

## **Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association**

### **Minutes of the Working Group Meeting held on 12th February 2020**

#### **Present**

Cliff Green (Chair), Liz O'Shea, Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, John Orr, Derek Weller, Terry Weller and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

#### **Apologies**

Kathy Higgins, Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright and Rosemary Englander

**Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2020** these were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

Welcome Packs - Dave L will print 4 more copies and give 2 to Sheila, one each for WCC and Sian Lewis. **Action Sheila and Dave L**

Ruth Cooke, our auditor, has suggested a way forward about the £20 receipt outstanding from last year's Christmas party. **Action John and Mavis**

Ron and Mavis have completed the forms for Ron to become a signatory and are now waiting for notification from NatWest that this has been done. Ron will chase them up if nothing is heard by the end of the week. **Action Ron**

Cliff signed a letter to MKC on behalf of TBRA endorsing the Galley Hill RA's complaints about poor communication by the Council. Michael Bracey, the CEO of MKC has asked for concrete examples. Agreed to use the example of PRIF (see below) Sheila will draft a response. **Action Sheila**

#### **Treasurer's report**

Mavis was not present so there was no report. The accounts are now being inspected by Ruth Cooke. John reported that he has approached someone who is interested in becoming the new treasurer. John will invite her to the AGM. **Action John**

Sheila will ask Mavis if she is willing to continue with essential actions such as issuing cheques until the new treasurer takes over. She will also ask Mavis if she is willing to continue as a signatory after she stops being treasurer. **Action Sheila**

#### **Grants report**

Sheila said that we have had a positive response from MKDP to our application for £500 for the planting boxes for next year. They want to meet us to discuss some detail. Sheila and Ron will do this on 21<sup>st</sup> February. **Action Sheila and Ron**

John is giving his full £200 ward allowance to TBRA this year and £110 of it has already been spent on the bin cupboard in the community park. He has not yet asked WCC to pay the allowance to TBRA and this must be done urgently. **Action John**

Sarah has asked for £130 for the Easter Egg Hunt. This was agreed to be a reasonable amount. After discussion it was agreed to use £90 left from John's Ward allowance and to put the remaining £40 from general funds. Sheila will give this money to Sarah and claim it back when she provides receipts. **Action Sheila**

John suggested writing to our three MKC Councillors to see if they have any funds left in their 2019-20 ward allowances that could be used for the newsletter. **Action Sheila**

Sheila has made an application to WCC for a grant to cover the cost of hiring the meeting place for a 3-month trial of the Keep Fit Group. She checked with TBRA's insurers that this activity is covered by them. It is but their general requirements include that the insured organisation uses properly qualified staff and volunteers so she will ask Caroline to show her qualification certificate. **Action Sheila**

#### **Public Realm Improvement Fund (PRIF)**

Another MKC member of staff, Phil Chandler, is now dealing with PRIF. Sheila wrote to him on 24<sup>th</sup> January to explain what we have done so far in accordance with the advice of Chris Boyo. Phil replied on 5<sup>th</sup> February with very different advice, including that work on speed bumps is not within the remit of PRIF and that all the projects are now under consideration as to whether they are appropriate uses of this funding. He also advised that the work we have done getting quotes for our other priorities will not be used, as the

Council has to follow its usual procurement rules. Sheila replied expressing our disappointment at the very confusing information we have given, leading to us putting a lot of work into getting quotes and also giving a lot of work to our "quoters". She asked Phil for assurances that we will still receive £12,000 worth of work on Tinkers Bridge. So far there has been no reply.

We will use this example for a response to Michael Bracey's request for examples of poor communication by the Council.

#### **RORE/RAN issues**

Following the last Residents' Associations Network (RAN) meeting, the Resident Engagement Team has written asked RAs for their preference between two proposals for how to spend the outstanding grant funding for 2019-20. The proposals included buying a PA system with hearing loop and various training opportunities. TBRA did not respond to this request.

For The Residents of Regeneration Estates group (RORE), Dave L reported that Terry and Derek have decided to drop out of the group so TBRA will need to find new representatives to replace them.

RORE has discussed its future role in the light of changes in the Council's regeneration strategy. It is felt that RAs ought to be interacting directly with the Council, rather than through RORE. John mentioned the National Association of Residents' Associations.

Dave L will look into what they might do for us. **Action Dave L**

RORE also looked at the Council's new Regeneration Strategy itself, which is currently at the beginning of a 3 month consultation period. There is also a consultation about MK 2050, the plan to expand the size of MK over the next thirty years. After discussion it was agreed that we should look to respond to these consultation as an RA and also encourage individuals to respond in their own right.

Dave L reported that the Council is changing the time limits on notice to be given of asking questions at committee and other meetings, giving less time by including weekends in the time period. He objects strongly to this and plans to speak against it at the next Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February. He would appreciate support with this. **Action Dave L**

#### **Estate Inspection**

This will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Ron, Terry, Derek and Cliff will attend.

#### **The Bridge**

Suggested items included:

The AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> February

Environment – the usual reminder about the importance of using the refuse collections properly.

The Easter Egg Hunt

The regeneration strategy – Dave L to write something. **Action Dave L**

It was agreed to charge the day nursery if they want to continue advertising in the Bridge. **Action Sarah**

Dates:

To Sarah by 21/02/20

To Cliff by 23/02/20

To be distributed 24/02.20

Sheila will inform Sarah of all the above. **Action Sarah**

#### **Forthcoming meetings**

##### **February**

Wed 26 7:30pm MKC Council

Thu 27 7:30pm TBRA AGM

##### **March**

Fri 6 7:00pm RoRE monthly meeting

Tue 10 6:30pm MKC Cabinet

Wed 11 7:00pm Working Group