

## **Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association**

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

#### **Present**

Kathy Higgins (Chair), Cliff Green, Liz O'Shea, Ron Ellis, Derek Weller, Terry Weller and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

#### **Apologies**

Dave Lee, John Orr and Rosemary Englander

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020** these were agreed as a correct record.

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

Welcome Packs - Dave printed the extra copies and Sheila presented one to WCC. Sian already had one but Rosemary has taken a copy to aid her in monitoring the pack.

It is believed Mavis and John have now dealt with the issue of the £20 receipt from Christmas 2018.

Ron believes he is now a signatory for the TBRA bank account but he will check this with the bank next week. **Action Ron**

Mavis agreed to continue as a signatory for the bank account.

Dave was not present so it was not certain if he explored the National Association of Residents' Associations

Dave spoke at the last Council meeting against the changes in the rules for submitting questions to Council committee but his objections were overridden.

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

Antonia Lifu was nominated as the new treasurer at the AGM but it is not certain if she has accepted. Ron will ask John about this. Kathy is happy to contact Antonia if this is helpful. **Action Ron and Kathy**

Sheila presented some comments made by Ruth Cooke, our auditor, on last year's accounts. We spent more than we earned in income, chiefly because of printing costs and a reduction in grant income. Cliff pointed out that Ruth had not taken into account that there was stock (ink and paper) in hand to the value of £800. Sheila reported that we have received a grant towards the cost of the newsletter from Councillor Hannah O'Neill of £240. This is from the MKC 2019-20 budget. Sheila will pass on these comments to Ruth and ask for her view. **Action Sheila**

It is not clear if Mavis is still dealing with cheque payments until a new treasurer takes over. Cliff and possibly Dave are both owed for purchases they have made. Sheila will check this with Mavis. **Action Sheila**

### **Grants report**

Sheila and Ron attended the meeting with MKDP about the grant they are making of £500 for the planting boxes for next year. They want us to publicise the grant by using their logo, displaying a plaque on one of the boxes and posing for a picture of the presentation of the grant. Sheila will confirm we will do all this. **Action Sheila**

John completed the paperwork for his £200 grant to be payed to TBRA for the bin cupboard and Easter Egg Hunt, as discussed at the last meeting.

Sheila has given Sarah £130 for the Easter Egg Hunt.

As John suggested at the last meeting, Sheila contacted 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. Hannah O'Neill gave £240 (see above under treasurer's report).

The application to WCC for a grant to cover the cost of hiring the meeting place for the keep fit group has not yet been agreed, as the meeting of the Services Committee was postponed.

We discussed a request form Milton Keynes Play Association for another year's subscription. Although this subscription saved us on DBS costs last year, we have not had any other benefit from it. Given our financial situation, it was agreed not to renew the subscription at this stage.

Sheila said that she would welcome help with grant applications in the coming year, as she does not have the capacity to generate any more income.

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

Phil Chandler responded to Sheila's last email, again saying that he was waiting for decisions from Public Realm about what work would be undertaken. Sheila replied asking him how she should pass on the work done by WG members on quotes. She did not have a reply. Kathy will take the quotes to Civic Offices and either give them to Phil or leave them for his attention. She and Sheila will draft a covering letter. **Action Kathy and Sheila**

Sheila wrote to Michael Bracey, giving the example of PRIF in response to his request for examples of poor communication by the Council. He replied asking for more details of what we were told before Phil Chandler became involved. Sheila will reply, attaching a copy of Kathy's covering letter to Phil Chandler. **Action Sheila**

### **Implications for TBRA of Covid-19**

Kathy asked if we should be taking any steps in the light of the Covid-19 virus. It was felt that at the moment we should not, for example, cancel the TBRA meeting, as this was not yet government guidance. Individual residents can make their own decisions whether or not to attend.

It was agreed to put something in the newsletter asking people to look out for the needs of their neighbours and for those who need help to contact us.

### **Keep Fit Group**

Liz and Sheila will be meeting Caroline on 13<sup>th</sup> March to finalise plans for the group. A decision about funding is still awaited (see above) but it is not expected to be a problem.

### **Training opportunities**

Liz is going on a course for new secretaries. **Action Liz**

We have been offered two places on a half day TPAS course on how to engage hard to reach residents on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Kathy will attend if her diary permits and Liz is willing to go if no-one else wants to. Liz will reply to Mhay Green to say we would like our two places to be in the afternoon. **Action Liz and Kathy**

There will be a one day training session in June by HQN on coproduction and resident involvement. We are being offered one place and asked to say which of three dates would be best. Sheila may be able to go if it is on June 11<sup>th</sup> so we will opt for that date. Sheila will ask Dave to put this forward. **Action Sheila and Dave**

### **Healthcheck 2020**

The form has now been received. We will complete it at the next WG. Sheila will ask Dave to send round last year's form. **Action Kathy and Sheila**

### **RoRE/RAN issues**

Dave sent information about the questions RoRE is asking the chairs of Ras about their views on the future of RoRE and of RA networks generally. He also asked for the WG's view on these questions. The deadline for this is 13<sup>th</sup> March. Kathy will write to Dave with our views. In summary they are:

- We think the existing RAN, organized by MKC, is useful for networking.
- We think it would be useful if RoRE became a wider network for all RAs, not just the 7 regeneration estates.
- We don't think there is a need for a separate broader communication group.
- We have no objection to lobbying parish councils to provide greater support to RAs.

Dave commented that he is the main person contacting MKC on behalf of RoRE and that this gives MKC the excuse to dismiss some comments as his personal opinion. This needs further discussion in RoRE.

At the last TBRA meeting, John undertook to create a response to the MKC Regeneration Strategy consultation. It is not known if John has done this. **Action John**

Ron, Terry and Derek will attend the next RAN on 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm. **Action Ron, Terry and Derek**

### **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

Liz and Dave attended a workshop on the GDPR. Liz reported that there were useful guidelines on how we should protect residents' data. In general, we do not use emails to communicate with residents. As secretary, she keeps residents data securely.

### **Estate Inspection**

This took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Ron, Terry, Derek and Cliff attended. A promised follow up meeting has not happened. Ron will chase it up. **Action Ron**

### **The Bridge**

Suggested items included:

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

The Easter Egg Hunt

Information about rights of way for cars turning right at the junction of the H9 and Marshworth.

An advert for the Mind Body and Spirit event that Liz is organising in April.

Dates:

To Sarah by 20/02/20

To Cliff by 22/02/20

To be distributed 23/02.20

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

### **Environment report**

Ron said that residents are having difficulties getting white recycling bags. Kathy offered to contact WCC about this. **Action Kathy**

### **Forthcoming meetings**

March

Tue 17 7:00pm Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - looking at the regeneration strategy

Wed 18 7:30pm MKC Council

Tue 24 7:00pm Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Thu 26 7.30 pm TBRA meeting

April

Fri 3 7:00pm RoRE AGM

Wed 8 7.00 pm Working Group

Thu 9 6:15pm Regeneration Cabinet Sub-committee