

**Meeting**  
**Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**



**Attendees:**

John Orr (Chair) and 11 residents of Tinkers Bridge

**Apologies:**

Lesley Berry, Kathy Higgins, Mavis and Dave Boatwright and Rosemary Englander

**In attendance:**

Craig Hawksworth, Police Community Support Officer, Thames Valley Police (TVP)

Julie Baines, Community Environment Officer, Woughton Community Council (WCC)

**1 Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

These were taken as read.

**2 Police Update – Craig Hawksworth**

Craig introduced himself and gave some details on crime figures for Tinkers Bridge. There have been 10 assaults with injuries, including domestic violence, 5 incidences of criminal damage, mostly to cars, 1 public order offence and three thefts from Tesco. He was not certain of the exact timeframe for these incidents but thought it was a few months.

TVP has been working with Milton Keynes Council (MKC) and landlords as part of the "County Lines" campaign about drug offences. He said these offences were often not reported and that anyone who is aware of drug dealing should report it using 101 or Crime Stoppers. Crimes can now also be reported using the TVP website.

Craig explained that his team, which covers Campbell Park South and Woughton, is currently based at the old Bletchley Police Station, which is now closed to the public. They will move to the Blue Light Hub when it opens.

John expressed the gratitude of the people of Tinkers Bridge for all the

police do. Craig said he hoped someone from his team would be able to come to every meeting in future.

### **3 WCC Environment Report – Julie Baines**

Julie said that WCC intends to introduce estate clean-up days. There will be two days for each estate – an assessment day and an action day. Residents' Associations (RAs) and other organisations are being asked to suggest what should be done and who will help. MKC, SERCO and Payback will also be involved. It is hoped the days will take place in or near Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean, which is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There is also a Daily Mail competition for the most plastic litter collected. Ideas from Tinkers Bridge can be passed to John Orr and Ron Ellis.

Ron commented that some estates are in a really bad way and that we need more enforcement by MKC. Julie said anyone seen littering or damaging the environment should be reported to MKC, who can fine wrong-doers.

It was suggested that it would be good if Meeting Places can be opened on these days to provide refreshments for those taking part. Julie agreed to take forward the suggestion that this should be done without charge by WCC.

### **4 Chair's Report**

John reported that there had been successful activities at Christmas. He thanked Deanna for organising the Pantomime and also those involved in the Christmas party.

### **5 Treasurer's Report**

In Mavis's absence, John confirmed that the accounts are in good order. The auditor, Ruth Cooke, will be starting soon on the accounts for 2018-19.

### **6 Environment Report**

In addition to the points made in the discussion with Julie Baines, Ron noted that there is a marked deterioration in the tidiness of the estate now that SERCO only cleans the street every eight weeks and even this might soon be every 12 weeks. He suggested there should be a campaign or petition to protest about this.

Some refuse is not being collected at present. It is thought this is because the bin lorries cannot access some streets while work is being done on gas pipes. John and Councillor Donna Fuller are having meetings with various authorities to discuss the problems being caused by this work. There is considerable disruption, although it was agreed that the workmen themselves are helpful.

## **7. Regeneration – “The Big Conversation”**

The Big Conversation is a campaign by MKC to engage better with the residents of the Regeneration estates, including improving their relationships with RAs. It seeks to find out what residents think is meant by regeneration. John commented that we asked the residents of Tinkers Bridge this five years ago and nothing was done about it.

There are some signs that MKC is genuinely trying to change by developing a realistic 30-year business plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), including spending £165m in the next five years on repairs and maintenance of Council properties.

After discussion, it was agreed that we need to monitor these developments and to try to use them to give Council tenants a bigger voice. Dave Lee read out a draft response which suggests using the money available to employ independent advisors for each estate to consult all residents properly, including using facilitators. Dave and John will finalise this response in the light of comments made at the meeting.

## **8. Funding Update**

Sheila said that feedback has been sent to all the providers of grants last year. There are some funds left over from the MKC grants and they have agreed this can be used for a Welcome Pack that is being produced for new residents on the estate. This will be compatible with a wider-ranging pack being produced by WCC.

Activities for 2019 are now being planned. We need ideas from residents who are also happy to help make the activities happen.

Sheila also said that for applications next year we need to review our policies. In particular, she is reviewing the Child Protection policy which will be extended to cover safeguarding of vulnerable adults as well. The policy does not go into details about DBS checks yet.

## **9. Flooding update**

John reported that promises made after the flooding last year were not being kept. He is following this up.

## **10. Any Other Business**

10.1) Lesley wrote to MKC about the height restriction at the Bleak Hall refuse sight. A response has been received explaining why this has been done. John is not happy with this response and will take it further.

10.2) Lesley also applied for a 20mph speed limit to be implemented on Tinkers Bridge. She has received a reply to say this will be considered.

10.3) We have been asked for the nominations for the WCC Chair's award. It was suggested that we nominate George, the Tinkers Bridge

postmaster and this was agreed.

10.4) We have submitted our comments to WCC on their proposed agreement with RAs.

10.5) Julie, speaking in a personal capacity, said that Fishermead Residents Association has been disbanded. Various items of equipment are for sale, with the proceeds being held by Campbell Park Parish Council in a ring-fenced pot to be used for a playpark on Fishermead. John will discuss this with Terry Baines.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

AGM 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 7.30-9.00 in the Meeting Place

Next regular meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 7.30-9.00 in the Meeting Place

