

## Bowerhill Residents Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2017

At Bowerhill Village Hall from 7.30pm

### Present

Pauline Helps	Jenny Butcher	Graham Butcher
Mike Sankey	Mark Harris	John Simmons
Nick Holder	Roy While	Amanda Slade
Rachel Smith	Roy Gardner	

### 1. Apologies

Dale Robinson	Liz Harrison	Marilyn Mills
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	Action
PC said that she had received apologies from DR that morning and it was agreed that it was too late to cancel the meeting, but we would carry on the best we can without a Chair. NH explained to those who were unaware the reason why Mike Mills was not present.	

### 2. Minutes last meeting 11 July 2017

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as a true record

### 3. Matters arising

#### a) Planting laurel trees on Hornchurch green

PH said that Mike Mills had advised that he has the formal access license to plant trees on the Hornchurch open space so when LH has more suitable trees to plant she will advise us so we can organize a planting working party.

LH

#### b) Funding for circular path on Hornchurch green

RW said that there would be a bid for money for this from the Area Board which will sit in January. 50% will be requested and 50% would come from the Parish Council. If the bid is successful, the work can hopefully start in March 2018.

#### c) Use of payback team for work on cycle path, and payment

JB said that they did the work but not very well and caused the team who work on the picnic area to do a lot of remedial work. We probably will not use them again unless we can be sure that they will do the work properly. A donation was mentioned at the outset, but nothing since, so until then, it was agreed, that no donation will be made.

#### d) Was funding of £295 obtained to purchase strimmer on wheels

#### e) Has funding been received from Melksham Charities for gardening equipment and litter pickers

JB detailed her efforts and results from trying to get grants. Nothing was received from Melksham Charities; we are getting an amount from Waitrose – we will find out how much at the end of the month; £50 has been received from the Town Council; nothing from Police Commissioner's Community Action Fund; £20 Amazon voucher from Police Mutual to be used for litter pickers and gardening equipment; £50 from Seend PC and a windfall of £500 from the Villager. The

£500 came about as the Villager has ceased and they had to distribute any left-over funds.

It was agreed that the balance of the windfall be used to purchase and install a bench at the top of the bridleway, which has been requested by members of the public, with a plaque mentioning the Villager. JB will get a quote from Timbertack. A further £50 will be given to Colin Bush for all his help mowing the grass by the cycle way.

JB

**f) Can security be improved at the picnic area and has funding been sought**

JB has still to contact the Bobby Van about this.

JB

**Locking Green issues**

AS and RS said that some more planting had been done and the issues with the neighbour has been resolved.

**PH read out the Notes that Mike Mills had sent (apart from what had already been mentioned):-**

*1. If BRAG organises another litter pick round Bowerhill in Spring Melksham Without Parish Council will allow BRAG to dispose of the bags of litter in the large commercial waste bins in the car park of the Bowerhill Sports Pavilion. It was decided that we keep an eye on the area around Tesco and organise a litter pick in the New Year.*

*2. Gompels have started building their new warehouse which is huge and dominates the skyline. A number of people have asked me if this is being built to planning regulations particularly with the height. I am assured that the building is being built according to the planning conditions.*

*6. I received an e-mail from Wiltshire Council pest control team to at that some people had reported seeing a rat in the picnic area because of the presence of the bird feeder. I replied that the picnic area is a wildlife area and rats are wildlife. They live along the canal and would be there even if the picnic area had not been developed. We cannot put down rat poison because this is a popular area for dog walkers. I have not had a reply yet.*

**4. Correspondence**

JB had received an email from Rachel's husband telling BRAG that there was abuse of the picnic area with some boys riding their bikes on the picnic tables. They were able to identify them, and the boys' parents have been spoken to and told that the BRAG committee will be told. Hopefully this will stop the problem.

**5. Working party plans for the next 2 months**

The picnic area is nearly ready for winter but there still needs to be some hedge cutting and ditch clearing by the cycleway. The team that does the work is cutting back their time for this quieter time of year.

We will keep an eye on the Tesco area to see when a litter picking session is required.

**6. Treasurer's report**

After the latest bills have been paid and the £50 donation given to Colin Bush the

<p>balance will be £341.86. The rent for the hall must be paid, but there is enough left over for the new bench. The next grant season starts in January when we will again ask MWOPC for a grant to cover our insurance. There is also a possibility of a grant from the Persimmon Community Fund.</p>	
<p><b>7. Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Without South report</b>  RW said that it was hard to get over to the public exactly where the Council money goes. £200m (2/3 of the budget) goes for Children and Elderly services. Unusually Wilts CC does not have a Chief Executive which saves about £180k. It does have Corporate Directors that are increasing from 2 to 4. One is already engaged, 2 will be in post soon (one to replace someone who has left), and a further director, for social services, that will be funded 50:50 between the council and NHS is still to be engaged. RW thinks this balance of top people is a good idea.</p> <p>There is currently a public consultation about waste collections.</p> <p>JS asked about the plan for traffic lights at the Farmers roundabout. RW said that the plan had government approval but he didn't know when they would be installed. JS also asked about the broken railings at the pedestrian refuge outside Asda. RW will speak to someone about this.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p><b>8. MWOPC Report</b>  NH gave PH a copy of the BRAG contact list from the MWOPC to update and pass back to him. PH said the latest list was sent out in July and she will make sure it is brought up-to-date. All members confirmed that they were happy for their details to be on the website.</p> <p>NH asked for volunteers to do some of the tasks that Mike Mills did in the parish. They were:– Put weekly notices on the Parish Noticeboard next to the Pilot, check the defibrillators at the Pilot and Village Hall weekly and send in a monthly report online to state that the defibrillators have been checked. JB with GB said they would do all jobs.</p> <p>Details of the website for the survey regarding the Neighbourhood Plan were distributed to all. NH clarified that on the map on the website the yellow areas were areas put forward previously, but it was unlikely they would be proceeded with. The green areas are the ones that may be progressed with in the future. The consultation runs to the end of December.</p> <p>The Hornchurch play area will shortly be transferred to the PC from Bloor. Once the transfer is made the play equipment will be included on MWOPC insurance. Work to upgrade the equipment and deal with waterlogging is planned to start in the spring.</p> <p>The PC is receiving 400 free trees from the Woodland Trust that will be planted around the sports field on the industrial estate. 50% will be native trees. GB asked about maintenance. NH will find out about this, and what the other 50% will consist of.</p> <p>There will be more tree planting between the Town Council and MWOPC to commemorate the ending of WW1 100 years ago. These will be put near the old George Ward school and will be in place by 11/11/2018.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>NH</p>

Melksham is becoming an Age Friendly Community. NH asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to become either a Youth Champion or a Senior Champion. If so, they should contact Teresa Strange.

As well as Mike Mills being contacted about the rats at the picnic area, MWOPC had also been notified. If there is a genuine concern the Public Protection Officer at Wilts CC should be contacted.

NH then gave a crime update for October for the MWOPC area that he had received from the police. The police had predicted 29 crimes, but in fact there were 46. The biggest increases were from violence against the person (18, and 6 of which were from 2 properties in Bowerhill) and criminal damage (15). More details were then given.

MWOPC had received 3 letters about the new Gompels building, but as it is being built to specification nothing can be done. It will be the same colour as the existing building and landscaping will be done. RW said that as he knew both the Planning Officer and Sam Gompels he had some involvement with this and further employment in the area was a good thing. He said that unemployment in the county was only 1%-2% which was the lowest in the country.

An amended planning application for 406C The Spa had been turned down as inappropriate as they now wanted to build a 2-story house on the site after demolition. Wilts CC has turned down an application to make Eddie's Diner on the industrial estate permanent.

The Parish Steward will be available to do small works on Bowerhill from 4-6 December. Suggestions of what he can do were mentioned. Any suggestions to NH by 29 November. RG suggested that the walkway next to Semington Cars, also pathways next to old Avon property were overgrown and restricting passage and could do with cutting back. RG also said there were many overgrown trees on the estate. RW said that planning approval had been given to demolish the old Avon hangers, but no one had been interested in acquiring the sites.

All

## 9. Other issues

### Picnic area judging for Britain in Bloom

JB said that she and GB had gone to the presentation at the Town Hall. She said that our Level 5 award went towards the Melksham scores, so helped them get a Gold award. If we go in for the competition next year we will be required to note the number of hours work that is put into the project. Also, they would like a red, white and blue colour scheme to celebrate the ending of WW1. The next meeting for SW in Bloom – Melksham is 3 January.

### Dog fouling

AS and RS mentioned that there was increased dog mess left on and near the cycle-path and other areas near Locking Close by dog-walkers. It appears that the main culprits are professional dog walkers, some of whom park along Brabazon Way, who have large numbers of dogs some of which are off the lead. RW said that Teresa Strange should be the person to contact about this. PH said she would contact her.

PH

## 10. Dates for 2018 meetings

To be advised

PH

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