

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 14/02/2018

Present: Kathy Higgins (Chair), Lesley Berry, Ron Ellis, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, John Orr and Sheila Taylor (Minutes).

Apologies: Rosemary Englander, Sarah Mitchell.

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2018

These were confirmed as a correct record.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

2.2) Kathy has done the minutes of the last two TBRA meetings. A lot of minutes are now on the website. Dave L will let Lesley have a list of which meetings are missing so that she can provide summaries. **Action: Dave L and Lesley**

2.3) Mavis has asked for statements to arrive by 4th of each month. She has forms for Bankline, for putting Lesley on as a signatory and for cancelling the Direct Debit for Local Giving. She and John will complete these forms. **Action Mavis and John**

At the last TBRA meeting Sheila said she would contact TBRA's insurer about the bouncy castle. She did this and they confirmed they did not insure this risk. John said he would investigate specialist insurers and would also explore using an insured person to look after the bouncy castle on behalf of TBRA. It was agreed the bouncy castle cannot be used at TBRA events until this is resolved. **Action John**

Ruth Cooke, the auditor, has been in touch with Mavis and Sheila about her report. She will present an interim report at the TBRA AGM on 22nd February.

2.4) The application to Milton Keynes Community Foundation for a grant for producing the newsletter was successful. Sheila gave a cheque for £1,000 to Mavis. The MKCF logo must be used in all publicity. Sheila will send this to Dave L for the website. **Action Sheila**

The form for the grant from MKC for the Christmas party has been submitted. Terry's poem about the pantomime trip was published in the Bridge. We will use the TBRA AGM to talk about next year's grants. **Action John/Sheila**

2.7) The Fire Brigade sent information for the newsletter. They will be invited to the March TBRA meeting. **Action Ron**

Dave L sent reminders to possible attendees at future TBRA meetings. He will continue to do this. **Action Dave L**

3) Financial Report

Mavis circulated a spreadsheet showing the position as at 31.01.2018. The balance at the end of the month is £3333.92. The petty cash balance has been re-in stated at £200. The grant from Councillor Pauline Prop for the Christmas party was not spent.

4) Grants update

See 2) 2.4) above.

5) The Bridge

Kathy asked for feedback on the January edition, which was very positive. She and Sarah are now producing the February edition. Items to be included are:

Grass damage

An Easter event – Sarah is offering to organise this. It was suggested Councillor Prop should be approached to ask if her grant for the Christmas party could be used to fund an Easter event. Kathy will discuss with Sarah. **Action Kathy**

The Jesus Army – what does it do? Dave L suggested writing something about the Winter Night Shelter. **Action Dave L**

John's video about the work Ron, Terry and Derek are doing in the back alleys. Regeneration

All material is to be sent to Kathy and Sarah as soon as possible.

6) Housing and Community Committee

Sheila attended this committee and submitted a question on planned maintenance of Council properties, drafted in discussion with John and others.

The Committee appeared to take this on board and put the subject on its agenda for its next meeting on 27th March.

The only other Resident Association representative at the meeting was Geoff Woolmore from Beanhill. He raised the question of the Council's much reduced commitment to resident involvement. This will be the subject of a Task and Finish group from the committee. One implication of the current lack of involvement is that there is uncertainty about how Residents' Associations will apply for and receive MKC funding in the coming year. Dave L will look at raising this at the next full Council meeting. **Action Dave L**

7) Regeneration Watch

There was a Regeneration Committee meeting on 13th February. Several members of the Working Group were present. There was no senior representation from YourMK. Pete Marland, the leader of the Council, made a statement that expressed MKC's concerns about how YourMK was handling regeneration. He announced that there would be a new Regeneration sub-committee of the Cabinet which would have delegated responsibility to manage the contract with YourMK.

8) Community Action

Robbie MacPherson of Community Action MK came to the last TBRA meeting. He has since been in touch to propose setting up a meeting for the Residents' Associations of all the regeneration estates. The cost of facilitating this meeting would be £350. Kathy is co-ordinating a response to this proposal from the Ras. Dave L will chase the RAS for their answer about the funding. **Action Kathy and Dave L**

9) Future meetings

Dave L raised the following meetings, with possible attendance by WG members:

Thursday, 15 February 6:15pm **Regeneration Sub-Committee** Dave, others part time

Wednesday, 21 February 7:30pm **MK Council meeting** Dave, Lesley

Thursday, 22 February 7:30pm **Tinkers Bridge RA**

Tuesday, 6 March 6:30pm **MK Cabinet meeting** Kathy, Cliff, Lesley

Wednesday, 14 March 7:30pm **TBRA WG**

Thursday, 15 March 6:15pm **Regeneration Sub-Committee** Kathy, Cliff, Dave

Wednesday, 21 March 7:30pm **MK Council meeting** (Budget)

Tuesday, 27 March 7:00pm **Housing and Community Committee**

Thursday, 29 March 7:30pm **Tinkers Bridge RA**

10) Planning for AGM

Both Mavis and Lesley are standing down so there is a need for a new treasurer and secretary.

John will draft the agenda to include Chair's report, approval for grant applications for the coming year and a presentation about regeneration.

The future of the Working Group was discussed and it was agreed that the Group's work should continue. Kathy and Lesley were asked to continue as co-chairs.

6) Any Other Business

None

7) Dates of Next Meetings

Working Group Wednesday 14th March 7.00 at 45 Old Groveway

TBRA 22nd February (AGM) and 29th March 7.30 in the Meeting Place