

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Minutes of the Working Group Meeting held on 13th November 2019

Present

Kathy Higgins (Chair), Mavis Boatwright, Liz O'Shea, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Ron Ellis, Cliff Green. Rosemary Englander, Dave Lee, Lesley Berry and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

Apologies

John Orr and Dave Boatwright

Guest

Christopher Boyo, Interim Community Manager, Milton Keynes Council

Public Realm Improvement Fund (PRIF)

Kathy welcomed Christopher to the meeting. He was asked to attend by Julia Bandy, as he is now dealing with this matter. Christopher explained that his role is to work with TBRA to spend the PRIF funds of £12,160 in whatever way it wants.

It was explained to Christopher that the October TBRA meeting agreed to prioritise speed bumps and a mirror on the Aldenham roundabout, with £1000 allocated to the continuation of the underpass murals and mending and continuing the meeting place mural. However, it was felt to be impossible to go any further without detailed costings which had been requested by Mhay Green and Julia Bandy from the highways department but had not yet been forthcoming.

Christopher thought the cost of a speed bump would be around £600, much less than previously assumed by TBRA. If this is the case, the meeting felt we should also look at the third community priority, the dealing with the dangers caused by trees which obscure street lights or damage pavements with their roots.

Christopher said he would chase up for speed bumps, the mirror and for tree trimming. He said the community would be able to choose the provider for tree trimming from quotes he would gather. This could include small local companies.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10th October 2019

These were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

AOB – Welcome Packs

Sheila attempted to deliver copies to MKC and WCC as requested but found that some of the ones she had been given were not complete. Dave L will correct this and also print some more copies when he has moved house. **Action Dave L**

AOB – Keep Fit Group

Liz and Caroline have had a discussion. Caroline wants to try starting the group in the New Year so she will be in touch with Liz again nearer the time.

Finance report

Mavis reported that the balance at the end of October was £3732.67. John has still not provided the £20 receipt from the last Christmas party. **Action John**

Ron said that John has agreed to use his ward allowance to pay for a wooden bin cupboard. **Action John**

Rosemary has a receipt for the £50 voucher she purchased as a thank you gift to Sian Lewis for her work on the Welcome Pack. Sian has sent a message of thanks. Sheila will take the receipt to Mavis for payment. **Action Sheila and Mavis.**

As Lesley is leaving, we will need a new signatory for the TBRA bank account. Liz agreed to take on this role. Mavis will check the procedure with the bank. **Action Mavis**
Mavis has given notice that she will not be able to continue with the role of treasurer after the end of the TBRA financial year on 31st January 2020. There will be an appeal in the Bridge for a new treasurer.

Grant report

Sheila said that the first £100 of the £800 grant from MKC has now been spent on Hallowe'en activities. She is waiting for receipts from Sarah. The coach has been booked for the pantomime trip at a cost of £340. The remaining £360 is allocated to the Christmas party.

Mhay Green has sent details of a number of other grants that may be available, including from Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP), which will allocate grants of £500 or more to help communities improve their environment. It was suggested more funds would be needed to improve the raised beds by next spring. The deadline for the first round of funding is 26th November so Sheila will need costings by 22nd November if a bid is required. **Action Ron**

Christmas preparations

John often undertakes many of the tasks for the Christmas party and it is not clear when he will be back from Scotland. After discussion, Dave L agreed to produce a list of all the tasks required so that members of the group and the wider TBRA can volunteer to take them on in John's absence. **Action Dave L – list now attached to these minutes**

Printer costs

Dave L has been looking at the costs of the printer, given that it has again been necessary to buy more ink to ensure continued printing of the Bridge. He has been researching costs and it appears that costs per page may be more expensive than those promised when the printer was purchased. He is going to research this further and speak to the manufacturer's engineers. There is enough ink for the November Bridge and no edition will be produced in December, so there is time for the research. **Action Dave L**

In the meantime it was agreed to transfer £400 from the general to the printing fund so that Dave can be reimbursed the £340 he has paid for the latest delivery of ink. Sheila commented that this is an appropriate use of grants from MKC and WCC for the general running of TBRA. **Action Mavis**

Regeneration and RoRE

Kathy reported on the MKC Regeneration Strategy consultation meeting that she attended with Dave L. Representatives of the RAs of the regeneration estates were asked for comments on the strategy. Kathy felt that the meeting was not very focussed or forward looking. She gave out copies of the strategy feedback documents and asked that members of the group send in their own views.

Kathy also proposed the formal establishment of a regeneration sub-committee of TBRA. The purposes of this sub-committee would be to be the main link with regeneration planning. It should be composed partly of Council tenants. Terry and Derek are willing to be part of the sub-committee and other members will be sought through the Bridge.

The Bridge

The following content for the November/December Bridge were suggested:

Christmas activities

Hallowe'en report

Treasurer vacancy

Public Realm Improvement Fund

Keep Fit update if Caroline feels ready

A poem by Terry

Information about housing repairs (see AOB below)

Dates are:

Copy to Sarah Friday 22/11

To Cliff for printing Monday 25/11

Delivery Tuesday 26/11

Kathy will pass this on to Sarah. **Action Kathy**

Any Other Business

Lesley said she had been asked for information about any activities on Tinkers Bridge arising from her report on the Wellbeing meeting she attended. She provided a summary of the meeting and it was agreed this would be discussed at the next Working Group.

Action Kathy

Liz asked what had happened to the petitions that were made available at the TBRA meeting attended by Nigel Long. It is believed John has them. **Action John**

Dave L commented that the poor record of MKC and Mears in bringing council homes up to Decent Homes standard is being disguised because Mears send texts asking for feedback on repairs. If there is no reply they assume the customer is satisfied. There will be an item in the Bridge to encourage Council tenants to make it clear if they are not satisfied with repairs.

Farewell to Lesley

On behalf of the WG and the whole of TBRA, Kathy thanked Lesley for all she has done in the time she has lived in our community. We all wish her well in her new home in Sheffield.

Forthcoming meetings

November

Thu 14th 6:15pm Regeneration Cabinet sub-committee

Wed 27th 7:30pm MKC full council

Thu 28th 7:30pm TBRA

December

Tue 3rd 6:30pm MKC Cabinet

Fri 6th 7:00pm RoRE

Wed 11th 7:00pm Working Group

Thu 19th 6:15pm Regeneration Cabinet sub-committee

Fri 20th pantomime trip

Sat 21st Christmas party

Hi all

Here is my list of tasks for Christmas - I suggest it is made an annex to the minutes, so we all have it as a checklist for future years

Please let me know which tasks should have your name against them

Item	Complete by	Budget	Owner	Status
book hall	16/11/2019	£-	John	Done
pantomime seats		£285.00	David	Done
Pantomime coach		£340.00	Sheila	Done
Pantomime on Facebook	30/10/2019		Deanna	Done
Pantomime on website	1/11/2019		David	Done
sell panto seats, collect money	20/12/2019		Deanna	in progress
sell seats outside estate	13/12/2019		Deanna	
money into TBRA fund	22/12/2019	£(285.00)	Deanna	
Pay The Deco for seats	20/12/2019	£285.00	Mavis	
Pantomime trip management	20/12/2019		Deanna	
Pantomime feedback	22/12/2019			
Santa & party on Facebook	26/11/2019			
Santa & party in The Bridge	25/11/2019			
Santa & party on website	27/11/2019			
Vehicle for Santa	21/12/2019		Cliff	
Santa with costume	21/12/2019		Bill	
Boxes of sweets (8-10?)	19/12/2019	£30.00		
Check elf costumes, get extras	14/12/2019	£30.00		
Decorate Santa vehicle	21/12/2019		Cliff	
Get items from John's house	14/12/2019		Dave	
Check for needed decorations	14/12/2019	£30.00	Dave	
Buy selection boxes (how many?)	7/12/2019	£100.00		
Wrap selection boxes	18/12/2019			
Tea, Coffee & similar	20/12/2019			

Party food for children	20/12/2019	£125.00	
		0	
Party food for adults	20/12/2019	£75.00	
Take items to hall for setting up	21/12/2019		
Build sleigh	21/12/2019		Dave
Decorate hall	21/12/2019		
serve food & drinks	21/12/2019		
clear up kitchen	21/12/2019		
clear up hall	21/12/2019		

Dave
