pavilion has been completed and will shortly be adopted. The first matches using the Pavilion will be at the end of July. The link road is not scheduled to open until the end of the year, but more likely it will be adopted and signage put up at the beginning of September after Herman Miller has moved all its large machinery into the new factory.</p> <p>There have been reports of youngsters using drugs and legal highs in the coppice between Harvard Close and Hornchurch. Meetings have been held between the police, MWOPC and Wiltshire Council and it has been suggested that the Community Payback Team be asked to clear dead wood and rubbish to make the area more open to deter those trying to hide away.</p> <p>The path around Hornchurch is now a priority for the PIGS scheme and they have provided £5k for the works with £5k provided by MWOPC. Teresa is getting 3 estimates for the work. It is quite possible that money made available through the solar farm S198 will be used for this.</p> <p>Money has been agreed for the path at the back of the school and this should be laid soon.</p>	

<p>MS said that a basketball hoop had been made available and may be put up on a hard standing on the green opposite The Pilot. A consultation of neighbouring residents will be undertaken first. Janet Gould, before she left, had said this would be a good idea.</p> <p>MWOPC, but not MM and MS, have requested a 20mph zone for the whole of Bowerhill estate. The committee agreed with MM and MS objections.</p> <p>Security 2000 are concerned about security on the Industrial Estate once the new road is opened and would like more businesses to contribute to their costs so they could put a station at that end of the estate. RW said he would raise this at the business forum. CCTV on the Pavilion should be a help.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>10. Police Report Janet has moved to Melksham central, so Bowerhill will only have one PCSO – Maggie Ledbury. Everyone agreed that Janet had done a good job with her interaction with the people on the estate and she will be missed. MM has written to the Chief Police Officer saying that it is impossible for one PCSO to monitor such a large area.</p> <p>As no police were able to attend PH read out Barry's report. There was little recorded crime with just a car being scratched. Mainly the issues are anti-social behaviour with children climbing trees, noise concerns at Hornchurch and drinking, fires and the resulting litter at Giles Wood and adjacent fields. Barry asked that the community reports anything like this they see so they can clamp down on it.</p> <p>GB asked what was happening to Melksham police station as the custody suite may be moved to Warminster. He was told that Angus McPherson (Police and Crime Commissioner) has just said “wait and see”</p>	<p>MM</p>
<p>11. Other issues Jenny said that David Sutton wanted to know if it was alright to use a weed killer such as Round-up at the picnic area. It was agreed that if it was dry and there was no wind it should be OK.</p> <p>Marilyn said the roundabout near the VW/Audi garage was still overgrown and obstructs the view of drivers trying to enter the roundabout. RW said he would raise this issue.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>12. Date for next meeting The next meeting was planned for Tuesday 8 September, but it was agreed that PH gets it changed to Tuesday 15 September 2015.</p> <p>The following meeting will be on 10 November 2015</p>	<p>PH</p>

Dates for your diary – To be confirmed

Tuesday 15 September 2014 – Next meeting at 7.30 in the Village Hall