



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held in Room 3, Shrewsbury House at 19.30
on Thursday 8th September 2011

Present:

Robert Million (RM) Chair
Alex Hayesmore (AH) Secretary
Ralph Million (RHM) Treasurer
Chris Higgs (CH)
Martyn Kither (MK)
Liz McDermot (LMD)
Leslie Smith (LS)
George Tutheridge (GT)
Michael Wood (MW)

Item	Action
1 Apologies for absence. Robert Million (RM) chair and the committee welcomed Leslie Smith (LS) to the Association committee. Apologies were received from Michael Wood and Monica Beck.	
2 Minutes of last meeting held The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 th May were agreed and signed by RM (Chair).	
3 Matters arising. Matters arising were to be covered by agenda headings. The Olympics and Queen's Jubilee were to be put on the agenda for December's meeting.	
4 Bushmoor Residents Action Group (BRAG) RM reported that the first the Residents Association knew of this group was when the initial email was sent with attached flyer. RM had sent the agreed Association's response to Chris Higgs (CH) via email stating that the formation of this group undermined the residents association as its objectives were opposing the position of the committee or duplicating. RM explained that the committee had listened to and discussed at two previous meetings the various suggestions of residents organising themselves to undertake estate maintenance tasks on the road-side shrub beds and this had not had the backing of the committee. CH replied that his actions were prompted by the Mayor of London's initiative encouraging residents to take action themselves. RM responded that this was primarily intended for initiatives where there were no maintenance arrangements in place, for example, restoring old allotment sites, but was not intended to encourage residents to be working with tools on the road side and alongside residents parked cars.	



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Bushmoor Residents Action Group (continued)

The committee's position was that residents should not organise other residents to undertake work that was or should be carried out by Greenwich Council and where there is a maintenance arrangement in place. MK stated that this maintenance is already being paid for by residents through their Council Tax. It was also noted that the Council had maintained the beds and greens satisfactorily since the Estate was built and only in recent years had difficulties arisen. A new department was responsible and they were not familiar with the unique status of the Estate.

It had been agreed at previous committee meetings and at the AGM that there were maintenance gaps and that it was the Association's role to lobby the Council to close those gaps and that this was actively progressing with the Council. RM had reported details of the meetings he had had with the Council and the outcomes. Residents organising other residents to address the gaps whilst negotiations were producing results undermined the Association's position and could widen the gap incrementally to a point where the Council withdrew the service. This would be very harmful to the Estate. The Estate would lose its Estate-wide maintenance regime and consistency of appearance with the possible outcome of the loss of this unique feature completely with residents removing, grassing-over or planting a row of Leylandii on the beds because they were no longer prepared to devote the time to them or because there had been a change of house ownership.

Liz McDermot (LMD) said she applauded CH's efforts but that they were misguided. Efforts could be redirected to help older residents, for example, who may be pleased to have help with their private gardens and if residents have any time to spare, they could offer to help a neighbour.

RM summed up the committee position explaining that CH's behaviour at the AGM had also been inappropriate. CH presence at the AGM was as a committee member supporting the committee position of which he was a member.

CH apologised, stating that his intention had not been to undermine the committee. CH and GT offered their resignations which were accepted. They would first report on the Fire Station Mast. This agenda item was therefore brought forward.



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5 Fire Station Mast

GT felt that it would have been good to have had more support from committee members at the various meetings that have taken place. Martyn Kither (MK) pointed out that some members of the committee were required to be at work when these meetings take place.

GT agreed with RM that the Conservation Area argument is our trump card. There was to be a meeting of the planning inspectorate at 10.00 on September 15th 2011 at Woolwich Town Hall.

RM asked for the Association's thanks to GT and CH to go on record for their work on the Fire Station mast issue and for running the SHAM group. RM explained to LS that SHAM had been set up and funded by the SPRA to deal with the mast issue. CH then delivered £90 in subscriptions to the committee, and requested that the tree planting programme continues. RM thanked CH for collecting the subscriptions and agreed the tree planting would continue as it was part of the Association Vision.

6 Shooters Hill Golf Club Premises Licence

RM had met with John Hill (former committee member) who was concerned about the application. RM had agreed to write to Greenwich Council expressing general concerns, including regarding anti-social behaviour, and his disappointment that they had not consulted the Residents Association on the matter, and to find out more about the details of the application. The Council replied, apologising and explaining that the Association had now been placed on the list for consultation. RM had also had a conversation with Len Newland about the proposed licence further to an email from Len on the matter. The committee's position was that as the new licence appeared to involve no change to operating hours or licensed activities at the premises. The Association had no formal objection, although the Association had stated in its response that the situation would be closely monitored and that resident's complaints of noise or other nuisance would be taken up by the Association. There was to be a meeting of the licensing subcommittee at Woolwich Town Hall, 10.00 Monday 19th September 2011. CH had already sent in written objections without discussion with the committee.

7 Equestrian Centre

Ralph Million (RHM) left the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest arising. The Centre is to be a massive development on green open space, several large buildings, the felling of many trees and a horse crossing to Oxleas wood. LMD felt it violated many planning policies including MOL and Green Chain. So far there had been 30 objections. LS reported that the GLA are supporting the project. Greenwich Council would probably approve the application. RM asked if any of the committee members present supported the application, none did. He then asked LMD to draft the Association's response to the proposal.



Item

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7 Equestrian Centre (continued)

RM thanked LMD for her work on the matter so far and asked her to lead on this and the mast issue on behalf of the Association. This was agreed.

8 Brinklow Crescent junctions with Plum Lane

RM had written to Greenwich Council as the view of the AGM was that the kerb lines should be restored. The council had replied that the matter had been referred to Highways. RM felt that the reply letter had somehow missed many of the points raised, he would pursue the matter.

9 Association Vision

Plum Lane Project

RHM returned to the room. RM explained what this involved to Leslie Smith (LS). Alex Hayesmore (AH) had forgotten to doorstep residents when collecting subs, although there had been a lot of support at the AGM. If this shrub bed were restored, Greenwich Council would need to maintain it. LS asked if the reinstated bed would cause difficulties for any one getting their cars out. RM explained that its design shouldn't.

Oak Post Entry Treatment

This was agreed. Cllr Taylor would donate £50 when the posts were purchased. Funding constraints may mean that installation couldn't all be done all in one go although all the posts could be purchased together. LMD felt that a plaque on the posts would be good. There was some debate about the placement of the posts and subsequent agreement on this.

Succession Tree Planting

RM enquired into the association's current financial status. LS asked about shrub planting, RM replied that we had received a grant some years ago. RM to pursue funding. LMD reported that some of the shrubs get trampled by people getting out of their cars. MK asked if areas that needed trees had been identified. RM will speak to the Council's Tree Officer regarding trees; shrubs would have to done through a different department.

Street Name Plates.

This is still with Greenwich Council awaiting a decision about the new Council logo and signage for Royal Borough status.

Lamp Columns

There was nothing further to report since the latest newsletter.



Item

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10 Planning Matters

RHM left the room. RM had a meeting with Neil Willey and Cllr Denise Hyland. This had been prompted by RM as a result of a planning decision that was thought by the Association to be inconsistent with the rules and previous planning decisions. The Council would now bring forward the completion of the revised (currently still in draft) Conservation Area Character Appraisal document which would be the forerunner to an updated Conservation Area planning rules document for the CA. The completion of these documents was supported by the Committee as this should hopefully address the current inconsistencies.

11 Shrewsbury House Grade II Listing Nomination

Further to AGM agreement, the Association had nominated Shrewsbury House as a candidate building for Grade II listing status via an online form. English Heritage had responded requesting further details. LMD volunteered to take the photographs requested by English Heritage and obtained a list from RM of the required photographs.

12 Association Subscription Collections.

RHM was asked to return to the room. RM asked RHM if as treasurer he would manage all aspects of the subscriptions. RHM agreed. Due to CH stepping down someone else will need to collect from Bushmoor Crescent. AH gave RHM £27 subscriptions from Plum Lane.

13 Any Other Business

The Association had funded 12 new NW signs. RM had received these from Len Newland (SPRA NW Area Coordinator) These signs would need putting up but prior to this RM wanted to review the placement of all the existing ones, to ensure maximum visibility. Some trees had grown since the original signs were erected by the Association. MK offered to go around the estate with RM and identify places for the signs. Once decided MK and LMD will put them up.

LMD asked who would print the residents pack now CH had stepped down. RM replied that he would do this.

There was discussion regarding Simon Heywood's circular regarding tidying up Mereworth Drive. RM felt the association would have to set out its position in a newsletter. This was agreed. LMD felt that a newsletter should be published as soon as practical. RM suggested this would be after dates for Council maintenance visits were supplied to the Association.

RM apologised to all for the unusual nature of the meeting and thanked the Committee for the ongoing help and support.



There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.48

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 6th December 2011. AH to arrange.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: