**Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 12/05/2016**

**Present**: Kathy Higgins (Chair), Lesley Berry, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Ron Ellis, John Orr, Nicky Johnson, Rosemary Englander, Terry Weller, Derek Weller, George?, Cheryl Hoare and Sheila Taylor (notes).

**Apologies:** Dave Boatwright

**1) Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2016**

Thesewere approved as a correct record.

**2) Matters arising (action points only)**

**3.3** Kathy reported that Yoga for Beginners will run for six weeks on Monday evenings, starting on 16th May. The group has been advertised on Facebook and on noticeboards. Dave L will put it in the Calendar. Kathy has bought some yoga mats.

**4** The Grand Launch was successful. The Citizen has printed a letter from Rosemary about it.

**5** The Grants sub-committee has not yet had a meeting. Sheila said that the sub-group is not currently big enough, particularly as Rosemary is going away, leaving only John and Sheila. Ron said that he was willing to help but it was agreed that, as he is already very busy, this would be by e-mail only. It was agreed that Sheila would approach April and that she would convene a meeting of the group. **ACTION SHEILA**

**3) Terms of Reference (ToR’s)**

Kathy’s draft ToR’s were considered, along with some suggestions already made by Rosemary, The first section (Background) was agreed.

In the next section (Overall Objectives) it was agreed to add something more active, perhaps as the first bullet point. Dave L suggested “Actively campaigning on behalf of estate stakeholders by liaising with various authorities…” The remaining bullet points were agreed.

The third section (Operation of the Working group) was agreed, except that there should be a reference to co-opted members.

**4) Reports from Dave Lee**

**a) Pothole Survey**

Dave received a response from Cllr Peter Geary saying that the Transport Committee had ceased but he would ensure it was raised at the next scrutiny committee, after May elections. The Highways Department initially gave a disappointing response to the pothole report (Andrew Dickinson, Highways Client Service Manager 18 April) but following the intervention of Cllr Hannah O’Neill, Kim Hills (Highways Manager) is now requesting a site visit. Dave will set this up. John, Ron and other interested members will attend this meeting. **ACTION DAVE L, JOHN, RON**

**b) Website/e-mail addresses**

Dave said that TBRA has purchased the domain name Tinkersbridge.org.uk and members can have e-mail addresses at this domain. Work is needed on the website, but temporary content has been put on it ([http://tinkersbridge.org.uk](http://tinkersbridge.org.uk/)). Kathy suggested a sub-group to look at this and she also proposed it should be a substantive item on the agenda for the next meeting. John and Dave will meet to look at the website. Nicky is willing to take on the role of updating the website. **ACTION, DAVE L, JOHN and NICKY**

**At this point the meeting was suspended following an emergency alert. Rosemary and Cliff left the meeting.**

**5) The Action Plan – what next for the Working Group?**

Progress on the action plan to date:

* Kathy has started the yoga group
* Ron has a team looking after the environment
* There are volunteers on all roads

**6) Any other business**

**a) The Queen’s birthday picnic**

Cheryl attended to present this item. The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are organising a picnic on 11th June to celebrate the Queen’s birthday. TBRA is supporting the event by lending equipment and by offering help with setting up etc. Participants will bring their own food and picnic equipment so the main cost is the hire of Meeting Place. It was agreed to write to Kevin Wilson, who has asked to meet us on the general question of the use of the Meeting Place, to ask that the booking fee be waived for this event. **ACTION SHEILA**

**b) Tea Dance for over-60s** Lesley and Anne Bircham are helping to organise this event at the Hedgerows Centre in Netherfield on July 20th. The tea dance will be open to people over 60 on Tinkers Bridge, Netherfield and other local estates. An advertisement for it will go out with the newsletter. **ACTION ?**

**c) Grants from MKC** John, Ron and Lesley met Catherine Geddes of MKC for the Annual Health Check of the work done by TBRA. John hopes we will once again achieve Gold Standard, resulting in a grant of £600 for the running costs of the TBRA. Criteria for the award include communication methods used, events organised and number of attendees. From next year there will be a Platinum Standard, where the criteria will include attendance at forums for tenants, residents etc.

Further MKC funding is available for specific projects arising from our action plan. Kathy asked that everyone brings their copy of the Action Plan to the next meeting. **ACTION ALL**

**d) Woughton Neighbourhood Plan** In Cliff’s absence, Dave L played an audio record of the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Formal minutes of this meeting have not yet been circulated.

In the recording, a consultant employed by WCC is heard to say that the Plan is “doomed to fail” because there has not been enough response to the consultation. The options put forward by the consultant appear to include continuing with the Plan with involvement of major players or reducing the scope of the Plan to work only with the parts of Woughton which are not included in the Regeneration plans or completely dropping the plan. The Steering Group is asked to think about these options.

Ron and Nicky suggested that we ask to meet officers and Councillors of WCC to discuss our concerns about the possible abandonment of the Neighbourhood Plan. We should also suggest that they include consultation done on estate plans such as ours. John will approach them on both these points, starting at the WC AGM on Monday 16th May. **ACTION JOHN**

Kathy suggested that we await the outcome of this request for a meeting before deciding whether to make a formal complaint about the way in which the Neighbourhood Plan consultation has been handled.

**The Meeting finished at 9pm**

**Date of Next Working Group meeting** Thursday 9th June 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**Next TBRA meetings** 26th May and 30th June, both at 7.30 pm.