



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held in Room 3, Shrewsbury House
at 19.30 on the 11th March 2014

Present:

Robert Million (RM) Chair,
Liz McDermott (LMD) Vice Chair
Len Newland (LN), Vice Chair and NW Area Co-ordinator,
Alex Hayesmore (AH) Secretary,
Ralph Million (RHM) Treasurer,
John Field (JF),
Nick Fry (NF),
Chris Higgs (CH),
Clive Inglis (CI),
Ian Robert (IR)

Item	Action
1 Welcome and apologies for absence. Robert Million (RM) began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Nicola Dennis, Martyn Kither and George Tutheridge.	
2 Minutes of last meeting held 3rd December 2013 A correction was required to the name of the manager of Thompsons Garden Centre. Chris Higgs (CH) raised a question over the last comment under planning matters. It was agreed that the house number be placed in the minutes and 'all agreed' be amended to 'it was agreed' RM (Chair) then signed the minutes.	
3 Matters arising. RM reported that the shrub bed soil levels in Mereworth Drive were to be replenished. He was still trying to arrange a meeting with the Planning Department regarding a number of planning applications. 33 Ashridge Crescent had their appeal for hard standing in the front garden rejected by HM Planning Inspectorate at Bristol.	



3 Matters arising (continued)

RM had contacted Shrewsbury House to say the Association should have been consulted over changes to the licensing. RM had been liaising with Clive Inglis (CI) regarding Green Flag status for Shrewsbury Park and Kathy Smith had been emailed. RM said that he felt it would be good for the estate to have this status as it protected the Park which impacted significantly on the Estate as it surrounded a large part of the Estate. He also felt it would save the friends groups a lot of work if the Royal Borough of Greenwich took this on.

Ralph Million (RHM) sought agreement to abandon attempts to collect subscriptions for Bushmoor Crescent for the year 2013-2014. This was agreed. From April a new round of collection would begin at the new rate of £5.00. RM delegated RHM to request volunteers from the committee to collect and liaise with Len Newland (LN) who would put out an email request for help if this were needed. John Field (JF) and RHM agreed to collect Ashridge Crescent.

Ian Robert (IR) agreed to collect Bushmoor Crescent. RM spoke about Michael Wood (MW) not attending his third meeting in a row. There had been no communications or apologies received. LN suggest RM write to MW. This was agreed.

4 Association Vision Update

Shrub Bed 221 to 223 Plum Lane

Cleansweep would provide the soil and shrubs. Highways had yet to quote for the work.

New posts at either end of Plum Lane were agreed in principle. They would need to be purchased and machined as before.

Shrub bed soil levels were to be topped up at the Plum Lane end of Mereworth Drive.

New shrubs were to be planted. RM had a list of locations. CH asked if these were additional shrubs. RM replied they were to replace shrubs in poor condition or to fill in any gaps. Cleansweep would undertake this work free of charge.

New trees had now been planted. Outside 52 and 54 Ashridge Crescent, to the side of 10 Bushmoor Crescent, Outside 48 Mereworth Drive, to the side of 54 and 59 Mereworth Drive, to the side of 2 Kinlet Road and outside 36/38 Kinlet Road.

RM proposed a donation of £75 to the Mayor's Charity. This was agreed.



Association Vision Update (continued)

Liz McDermott (LMD) thought we were very fortunate that so much work was undertaken and plants and materials given for free.

5 Gardening event May 2014 (Liz Mc Dermott)

LMD had submitted an insert to RM for inclusion in the Association spring newsletter. LMD read the contents of the insert to the committee. LN offered to put this on his email list. LMD agreed. LN said Jean Newland had offered to make the tickets. Alex Hayesmore (AH) would send a ticket template to LN based on the Strawberry Tea design. LMD would put a poster at Shrewsbury House and at Thompson's Garden Centre. IR asked if this even could be mentioned whilst collecting subs. This was agreed. RM asked if we had reached a decision regarding the amount of the donation to be made. RHM suggested it be related to the amount of tickets sold. LMD asked when the next newsletter was being published. RM replied that he was halfway through writing it and would publish it when completed. AH would email LMD the Christmas Ticket design.

6 Neighbourhood watch update. (Len Newland)

LN reported that we were not always being notified of burglaries in the area. There was a crossover between 1st responders and the safer neighbourhood teams; they were working on improving communications between the two. LN said that Jean Newland had tidied up the 'handy man' list and he's noticed it wasn't on the website. AH replied that it was felt in the past that the Association shouldn't seem to be endorsing tradesman or businesses. There was debate on this. LMD felt it would be good idea to put some sort of list on the website. RM was happy with the current arrangement of it going out by email. RHM suggest a compromise by putting a link to LN on the website for any 'handy man' information. LMD suggested something in the Welcome Pack. LMD also requested RM update the chair's welcome letter. Regarding the Welcome Pack, CH informed LMD that there were new people at 32 Bushmoor Crescent. IR reported the same for 40 Ashridge Crescent.

7 Planning matters.

RM brought the meeting up to date with a summary of the agreed comments made:

██████████-single storey kitchen extension-
comment only



7 Planning matters (continued)

██████████-2 Storey rear extension-objections raised.

██████████-removing holly and pruning-supported.

██████████-no comments made as plans were unclear.

██████████-tree removal-supported.

██████████-replacement driveway-supported.

██████████ alterations to front and side elevations and widening existing drive-supported.

RM had done a lot of work on producing drawings to put on the website to assist residents with their planning applications. He'd taken measurements of original windows and had drawn them up as an equal sight-line design in UPVC for a standard Laing house. He felt that if residents downloaded this and used it as a template it would help them to construct an acceptable planning application. RM said he was hoping to ultimately load onto the website all the original Crittal designs including the round bay windows and other features such as doors, garage doors and gates etc.

LN remarked that so many houses had replacement windows that weren't replicas of the original designs. RM explained that if planning applicants followed this process replacement window designs were more likely to be a good likeness to the original and be approved at the first application. He was trying to help people do the right thing and the drawings were only intended as a guideline. CH felt it was way of providing some clarity and was a good starting point.

JF felt it was about proportions of the windows when produced as an equal sight-line design in UPVC. RM agreed. Hopefully, the new drawings would assist.

LMD and IR thought it was a good idea and thanked RM for his work.

CH asked when RM was having a meeting with Neil Willey from the Royal Borough's planning department. RM replied that it was proving difficult to find a mutually agreeable date for this.



8 Shooters Hill and postcode.

LMD, IR and RM had entitled this project 'Homes on Shooters Hill'. A draft letter had been written to the Royal Borough, who was the custodian of the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), asking them to recognise Shooters Hill as a specific location as it is both the current and historic name of a substantial area of the Royal Borough.

Nick Field (NF) said that the BBC News website had an article about seven areas of London trying to get their postcodes and place names changed. It seemed the argument of an historical entity would stand more chance of success. RM agreed that it was about recognition of an important historical area and recognition of a special heritage asset and a strategically important place within the borough and the wider London context. RM added that it was also the case that residents believe their homes are on Shooters Hill. Shooters Hill was not a sub-set of Plumstead but an equally important location. Plumstead is also a specific area in its own right.

With reference to postcodes, NF said that the original Post Office boundaries were designed to equalise population for the purpose of delivery rounds, this was no longer the case and therefore the rationale for these boundaries no longer existed.

There had not been a reply to the letter.

LN asked if the hassle of a change of postcode had been taken into account. RM explained that postcode wasn't being dealt with yet, just the recognition of the place name.

NF explained that there would be a consultation process if the Royal Borough or the Post Office decided there was a case for change. RM felt there was a strong case for Shooters Hill because it also dealt with inconsistencies in addressing mail etc.

9 Plum Lane traffic calming

RM explained the background to this matter to the committee. He had written to the department of the Royal Borough responsible for traffic calming detailing the problem of vehicles speeding over the humps. They had replied stating that they had looked at the road and agreed that the 20mph signs could be improved. They were not in a position to re-profile the humps but proposed additional road markings. RM had written back explaining the need for humps further down Plum Lane for example due to children crossing on the blind spot by the retaining wall of Shrewsbury Park. He has proposed the 20mph zone be extended further down Plum Lane as far as Plumcroft School and was awaiting a response.



9 Plum Lane traffic calming (continued)

(CI) asked what was meant by 'not in a position to re-profile the humps)? RM said they hadn't elaborated but imagined it was lack of financial resources.

LN said that some years ago the cost of installing a speed hump was around £8,000.

CH reported that he had witnessed a van parked at the Mereworth Drive entrance to the Estate and another had come behind it and just driven over the bed to get by. CI asked if it was worth considering some sort of protection as this bed was constantly being damaged by vehicles driving over it. It was agreed that RM should pursue this. It was agreed that metal 'bells' be requested in the first instance, otherwise posts.

10 Any other business.

LN asked about new Neighbourhood Watch signs. RM had surveyed the Estate that day and they would be going up in the near future. LMD asked why some were so low down on the lamp posts. LN explained that they had slipped; some of them had also been affected by the Olympic Parking signs.

LN asked on behalf of a resident if planning permission was needed to replace guttering and soffits. RM confirmed that it wasn't.

LN had received a complaint from a resident regarding noise nuisance caused by a barking dog, who had wanted the Association to get involved. LN had explained that this wasn't the role and the Association and gave them the details of the correct course of action which was to go through noise abatement under RBG's Environment Department.

RHM mentioned a Buzzard sized bird of prey that had been seen around the Estate. It was confirmed as a Harris Hawk. A Falconer had been using Shrewsbury Park. CI also reported sighting a lone raptor. He had photographed it and sent the picture to the RSPB who identified it as a Buzzard.

LMD reported a dog shut in the garage for most of the day at an Ashridge Crescent address causing a noise nuisance by barking, this had been affecting a large area for some time. The RSPCA had shown no interest in the welfare aspects of the matter. However a noise abatement notice had been issued by the Royal Borough.

LMD also reported that the long laurel hedge had been pruned. LMD also asked if anyone knew of any local family stories of The Great War in the centennial year.

AH reported that he had received a letter from resident Frances Lennon questioning the committee's treatment of Simon Heywood, unfortunately he had forgotten to bring it with him. It was therefore agreed to defer discussion on this letter to the next meeting.



There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.12

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 19.30.

Signed (Chair):

Date: