



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held in Room 2, Shrewsbury House
at 19.30 on the 2nd December 2014

Present:

Robert Million (RM) Chair,
Len Newland (LN), Vice Chair and SPRA NW Area Co-ordinator,
Alex Hayesmore (AH) Secretary,
Ralph Million (RHM) Treasurer,
Nicola Dennis (ND),
John Field (JF),
Nick Fry (NF),
Clive Inglis (CI),
Lorena Walpole (LW).

Item	Action
1 Welcome and apologies for absence. The Chair, Robert Million (RM) began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and Lorena Walpole (LW) to the committee. He apologised for there being no meeting in September. Apologies had been received from Liz McDermott and Ian Robert. RM had provided pre-Christmas drinks and mince pies.	
2 Minutes of last meeting held 13th May 2014 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair (RM).	
3 Matters arising. RM reported that Wendy from Cleansweep was no longer working on the horticultural maintenance of the Estate. Cleansweep were looking for a suitable replacement. RM also reported that new Neighbourhood Watch signs had been purchased and were in the process of being put up. Len Newland (LN) asked if all the subscriptions had been collected from Bushmoor Crescent. Ralph Million (RHM) replied that he would check. RM reported that the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) had assessed Shrewsbury Park for Green Flag Status. RM had received a response from RBG which would also have been received by The Friends of Shrewsbury Park.	



3 **Matters arising. (continued)**

RBG suggested there was approximately £25,000 to £40,000 of capital investment needed for improved signage, improvements to footpaths and steps, more park furniture etc. There was no funding available for this at the time. It was felt that much of the expenditure suggested by RBG wasn't necessary such as expenditure related to car parking. It was noted that Eaglesfield Park has Green Flag status but no car park. RM added that the car park was put in to serve visitors to organised weekend football matches. RM felt the car park should have been removed when the changing rooms and toilets were demolished due to the blind junction of the park entrance and Plum Lane which was never designed for public access. LW asked what the benefits of Green Flag Status were. RM explained. Clive Inglis (CI) said the Friends were struggling to raise funds for a drinking fountain, he also reported that new Green Chain Walk signs had been installed in Eaglesfield Park. There was a discussion regarding the funding obtained by Eaglesfield Park. RHM suggested that the Association along with the Friends get the ward councillors involved.

4 **Association Vision update**

Succession Tree Planting.

Seven street trees had been planted at the beginning of 2014. RM had written to highways requesting some planting this season. Further planting will be considered by RBG in the winter of 2015.

Shrub Replacement.

Two sections of shrub bed had been replaced. One bed opposite 81 Ashridge Crescent and one at the Estate entrance to the flank of 74 Bushmoor Crescent. A further section was to be replaced at the Junction of Mereworth Drive and Ashridge Crescent.

Plum Lane Shrub Bed

The location of the new shrub bed outside 217 Plum Lane had been agreed between RBG and RM. Cleansweep would pay for the topsoil, shrubs and planting and the Association would pay for the paving slabs to be lifted. CI asked if there was any way to stabilise the paving slabs around the edges of the beds where the slabs had been cut. RM thought perhaps the soil needed topping up underneath. He would request this of Highways. CI also asked about the status of the damaged oak tree outside 219 Plum Lane. RM confirmed that the Association had requested it remain in situ in the hope of regrowth. RM thought that RBG were likely to leave it in place. John Field (JF) reported a problem with tree roots lifting paving. He said the council used to lift the paving and cut back the roots.



4 Association Vision update. (continued)

RM explained that trees are now planted with root barriers and would check that this would be happening in the future.

Oak Posts.

Two further oak posts at either end of Plum Lane had been agreed to in principle with Highways, but at the time of the meeting there was nothing further to report. CI said that there was still no protection for the island at the Junction of Plum Lane and Mereworth Drive. RM reported that his enquiries had concluded with the Association having to fund any traffic barriers on this island. RHM suggested we investigate the costs.

5 Fire Station LFEPA Mast

Former committee member George Tutheridge had emailed RM reporting workmen installing a new dish on the mast. RM had emailed RBG asking them to carry out a reconciliation exercise to compare what had been agreed by Planning and what is actually on the mast. This is ongoing.

6 Neighbourhood watch update. (Len Newland)

LN had attended a meeting last week. It is a quiet area, but LN wanted more people from the Estate to be on the email list as it is important to pass on information. Local Police team are currently at full strength. In summary LN thought he would like to get more information from the Police. Nick Fry (NF) reported that someone had been going around trying car doors. He had given a description to the Police who said this activity was not uncommon. LN asked to be informed of incidents like this.

RHM asked if we had enough NHW signs, RM replied that we did and he was in the process of trying to fix them higher up the lamp posts. Some had been moved or damaged when street parking restriction signs had been installed ahead of the London Olympics in 2012.

7 Planning matters.

A meeting had taken place with RM, LN the Area Planning Manager and the new Ward Councillors regarding some of the more dubious planning decisions. RM and LN reported the meeting had been successful and a number of items of concern had been discussed and agreed. The minutes of the meeting were being produced by the Royal Borough. NF said that the lack of consistency with the planning rules caused problems for enforcement. RM and LN had suggested that that Chair of the Planning Committee visit the Estate to see why these decisions matter.



7 Planning matters. (continued)

Notifications of various planning applications had been received and responded to.

██████████-Solar Panels-opposed. These are not allowed by central government in a conservation area.

██████████Block Paving Drive

██████████-Replacement Windows.

RM would be composing responses for the committee's consideration.

JF asked about planning breaches. RM explained they would show up against the title of the property and during conveyancing may cause problems with a sale as the purchaser would need to resolve the issue.

CI asked about the front door of ██████████ which is an RBG property. RM said the new door has been manufactured and was waiting to be fitted, but he had been informed that the tenant wouldn't allow access. All agreed this should be pursued. RM agreed that he would chase again with Councillors and Planning.

8 Homes on Shooters Hill.

RM recapped this matter. He had received a response from RBG on the 15th May, stating that they had no jurisdiction over this; instead it was the Post Office or the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG). NF and RM believed this wasn't the case and that RBG as guardian of the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) could amend local area names such as Plumstead or Shooters Hill. RM and NF both agreed that RBG could not amend the postcode designation, however. RM would write again to restate the request. This was agreed.

NF felt that we had built a case and it wasn't complicated. All RBG needed to do was decide on the boundary of Shooters Hill as an 'area', reconcile the LLPG with the NLPG and then publish it in the Gazetteer.

NF said that Shooters Hill had been recognised as a place for over 300 years. The real battle would be getting Royal Mail to change the SE18 postcode. This would also mean RBG changing all the street name signs.

9 Any other business

LN spoke about the increase in value of houses at the top of the hill. RM explained that this was the reason he had asked Alex Hayesmore (AH) to take the price guide down from the website as it was out of date and almost impossible to keep up to date with the increases in value.



9 Any other business (continued)

RHM asked if the Association was planning to spend anything over the next few weeks. RM explained that the next big expenditure would be the new oak posts.

RM reported that the cost to the Association of the new Plum Lane shrub bed would be £193.44 and the estimate for the new oak posts was £4-500.

LN asked if the oak posts were necessary. RHM thought it would be good to move these projects forward. This was agreed.

RM had received a letter from Mr and Mrs Andrews concerning self-sown sycamores in the garden of [REDACTED]. Parks and Open Spaces had agreed to remove four and had removed three of the four, but said they weren't able to resource removing the fourth for the time being. It was agreed that RM would write explaining the need to remove these weed trees and that the committee supported their removal. LN suggested involving Ward Councillors if need be.

LW asked about the rules for removing trees. RM explained that the removal of a tree required planning permission and the applicability of the rules was determined by the width of the trunk at a specific height. RM suggested LW speak to her neighbour about removal of a troublesome tree.

LN had printed new Welcome Packs at the golf club. He had also obtained some adverts pertaining to the Estate from the original Kentish Times which would be copied and added to the Welcome Pack. LW suggested copies be made available at the next AGM. This was agreed. RM would also attach to a newsletter.

LN reported that he thought there had been a meeting regarding white lines to control parking outside the Tennis Club. The outcome was inconclusive.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.49

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 19:30

Signed (Chair):

Date: