

TBRA Annual General Meeting
Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place
28th February 2019



Attendees:

John Orr (Chair), 22 residents of Tinkers Bridge and some guests: Heled Williams, Jo Trueman and Mhay Green

Apologies were received from:

Bill and Donna Fuller, Kathy Higgins, Rosemary Englander, and Craig Hawksworth

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved
Matters arising: None
2. **Chair's Report:** No items which are not included later in the meeting
3. **Treasurer's Report:** All is in order. The paperwork for the accounts of last year has gone to the auditor, Ruth Cooke, who has drafted her end of year report and stated that everything is looking good. She praised Mavis (treasurer) for her sterling and efficient work

A vote of thanks was given to Ruth for all her help to the RA

4. **Environmental Report:** This has been the best year for 5 years. The alleyways are in much better shape, the fly-tipping has been much less, the raised beds are looking lovely with the new plantings.

Ron thanked the team for all their help, especially with litter-picking and also the team from WCC for their assistance over the last year and finally to Sheila for her efforts in obtaining finance for all the projects

5. **Election of new officers and committee.** The existing ones stood down, and the following were appointed:

| Post | Person | Nominated by | Seconded by |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Chair | John Orr | Sheila | Cliff |
| Secretary | Lesley Berry | John | Cliff |
| Treasurer | Mavis Boatwright | Lesley | John |
| Vice-chair | Cliff Green | John | Ron |
| Environment | Ron Ellis | John | Caroline |
| Env. Team | Terry & Derek | John | Dave |
| | Barbara Willis | John | Ron |
| | Lee | Ron | John |

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|------------------|---------------------------------|------|--------|
| Committee | Dave Lee | John | Cliff |
| | Dave Boatwright | John | Ron |
| | Sarah & Deanna (not present) | John | Lesley |
| | Bill Fuller | John | Lesley |

It was agreed that the Working Group could make their own arrangements, including Sheila Taylor on Funding & Grants

6. **MKC Residents Engagement Team (RET).** The chair introduced and welcomed the three members of this team who were present: Jo Trueman, Heledd Williams, and Mhay Green
7. **Constitution and Policies.** It was proposed that the Working Group take updating the constitution forward, and this was accepted.

For Child Protection/ Vulnerable persons, we need two named lead people in the RA, to whom residents can raise any concerns. John has been the single named person, and it was agreed that Ron Ellis should become the second named person

DBS: All volunteers working with children will have to be DBS checked. Sheila offered to set up a list of people who should be included, including anyone who is already DBS checked. It was proposed that, to help get these checks done, TBRA should join MK Play Association at £25.00 a year, which would then also bring some other benefits of membership, and this was agreed.

Individual checks may cost £14.00, MKC may be able to arrange this free

Volunteers will need training and Heledd said that she can get a contact for us.

Vulnerable adults and adult survivors of sexual abuse would also come under the protection policy

John thanked Sheila for all her hard work in investigating this area and finding ways forward.

8. **Regeneration:** YourMK are no longer in charge of the regeneration process – it has been bought back in-house by MKC. There will be more money than there was previously to spend on maintenance of council houses – it is acknowledged this has been inadequate in the past, but things are now moving in the right direction.

We need to talk to tenants and find out what their priorities are, and then feed back to the Resident Engagement team.

In 2012, the private houses were insulated under a government scheme, but the council houses were not. Unfortunately, the scheme has now been shut down.

Heledd Williams stated that progress was being made. The HRA Business Plan is now complete and there will be £165,000,000 available for maintenance over the next 5 years. This will remain running until an area finally decides that it may need to be demolished.

The RET recognise that too much concentration has been on bricks and mortar. A regeneration board has been set up to look at things more holistically. We need to think about how we can deliver services like health, schooling, etc into the

equation.

Big Conversation: Salient points are that

1. Discussions were held with all estates approximately 2 weeks ago
2. Officials need to realise that they need to ask the right questions
3. They are trying now to have individual conversations
4. They will meet with RoRE as well as the 7 RAs
5. Each estate might have different needs

John explained the purpose of the Working Group to Heledd and Mhay. He also explained about the questionnaire from Croxley Green which TBRA used as a template for our own questionnaire.

Sheila said that we might have to renew our Action Plan for Tinkers Bridge

Discussions ensued about residents' concerns about flooding, repairs, and other things that have not been done, or have taken ages to get done

9. Working Group

1. We have kept on top of grants and get grants for specific activities
2. We need more articles for "The Bridge"
3. Regeneration and RoRE are always discussed
4. We are in discussions with WCC about a new agreement between it and RAs.
5. The Welcome Pack is progressing – Ron asked if the council could be asked to distribute a few packs to new tenants when they are complete. Dave requested photos which could be used within the pack

10. Funding

The auditor, Ruth, requested extra information on the MKC grants:

- What we had applied for?
- What grants did we get??
- What response we got from residents regarding the activities for which the grants were obtained

We have £180 left from the 2 grants

WCC grant funded the coaches for the seaside and pantomime trips.

MK Community Foundation provided £1000 for printing the newsletter.

Pauline Prop has given £200, some to be used for the Easter Egg hunt, and some for the environment

Ideas are welcome for activities, especially if the proposer is willing to organise the activity concerned, and we can help, including applying for any needed grants.

The meeting voted that we should apply for grant funding for each of the following, as individual items:

1. Seaside trip
2. Fun day

3. Pantomime trip
4. The Christmas Party
5. Easter Egg hunt
6. "The Bridge" newsletter

11. AOB – The health check

This needs to be made more simple, Jenna and Mhay are dealing with this and talking to everyone

John found an email regarding the Tinkers Bridge Support Plan, which he will bring to the next meeting.

John

It was suggested that Jenna and Mhay could hold informal meetings with refreshments and could meet with other RAs.

Thanks to Woughton Men in Sheds for the new seats in the Community Garden

12. AOB - Recycling and rubbish

Rosemary asked about big problems with refuse and rats. Should we think about big bins for putting the refuse sacks in? Also, why can we not have bins instead of bags?

The contract with Serco runs out in 2023. We should have bins for everything. This must go to the Councillors for a decision

Could we, as an RA, raise our own funds? Why do we have to buy our own black bags now? John stated that the council has less money now from central government; we pay about £1.5 billion overall in taxes from Milton Keynes to the central government, MKC used to get £200m back, it is now £17m, and is expected to be zero by 2020

Heledd asked if Euro Bins would work? These would not be compatible with the current individual bin cupboards

Ron said that refuse collectors could not get into bin cupboards as they were on car ports and cars were being damaged.

There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 9:00pm