

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Minutes of the Working Group Meeting held on 10th November 2021

Present

Kathy Mansfield (Chair), Cliff Green, John Orr, April Rennie, Dave Lee and Sheila Taylor (minutes)

Apologies

Ron Ellis, Anthonia Lifu, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Deanna Norris and Rosemary Englander

The Chair welcomed everybody.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021 - these were agreed as a correct record, with the following corrections:

- P1 Attendees - April's surname is Rennie
- P2 Litter Picking – Aldenham not Alder?
- P2 Treasurer's report - £2746.66, not 32746.66
- Some action points are not in bold

Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- P1 Matters arising - Kathy asked Rosemary, not Sarah, to ensure "The Bridge" got posted onto Facebook.
- P1 Matters arising - April is still working with WCC on funds available for the cost of printing "The Bridge". **Action April**
- P1 Christmas Plans – all the actions (including one for Halloween also in this section) have been achieved.
- P2 Welcome Pack – Kathy has spoken to Rosemary who is making some progress but as all amendments must fit into the existing layout it is challenging. Changes should be kept to the minimum. John has a copy of the pack and he will look at it to see if he has any urgent amendments to suggest. **Action John**
- P2 Raised beds – This action has not been needed as Ron has already purchased and planted flowers in these beds. Kathy will explain this to the people who volunteered to look after these beds and ask them to help maintain them in future. **Action Kathy**
- P2/3 Canalside path – Kathy has written to thank the Council staff who helped get the path finished. John asked whether this was recurring funding and where it had come from. Kathy said it was not.
- P3 The Bridge – Actions achieved.

Treasurer's report

Anthonia was not present so there was no report. Her planned meeting with Ruth had to be postponed because of urgent personal business but it is now being re-scheduled. Sheila will contact Anthonia about two things:

- To ask for progress on producing monthly reports for the Working Group
- To explain that a recent cheque for purchases for the Gala Day issued to Cliff is not needed as he has already been refunded. **Action Sheila**

Grants report

Sheila said that much of her report would be covered in subsequent items about Christmas and the Café/larder. In addition:

- The £500 post-Covid grant from WCC has now been fully spent and accounted for.
- MKC have approved a grant of £634.50 for the pantomime and Christmas event.
- A further £165.50 can be claimed from MKC. As agreed at the last TBRA meeting, this will be used for the development of the café/larder. Sheila asked for agreement that £87.50 could be used for Food Safety and Hygiene training and this was approved.
- The only remaining grant funding that has not been allocated in 2021-22 is John's £200 WCC ward allowance. It was agreed to defer decision about this till the New Year.

Christmas plans

- April and Sheila reported that most of the items needed for the event on 18th December have now been purchased. So far the names of 106 children have been submitted and April is looking for ways to identify any that have been missed. Kathy will talk to some residents of Marshworth who may wish to add their children and Cliff will do the same in Holmfield. **Action Kathy and Cliff**
- There was a discussion about buying a gift for Bill Fuller, who plays the role of Father Christmas every year on several estates. It was agreed this would be done, but with personal contributions from WG members, not from TBRA funds. **Action April**
- The pantomime coach and theatre tickets have been booked. Places are being advertised on Facebook and by posters elsewhere. Numbers are looking good, especially as there is interest from elsewhere in Woughton if not all places can be filled by people from Tinkers Bridge. Sheila noted that the last date for cancellation is 26th November, so a cheque for the coach will be needed by 22/11/21. **Action Sheila and Anthonia**
- April was approached by a resident who uses a wheelchair, asking if the pantomime coach is accessible. Sheila has checked and it is not. It was agreed that this must be borne in mind for future events and grant applications.

Café/Community Larder

This is a project that has been discussed and approved at the last two TBRA meetings. April gave the following update:

- The café will start on Saturday 4th December and the Community Larder on 8th January.
- Our three ward councilors have each allocated £250 of their ward allowances to the project, in addition to the MKC funding mentioned above.
- The meeting place kitchen and other storage areas have been cleared out so we will need to buy basic kitchen equipment and other items for the café. **Action April**
- Café users will be asked to make voluntary donations.
- Sophia, who runs the Community Larder on Coffee Hall, will support and train the volunteers on Tinkers Bridge.

- April and Cliff will manage the larder and will also receive training for this role, which will include responsibility for Health and Safety and keeping strict records.
- As well as cupboards in the kitchen, April will need to use at least one of the large plastic containers near the shed. John will discuss this with Steve McNay of WCC. **Action John**
- Sheila will give April the “I love Tinkers Bridge” t-shirts still in her possession. **Action Sheila**

The Bridge items

The following were discussed:

- Advertise the Café and Larder
- Advertise the Christmas events
- Report on the finishing of the canal path
- Provide links to the Community Safety Survey, the Healthwatch event, the WCC Priorities Survey and the Tenants Handbook group.

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

Sheila asked Dave to add her name to those receiving the Bridge by email. John asked that a different email address should be used for him. **Action Dave**

Kathy pointed out that, although we took the decision to stop printing the Bridge for every household, the TBRA printer is still available for other printing. There are good stocks of toner and paper which should be used.

The future of the Working Group

There was a discussion about the future of the Working Group and its relationship to the main TBRA meeting and to the committee of officers and others which is elected at every AGM. Our constitution is due to be reviewed in early 2022. It was agreed to use this process to review how the different groups work together. Dave agreed to produce a first draft. Sheila will send him the current constitution. **Action Dave and Sheila**

RoRE update

- Dave said that the last meeting of RoRE had speakers from the Fire Brigade who provided useful information that we should pass on to our residents. The Fire Brigade are providing leaflets, which will be sent out with the RoRE minutes.
- The next meeting will have a speaker from the National Energy Foundation. This should provide useful information for the way in which renewal takes place on Tinkers Bridge.
- The Estate Renewal Forum for Bradville will start soon. It is not yet clear if there will be one Forum for the whole of Woughton or one per estate. No definite date has been fixed for Woughton.
- Some homes are being renewed as they need maintenance, rather than through a coherent renewal scheme. Dave has had no reply to his suggestion to MKC that the fire damaged house in Hatton could be used as prototypes for renewal.

Dates of next meetings

TBRA Thursday 25th November at 7.30 pm in Meeting place

Working Group Wednesday 8th December at 7.00 pm