

## Bowerhill Residents Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020

At Bowerhill Village Hall from 7.30pm

### Present

Dale Robinson	Pauline Helps	Mark Harris
Pauline Shea-Simonds	David Pafford	Marilyn Mills
Sheila May	Angie Gazzard	Nick Holder

### 1. Apologies

Jenny Butcher	Graham Butcher	Amanda Slade
John Simmons		

	Action
<p><b>2. Minutes last meeting – Thursday 23 January 2020</b> These were accepted as a true record</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising</b></p> <p><b>a) Picnic bench on Hornchurch Green</b> As JB was not present it is not known if Sam Gompels has been contacted. The invoice from the Parish Council has not yet been received as they are awaiting their bill from their contractors for the cementing in.</p> <p><b>b) Bin on Hornchurch Green</b> AG said that the bin was still missing. PH will contact Teresa again.</p> <p><b>c) Circular seat for picnic area</b> JB has said that Melksham Shed has given a fluid price of £250 - £300 + for materials. A donation for work done will be extra.</p> <p><b>d) Birdboxes for picnic area</b> MM's birdboxes have been installed.</p> <p><b>e) Telephone box on Halifax Road</b> This is being retained by BT for the use of nearby elderly residents who appealed against its removal.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>PH</p> <p>JB</p>
<p><b>4. Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>Best Kept Village Competition</b> PH has received the information about this year's competition. She is unable to do the work this year, so a volunteer is requested to take it forward. PH will forward details and previous information to whoever wants to do it. Basically, it is checking and updating what has been done in previous years.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>5. Community Governance Review</b> The initial survey has closed. There will be more consultation meetings. They were delayed from April and will now be on 13 May at 7pm at the United Reform Church in town and on 20 May at 7pm at Gompels in Swift Way, Bowerhill.</p>	

<p>Seend Parish Council have not agreed to a compromise to the boundary change as suggested by BRAG, citing among other things that they give an annual donation to BRAG to help with the picnic area. This is £50. As the Parish Boundaries have no influence over housing, and to maintain a good relationship with Seend Parish Council, MWPC are planning to withdraw their Governance Review application on this matter.</p>	
<p><b>6. Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan</b>  The plan was made available and posters and survey forms distributed. (If anyone wants to borrow a copy of the plan, please contact PH.) The Parish Council feels that it is important to get the picnic area, and cycle path to it, included in the plan as a Local Green Space to protect it from speculative planning applications. This is the better option than changing the Parish boundary. DR asked PH to write to Seend Parish Council to say that BRAG regrets that Giles Wood has not been included in the plan.</p>	<p>All  PH</p>
<p><b>7. By-pass for Melksham</b>  MH and others attended the Area Board meeting. It will be at least 2-3 months before there is any consultation. The government has provided £1.4m for a business case report. There is the issue of whether a basic scheme is provided or a more expensive one that may be more economical in the long run. No route is yet decided on -it may even be to the west of Melksham.  It was agreed that there is nothing BRAG can do at the moment except to attend any meetings held to find out what is going on.</p>	
<p><b>8. Working party plans for next 2 months</b>  Nothing definite is being planned. The hedge bordering the canal has been trimmed but the picnic area it is too waterlogged to work on.</p>	
<p><b>9. Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spiring Clean – our Litter Pick on Saturday 21 March</b>  There is an article going in this week's Melksham Independent. Our Litter Pickers are being returned from Melksham Oak (they will be returned), and more Litter Pickers being borrowed from MWPC. People will be told to only pick up litter with the Pickers and we will have a bucket of disinfectant for them to be put in after. A one-of collection of the bagged litter will be made on the following Monday by the Street Scene department at Wilts.  It was suggested that Bowerhill School should be approached to see if they want to borrow some Litter Pickers.</p>	<p>PH  PH</p>
<p><b>10. Work for the Parish Steward</b>  Details of any work he could do should be forwarded to PH who will advise Teresa.  DR said about the large pot-hole on Bowerhill Lane at the entrance to Hornchurch Green.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p><b>11. Treasurers report</b>  PH read out the report from JB. The balance is now £1104.87 and that includes the purchase of the long arm attachment for the hedge trimmer and a donation of £6 she received while the hedge was being trimmed.</p>	

<p><b>12. MWPC report</b></p> <p>No candidate came forward for the recent by-election so another is planned for 23 April and the Notice of Election will be published on 17 March. If no one comes forward again, there could be a further one planned.</p> <p>The previous work requested for the Parish Steward has not been done as he has been involved in flood prevention and then repairing pot-holes.</p> <p>Grants were approved at the last MWPC meeting and BRAG was awarded £400 and a cheque will be sent out shortly.</p> <p>MWPC has agreed that panels should be put on the bus shelter at Mitchel Drive and the one on Halifax Road near Beaufort Close and will be contacting Wilts. A new bus shelter near Kingfisher Drive is being considered but there is a debate as to who owns the land where it is planned. Having real time information on the bus shelters in this area will eventually come, but nothing in the short term. The bus companies are reluctant to put up timetables, preferring travellers to use an app or the internet. Hard copies are available at Tourist Information.</p>	
<p><b>13. Wiltshire Council, Melksham Without South report</b></p> <p>First bus is withdrawing its D3 service and Faresaver will mainly replace them. Wilts will subsidise the evening and Sunday services. The new 272 timetable will be available from 16 March.</p> <p>Graham Ellis has given a presentation that MWPC will be taking forward to Wilts about suggested improvements and the future of Melksham's buses. It includes extending the town buses between the station and Bowerhill.</p> <p>The Public Open Space Grant is now available.</p> <p>It was suggested that BRAG could run a community event such as a fete or BBQ next year to publicise itself and could apply for funding for this from the Area Board. Sites suggested were the picnic area or Hornchurch Green. It could include involvement by the Cubs and Scouts. (We would have to apply for funding in the next financial year.)</p> <p>The Melksham Neighbourhood Plan has been postponed to April as it is not ready yet. There are difficulties with the two councils agreeing on some points. As there is a timetable set out by Wilts a consultancy has now been appointed. This plan is needed to stop speculative planning applications.</p>	
<p><b>14. Preparation for BRAG's AGM on 12 May 2020</b></p> <p>PH will advertise this in the Melksham Independent. MM will put something on Facebook.</p> <p>JB will forward a treasurer's report also a report about the picnic area to DR.</p> <p>PH will produce agendas and copies of the previous minutes.</p>	<p>PH/MM</p> <p>JB/DR</p> <p>PH</p>
<p><b>15. Any other issues</b></p> <p>The small bin near the post box on Falcon Way is always overflowing. Can we get a larger one? PH will mention this to Teresa.</p>	<p>PH</p>

<p>There is a tree on Halifax Road, alongside the Industrial Estate that is almost horizontal. Could it be dealt with. PH will give NH the exact position so he can arrange for it to be dealt with. The growth from the bottom of neighbouring trees also needs to be cut back.</p> <p>MH said that here is to be a community radio station for Melksham on FM and online. The transmitter will be on Bowerhill so there should be good reception. A medium we can advertise on.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p><b>16. Dates for your Diary and next meetings</b></p> <p>Saturday 21 March - Great British Spring Clean 2020 – meeting on the green opposite Tesco at 2pm.</p> <p>Tuesday 12 May – BRAG AGM at 7.30pm in main room at Village Hall</p> <p>Wednesday 13 May – Community Governance Review consultation at 7pm in United Reform Church, Melksham</p> <p>Wednesday 20 May - Community Governance Review consultation at 7pm in Gompels, 1 Swift Way, Bowerhill</p> <p>Other BRAG meetings planned for 2020 - 14 July, 8 Sept, and 10 Nov.</p>	