

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 08/11/2018

Present: Kathy Higgins (Chair), Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Lesley Berry and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

Apologies: Rosemary Englander, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright and John Orr

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 11/10/2018

These were accepted by those present.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

2.1) Sheila wrote, and Ron delivered, a note to let Sinead know we have been awarded a grant for the drama group but there has been no response. Agreed to leave this for now.

2.4.3) The work that Ron and Bill are planning in the Community Garden will not initially be very expensive so will be funded by existing environment funds.

3) Sheila mislaid the cheque reimbursing her for the seaside coach deposit.

Mavis has now cancelled it and issued a new one.

Lesley is now registered as a signatory for the TBRA bank account.

4.1) Mavis gave Sarah £60 for the Hallowe'en event. Kathy will ask Sarah to give the receipts to Ron. Sheila would like to see them first as MKC is now asking for all receipts for expenditure from their grants. **Action Kathy, Ron and Sheila**

4.3) John booked the meeting place for the Christmas Party on 15th December and the Christmas Day meal.

5.1) The Bridge - all actions were completed

8.2) The HRA consultation has now ended.

3) Financial report

There was no report in Mavis's absence. Cheques have been issued to Sheila (see above), to Dave for printer ink and to Cliff for paper.

4) Grants update

4.1) The pantomime is now being advertised on Facebook.

4.2) The next application for a grant to MKC can now be submitted. As agreed, this will be for the Christmas Party. Sheila suggested a breakdown of expenditure for the application and this was agreed.

It was also agreed to ask if the last MKC grant could be used differently. **Action Sheila**

4.3) As requested at the September TBRA meeting, Sheila emailed Pauline Prop about her ward allowance. There has been no reply. Sheila will try ringing Pauline. **Action Sheila**

4.4) Kathy suggested a discussion about activities to be funded in 2019. There will be a request for ideas in The Bridge, with the comment that people bringing forward ideas should be willing to help put them into practice. After discussion, the following possibilities were raised:

An Easter event

Museum trips

A canal trip

Nature walks

4.5) Sheila raised the question of how we ensure the safety of children at our events. It was agreed to revisit our Safeguarding Policy to check that it is fit for purpose. Kathy will talk to Sarah to get her advice. **Action Sarah**

Ron said he has a DBS certificate. He will find it so we can check if it needs renewing. We will also check this with others who might need a certificate. This could be an expensive process. Sheila will take advice from WCC. **Action Ron, Lesley and Sheila**

5) The Bridge

5.1) Kathy asked for items for the next edition. The following were discussed:

An advert for the Panto

An item on regeneration if appropriate

Puzzles for children. Thanks to Terry for providing some ideas about this.

Ideas for 2019 activities

A swan update

An advert for the Christmas Party. The following timetable was suggested: 10 am onwards decorating the hall, 2pm Santa touring the estate and then the party, starting at about 3.30 pm.

6) Resident Engagement Network

Ron and Kathy attended this meeting. It was led by a number of Council officers including the new Resident Engagement team. There was a presentation about the HRA consultation. Ron and Kathy felt the meeting was not well chaired and overwhelmed by some negative voices. Another meeting of the network is planned. Kathy will send the HRA presentation to Ron. **Action Kathy**

7) Cabinet meeting 6th November

Lesley and Dave L reported on this meeting. Several questions put forward by RORE/TBRA were put forward. The chair of the meeting decided that some (including Lesley's) should be put at the Regeneration sub-group rather than full Cabinet. Given the cancellation of recent sub-group meetings, this is a cause for concern. Terry asked a question about the reported missing funds from YourMK. He was told there could be no comment on this until auditors have finished their investigation.

8) RORE

- Dave L reported that the decision to hold a ballot on Serpentine Court was called in by Lakes RA. This was unsuccessful, and the ballot is going ahead on 16th and 17th November. There will be three options on the ballot: do nothing, partially demolish and rebuild or demolish fully and rebuild on an existing park.
- RORE also has options on how to respond to this: do nothing, seek a judicial review, run a ballot on the rest of the Lakes or wait for the planning stage. These options will be discussed at the RORE meeting on Friday 9th November.

- The Lakes ballot has led to further press coverage. There has also been a letter to the Citizen criticising RORE and supporting Residents' Support Groups.
- Dave L has put in three Freedom of Information requests to the Council. He has so far only had one request, which has elicited the information that in 2018 £690,00 has been spent on the regeneration process, with no benefit yet to the residents of the estates.
- The Bradville consultation is about to begin. Houses on Bradville are of similar construction to those on Tinkers Bridge.
- Dave L suggested that we should be thinking about putting together our own ideas on regeneration before the formal process begins. This may soon be happening on Netherfield, where a group of students will soon be starting a project. Kathy suggested that this might be done by creating a sub-group of TBRA, made up of Council tenants.

9) Any Other Business

9.1) Woughton Community Council are proposing a new agreement with Residents' Associations. Sheila read out the draft agreement. It was not felt to be very different from our current relationship with WCC, although Dave told us that Netherfield RA do not agree and are refusing to sign it. This will be an agenda item for the next TBRA meeting. Sheila will contact WCC for an electronic version and to clarify some of our questions. **Action Sheila**

9.2) Welcome pack – this was omitted from the agenda so will be a substantive item at the next WG meeting.

9.3) Kathy gave her apologies for the next three WG meetings as she will be away. She will remain involved remotely during this time.

10) Forthcoming Dates

Dave L reminded us of the following dates:

NOV Wed 14 19.00 Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Wed 28 19:30 Council

Fri 30 19:00 RoRE

DEC Tue 4 18:30 Cabinet

Wed 12 18:15 Regeneration Sub-Committee

Thur 13 7:00pm Working Group

Mon 17 19:00 RoRE

JAN Fri 4 19:00 RoRE

Tue 8 18:30 Cabinet

Wed 17 18:15 Regeneration Sub-Committee