

Attendees:

Ron Ellis (Chair) and 12 residents of Tinkers Bridge

Apologies:

John Orr, Mavis and Dave Boatwright and Rosemary Englander

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2018

These were confirmed as a true record.

2 Matters arising

2.1) Recycling Pauline Prop informed the meeting that there are problems with the distribution of white bags by Serco and they are talking to MKC about it. Ron said he hopes SERCO will be asked to deliver bags for Tinkers Bridge to his house.

2.2) HRA Consultation

A letter has been written to Michael Kelleher re the low attendance at the meetings and the fact that tenants had not received the letters. Michael replied with apologies. More events will be set up in October, with the deadline for the consultation being 29th October.

Dave Lee contacted Jenna at MKC about putting fliers about these events in the September Bridge. Unfortunately, they were not delivered in time. Dave was asked to contact Jenna again to say our team will deliver them separately if she arranges for 400 copies to be sent to Ron.

RORE has produced a factsheet about the questions which includes some sample questions for those who would like to write to the Council.

3 Chair's report

In John's absence, there was no report.

4 Treasurer's Report

In Mavis's absence, Ron confirmed that she will now be reporting on a quarterly basis and she made her report to the August Working Group. The accounts are in good order. A number of cheques have been issued recently in line with expected expenditure.

Mavis requests that, wherever possible, receipts submitted to her for payment should just be for the items purchased for TBRA.

5 Environmental Report

Ron thanked Terry and Derek for all their work. He also thanked Payback, although there have recently been some problems between them and one resident and they are currently saying they will not work on Tinkers Bridge. John Orr is working with WCC to resolve this issue.

About 200 bulbs will soon be planted.

Ron proposed applying for grants to do work to improve the Community Garden and this was agreed. Ron and Bill will produce some costings and Sheila will apply for funding, possibly from Tesco's Bags of Help fund. Kathy asked if we could take forward the suggestion of a Community Orchard but Ron reported that a previous attempt at this had failed because the trees were vandalised. Residents will be asked what they would like space.

There have been some improvements in problems with litter and fly tipping recently, although there is still work to do. Serco and WCC have been helpful.

Pauline suggested that TBRA might want to use her £200 ward grant towards projects of this kind. She was asked to liaise with Sheila about this.

Rats are still being seen on the estate.

6 Update on Regeneration and RORE

Dave Lee reported that the last two meetings of the Cabinet Regeneration Sub-committee have been cancelled. As the sub-committee only meets once a quarter and is the main forum for discussion about regeneration, this suggests a lack of willingness to engage with residents' associations. Nigel Long, Chair of the sub-committee has offered to come to a TBRA meeting. Dave Lee will accept this offer. When a date is fixed we will make sure the meeting is widely publicised to ensure good attendance.

At the full Council meeting on 19th September a motion was put forward by the Conservatives which was amended by the leader of the council to give a key place to Residents' Steering groups at the expense of Residents' Association. This was passed despite four members of the public (including two from TBRA) speaking up against it. The motion also included the proposal that the opposition parties should be included in the sub-committee.

RORE is continuing to work on setting itself up and engaging with Councillors. Although the response from Councillors has not been very helpful. It has now been agreed that each estate affected by regeneration will send 4 representatives to RORE meetings. TBRA has 5 people who fill these four places. One more person will be approached to join this group. It is very important that council tenants are well represented on RORE, as the Council feels that regeneration is mostly about them. 3 of our 6 potential representatives are Council tenants. Kathy asked Dave to find out how the other TBRA's are doing with this.

As well as the HRA briefing sheet (see item 2.2 above). RORE has produced a briefing sheet on the current Housing Strategy Consultation.

7. First Steps Working Group

Kathy thanks Sarah for the continuing excellent work she does on The Bridge. The new printer (see below) is also helping to make the newsletter look good. Kathy asked that everyone thinks of ways they can contribute content to the newsletter.

8. Funding Update

Sheila asked if the meeting wished to apply for a grant from WCC for the cost of a coach for a pantomime trip. This was agreed unanimously.

We have been awarded £400 from MKC for arts and crafts activities and a meeting to look at setting up a drama group.

We have received an invitation from the Community Foundation to apply for a share in its annual Car Raffle. We would need to sell tickets at £1 each, from which TBRA would receive at least 50p per ticket. After discussion, it was decided Sheila would find out more information for the next Working Group.

The Community Foundation agreed we could spend some of the grant they gave us for the newsletter to buy a new printer. The printer has now been purchased and is working well. Ink for this printer is more expensive to buy but cartridges last much longer. Dave Lee was thanked for his work analysing the different costs and finding the best printer for our use.

We are still waiting to see if the old printer can be repaired under its warranty. If this proves possible, the old printer will be kept by Dave to enable extra printing to be done when necessary.

9. Christmas Activities

It was agreed to hold the annual Christmas party on 15th December.

Sheila suggested applying to MKC for a grant for this. Pauline suggested applying to WCC. Pauline and Sheila will discuss this. Sheila will book the meeting place for this part and for the Christmas Day meal, both from 10.00-18.00.

10. Any Other Business

Dave mentioned that the Winter Night Shelter will be run again this year. The nearest venue to Tinkers Bridge is at the Netherfield Chapel on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning. Dave will write something for the newsletter about this.

Pauline said the Chatter and Natter group has been exploring the idea of applying to the Lottery fund for a grant to rent a static caravan at Caister so that families from Woughton can have a holiday. She distributed a consultation form about this.

11. Date of next meeting

25th October 2018 7.30-9.00 in the Meeting Place

