

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 14/03/2019

Present: Lesley Berry (Chair), Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Rosemary Englander and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

Apologies: Dave Boatwright, John Orr, Mavis Boatwright and Kathy Higgins

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 14/02/2019

These were accepted by those present.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- MKC have acknowledged Lesley's letter about the 20-mph speed limit and about placing a mirror on the roundabout in the centre of Tinkers Bridge. They have said they are not ready to accept applications yet but will do so soon. Sheila will continue to chase. **Action Sheila**
- Dave L is still chasing the information about the night shelter grant that Ron needs for Unite. **Action Dave L**
- Rosemary's recipe appeared in the Bridge, but without the important information that it is suitable for people with diabetes. Rosemary will remind Sarah to include this information with a second recipe in the March Bridge. **Action Rosemary**
- Dave asked MKC for an evening meeting with Heledd Williams and Jo Truman but has had no response, even though Heledd said at the last TBRA meeting that this should be possible.
- Terry and Derek have not yet responded to the Housing Allocation consultation. If time allows, they will do this with Dave L straight after this meeting. **Action Terry, Derek and Dave L**

3) Financial report

Mavis was not present. Sheila reported on the following points made by Ruth Cooke, who is in the process of auditing our accounts for the year to 31st January 2019.

- Ruth commented that the records from both Mavis and Sheila are "clear and easy to follow, a tribute to the care and attention they have given".
- She added that the financial position of TBRA is good, with over £2,000 in the general fund (i.e. money not ring-fenced for any purpose other than the general running of the organisation).
- Ruth asked for confirmation that the Christmas Day lunch did not go ahead this year and that the grant from Unite is therefore all being used for its alternative purpose of the work of the Winter Night Shelter. Sheila has confirmed this to Ruth.
- Ruth asked for minutes of the 2018 AGM for confirmation of the decision to transfer £300 from the general fund to the printing budget. Lesley will look for this. **Action Lesley**
- In submitting her monitoring report to MKC for the summer grant for arts and crafts events, Sheila did not include the £12.84 for which the receipt was lost. Ruth suggested setting this sum against the general fund in the accounts and this was agreed.

- Sheila made a mistake in the submission to MKC for the Christmas party grant, such that John was overpaid by £8.98. John is happy to repay this amount. One receipt for £20 is outstanding for this grant. John will get this receipt and then Sheila will amend the submission to MKC for both these changes. **Action John and Sheila**
- Ruth queried the payment of an invoice for £70.80 to Hostinguk.net. She sought confirmation that this was for “Website – hosting and domain” Dave L confirmed this was correct. He also took on board Ruth’s advice that invoices of this type must be clearly addressed to TBRA.
- Ruth also made some general points about the management of the accounts which she will discuss with Mavis.
- Sheila will report back to Ruth on the above discussion. **Action Sheila**

4) Grants update

- The TBRA AGM gave approval to making applications for grants for several events and activities.
- Sheila said there had also been a discussion at the AGM about applying for a grant to buy plastic or metal bins for rubbish to be kept between collection days. Rosemary proposed a motion at a TBRA meeting in the past 18 months that MK council be approached to introduce bins to replace bags for all types of waste and recycling collection. This motion was unanimously passed. No action appears to have been taken. While Rosemary supported the idea of the TBRA providing bins for rubbish storage, she suggested that it would be a good idea to approach MK Council and ask if there was a realistic possibility of wheelie bins being introduced for all in the upcoming new contract, as we do not want to spend money needlessly. Dave L observed that this issue of replacing bags with wheelie bins was scheduled to be discussed shortly by the Council. After discussion, it was agreed that that Ron would check with SERCO about collecting the rubbish directly from storage bins if WG provided them and Rosemary and Dave L would look at costs of bins. **Action Ron, Rosemary and Dave L**
- Ron proposed applying for funding for more work on the Community Garden. He will do costings. Terry and Derek offered to help. **Action Ron, Terry and Derek**
- The meeting confirmed an agreement made by email between meetings to Sarah Mitchell’s request for £80 for materials for an Easter Egg Hunt. £50 of this comes from Cllr Pauline Prop’s grant and the other £30 from the general fund.

5) The Bridge

The following items were put forward for the February edition:

- The next TBRA meeting including the possibility that representatives of MKC may be there to talk about how they fund us (see below).
- Terry has given Sarah some more children’s activities.
- Rosemary will re-send her second recipe for people with diabetes (see above under Matters Arising). **Action Rosemary**

- Environment – Ron said that there has been some fly tipping in the alleyways. He asked that the Bridge mentions the need to keep the alleyways clear.
- Nature column
- Regeneration – Dave L will write this. **Action Dave L**
- An appeal for ideas and help with a summer event. Lesley suggested a sports afternoon.
- Except where specified, Sheila will pass these ideas on to Sarah. **Action Sheila**

Dates for the February edition are:

- March 21st all copy to Sarah
- March 24th to Cliff for printing and Dave for the website
- March Feb 25th/26th to Ron for distribution

Action Sarah, Cliff and Ron

Printer ink

Cliff reported that it is not possible to be sure when the current supplies of ink will run out. After discussion it was agreed more ink could be bought, providing Ruth and Mavis were happy that there were enough funds available. Sheila will find out and Dave L will buy the ink if the funds are agreed to be available. Cliff is keeping records of all printing, so we will be able to assess the cost of the ink in due course. **Action Sheila, Dave L and Cliff**

6) Regeneration and RORE

- The Big Conversation - RORE is now working with MKC to find out what residents of the 7 estates want from regeneration. They are planning an information sharing event on 5th April.
- Dave asked what TBRA's view should be about the index of deprivation, one of the key elements of the decision on which estates should be part of the regeneration project. It was felt that an object of regeneration should be to reduce the extent of deprivation (where it exists) on Tinkers Bridge.
- Dave reported that he attended a meeting of Fullers Slade RA that was addressed by Michael Kelleher. There were several examples at this meeting of mistakes and confusion by MKC, which are still being blamed on YourMK.
- The RORE AGM went well. The current officers were re-elected. Terry said he had found the meeting more understandable than before.

7) MKC resident engagement

The next meeting of the Resident Engagement Network will be on 24th April from 6.30-8.30 pm. Ron cannot attend. Lesley, Terry and Derek can attend. Sheila will make sure John knows about this meeting. **Action Lesley, Terry, Derek and Sheila**

8) Agreement with WCC

In John's absence there was no further information about this. We need to know how this agreement will affect future grants from WCC. Sheila will ask John.

Action Sheila

9) Welcome Pack

- Rosemary and Dave showed an edited version of the pack in an A5 format. It is suggested that the pack is presented in the A5 binder that Rosemary showed at the last meeting. It was agreed to go ahead with this format. File dividers will not be affordable, so different coloured paper will be explored for the separate sections.
- Rosemary will now show this version to Sian Lewis, the designer who has volunteered to help with the pack. **Action Rosemary**
- Photographs will be needed. Rosemary has already asked her son Daniel and friend Yvonne. Derek and Terry will also take some photographs.
Action Derek and Terry
- Heledd Williams said at the AGM that MKC would be willing to give the pack to new Council tenants.
- Grateful thanks were expressed to Rosemary and Dave L for all their work on the pack.

10) Safeguarding Policy and Constitution

The draft policy was approved at the AGM, with John and Ron named as responsible person and deputy. The AGM also approved Sheila's proposal that TBRA should join Milton Keynes Play Association at a cost of £25 per year. This will allow us to undertake DBS checks on our volunteers at a reasonable price. A list of volunteers who may need DBS checks was made. Training will be arranged for John, Ron and the other volunteers. **Action Sheila**

Sheila reported that she had updated the constitution without changing it radically. Agreed she will ask John to sign this updated version so that it can be used for grant applications. **Action Sheila and John**

11) Any Other Business

- It is believed that John has put his name forward for the vacancy on WCC caused by the resignation of Pauline Prop.
- MKC (Mhay Green and Jenna Smith) have asked to meet us before the end of March to discuss how they finance us. Dave L will reply to suggest that they attend the next TBRA meeting on 28th March. He will also ask if they will fund one or more places at the TPAS conference.
- Lesley, Terry and Derek believe that the anti-social behaviour on Hatton mentioned at the last meeting has improved somewhat.

12) Forthcoming meetings

March

Weds 20th 19.30 Full Council

Weds 21st 18.15 Regeneration Cabinet Sub-Committee

Tues 26th 19.00 Community and Housing Scrutiny

Thurs 28th 19.00 TBRA meeting

April

Friday 5th Big Conversation information sharing event

Thurs 11th 19.00 Working Group

Weds 24th 18.30-20.30 Resident Engagement Network

Thurs 25th 19.30 TBRA meeting