

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Minutes of the Working Group Meeting held on 9th June 2020 by Zoom

Present

Kathy Higgins (Chair), Cliff Green, Dave Lee, John Orr, Anthonia Lifu and Sheila Taylor (minutes)

Apologies

Ron Ellis, Derek Weller, Terry Weller and Rosemary Englander

Kathy welcomed Anthonia as the new treasurer of TBRA. Liz O'Shea has now resigned as secretary.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2020 these were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- Ron is now a signatory for the TBRA bank account.
- Public Realm Improvement Fund (PRIF) Kathy delivered our working documents to Phil Chandler and Sheila gave more information to Michael Bracey. Both replied positively but no more has been heard, although this is understandable in the current crisis. Sheila will email Phil. **Action Sheila**
- John has been approached by Louise, a resident of the estate, about the project to re-instate the canal side path. She is also concerned about trees on the estate. John will put Kathy in touch with Louise so that she can be added to our mailing list.
Action John
- WCC agreed funding for the hire of the Meeting Place for a three month trial of the Keep Fit group but no more action is possible at present.
- The training courses discussed at the last meeting have both been cancelled.
- John has not yet responded to the MKC Regeneration Strategy consultation on behalf of TBRA but is planning to use the RoRe response, which makes the point that the strategy does not give any justification for regeneration. It is the RoRE view, which has also long been expressed by the people of Tinkers Bridge, that what is needed is the repair and refurbishment of MKC housing stock rather than any plan which involves demolition.. Agreed that Dave will re-send the RoRE response to John, who will then send it to MKC with a covering note explaining that it is endorsed by TBRA. **Action Dave and John**
- Kathy contacted WCC about the provision of white recycling bags but no more was heard so she will try again. **Action Kathy**

Handover arrangements between the previous and new treasurer

Sheila reported that she has been in touch with Mavis, Anthonia and Ruth Cooke, our auditor to discuss the best way of transferring the role of treasurer in the current circumstances. The following was agreed:

- Mavis will be asked to refund two items of expenditure incurred recently, by Dave for website expenses and by Sheila for the Easter events, so that Anthonia can start with a clean sheet. **Action Mavis, Dave and Sheila**
- Mavis will then deliver all the items she holds, including petty cash, cheque book, bank statements and other documents, to Sheila who will make a full list of them and hand them over to Anthonia. Sheila and Anthonia will both sign this record of what is being handed over. **Action Mavis, Sheila and Anthonia**
- Ruth also holds a number of TBRA accounts items, including the memory stick on which the income and expenditure spreadsheet is kept. She will meet Anthonia as soon as circumstances allow to hand over these items and to show Anthonia how the accounts are kept. **Action Ruth and Anthonia**
- Anthonia will need to become a signatory to the account. This has been a complicated procedure in the past and may take a while. In the meantime, Anthonia will ask the other signatories, Ron, John and Mavis, to sign cheques. Sheila will ask Ron and Mavis if they would be able to help Anthonia to become a signatory. **Action Anthonia, Sheila, Mavis and Ron**
- Ruth has said that she plans to retire next year and so will no longer belong to her professional body. Sheila will check with MKC and WCC that this does not make a difference to her status as inspector of our accounts. **Action Sheila**

Health Check

The annual Health Check by MKC enables us to access a grant from them of up to £750. We intended to complete the form at our April meeting but this did not take place. Kathy agreed to do a first draft for others to amend. Sheila will send Kathy the blank form and last year's submission. **Action Sheila, Kathy and all**

Grants report and future activities

Sheila gave the following update on grants:

- MKDP have offered to defer the payment of £500 for planting boxes, as the current crisis has meant we cannot start on this project. Sheila consulted Ron and they agreed to accept this offer. MKDP require some forms to be signed about this. It was agreed Sheila could sign the forms on behalf of TBRA. **Action Sheila**
- WCC made a grant of £500 for the general running of the organisation.
- WCC are willing to accept an "in principle" application for an event or activity with exact details to be agreed when more is known about the relaxation of lockdown measures. After discussion, it was agreed Sheila will apply for a grant of up to £500 for an activity, trip or event. **Action Sheila**
- Several suggestions were put forward for this activity, including a seaside trip when rules allow but also a socially distanced picnic by the canal soon. A water pistol fight, children's races or a socially distanced Olympic Games could be combined with the picnic.
- It was agreed to contact Sarah and Deanna, who have organised activities like this in the past. Sarah will be asked if she is able to produce a newsletter (see item below) and, if so, to put in a request for ideas about activities.

- It is not clear if Cllr Hannah O'Neill's grant of £240 for the newsletter has been received. Sheila will check this when she receives the bank statements from Mavis. If necessary, she will chase up the grant. **Action Sheila**

Report from RoRE meeting on 5/6/2020

- RoRE's Zoom meeting was joined by Cllrs Emily Darlington and Carole Baume, who now share the Cabinet responsibility for Housing. This change, along with the restrictions on notice periods for questions to committees and the temporary suspension of the Cabinet sub-committee on Regeneration, give RoRE cause for concern. In addition, it is noted that several key members of Housing department staff have left in recent months. The meeting shared this concern.
- RoRE has been asked to take a view on the building of 5G masts but has not so far done so.
- RoRE is still considering its future way of working.

The Bridge

It was agreed to approach Sarah about producing a new edition of the Bridge. John will do this tomorrow. **Action John**

The following possible items for inclusion were mentioned:

- Anthonia's arrival
- Ideas for activities and trips (see above)
- Ideas for getting help in the current crisis – John to write
- Fly tipping and a damaged flower bed
- Black Lives Matter – John to write
- A proposed Zoom TBRA meeting on 30th July
- An appreciation of the life of Jean Gates, who died recently while visiting South Africa

Environment Report

John reported on behalf of Ron that fly tipping has increased greatly during the lockdown. John plans to make videos of this, as well as the work that Ron and his team have done in the back alleys.. Ron, John and Terry are starting work on the damaged flower bed tomorrow. **Action Ron, John and Terry**

Any Other Business

- Dave mentioned a request from the Woughton Gazette for news about Tinkers Bridge. Kathy commented that she was disappointed that TBRA had been so inactive in the crisis. John will provide some information for the Gazette, including that we are now holding Zoom meetings and that we are not aware of any deaths on the estate.
- Dave also reported that the kebab van has applied for a new license to provide hot food. After discussion it was decided not to comment on this application.

Dates of next Zoom meetings

- Working Group 07/07/2020 at 7pm
- TBRA 30/07/2020 at 7.30pm