

Attendees:

John Orr (Chair), Anthonia Lifu (Treasurer), Dave Lee, Denise Clifford, Cliff Green, Rosemary Englander, Donna Fuller and Sheila Taylor (minutes)

Apologies:

Kathy Higgins, Ron Ellis, Terry Weller and Derek Weller

Guests :

Kevin Vickers, Community Worker, Woughton Community Council (WCC).
Donna Fuller also attended in the capacity of Leader of WCC.

- 1** The minutes of the September meeting were sent out 25/9 and are at

<http://tinkersbridge.org.uk/tbra/web/docs/minutes/20200924> TBRA minutes.pdf

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Donna and Kevin to give an update from WCC. Donna talked about the work being done by the Community Fridge which, although open to everyone, is currently doing good work in helping families during the pandemic. She pointed out that the item about this in the Bridge did not mention the main centre in Coffee Hall, which is larger and open longer than the one in Netherfield. She also stressed that WCC runs an advice service and has a health and welfare worker.

Donna commented on the successful Halloween Hunt that had been held the night before the meeting.

- 2** **Chair's Report**

John reported that he will be attending the Parish Remembrance Day service and will be laying a wreath on behalf of TBRA.

- 3** **Treasurer's report**

Anthonia reported that there were no financial transactions in the month of October.

Balances remain as;

Bank account - £2,737.08

Petty cash. - £30.01

Approval was given to increase petty cash by £170. This has not been done and it would be withdrawn as soon as possible.

- 4 Environment update**
- John reported on behalf of Ron that he has filled numerous bins and bags with waste cleared from the estate. He is concerned about a van that it is regularly parked at the entrance to the estate from Marlborough Street, causing damage to the grass verge. Donna asked Kevin to take this up with the relevant WCC officer.
- Action Kevin**
- 5 Working Group Update**
- Sheila said that the Working Group is currently looking at printing costs which have gone up considerably. Denise and Kevin both offered to help investigate solutions to this problem.
- Members of the Working Group have been monitoring and improving the book swap table. Cliff asked if WCC could provide a second table for the children's books, so that another bookcase could be added.. Kevin said he would investigate this.
- Action Denise and Kevin**
- 6 Grants Update**
- Sheila reminded the meeting that we have been awarded a grant of up to £500 by WCC for activities related to the Covid 19 crisis. £132 of this has been spent on socially distanced Halloween activities. The Working Group proposes leaving decisions about the remaining £368 until the New Year. This was agreed.
- We have until 30th November to apply for a grant of up to £800 from Milton Keynes Council (MKC). The Working Group proposes that part of this should be used to purchase a laptop for use by the Treasurer and Secretary. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.
- Denise mentioned that she might be able to donate an old laptop to use as a spare or to enable the Treasurer and Secretary to use one each. This offer was gratefully accepted.
- Action Sheila**
- Action Denise**
- 7 RoRE update**
- Dave reported that RoRE held its delayed AGM at the beginning of October. It adopted a name change from Residents of Regeneration Estates to Residents of Renewal Estates. Current work includes submissions to the Planning White Paper consultation and considering its role on the newly formed Resident Engagement Forum for renewal estates. At the next meeting, Will Rysdale, Head of Housing Delivery at MKC, will be a guest. RoRE will want to understand who at MKC is dealing with the other aspects of regeneration, such as education, health and training and employment. Donna suggested asking Carole Baume, who is now the Cabinet member for regeneration for advice on this.
- Rosemary asked why the state of roads and pavements on Tinkers Bridge is so much worse than on other estates, such as Woolstone,

which appear to be kept in very good condition.

The current consultation on the Council's new tenancy agreement was also discussed. Donna listed some significant changes from the old agreement, including reduced right of succession and a right for the Council to force people to move out of under occupied properties.. Dave said the new agreement was discussed at the Housing and Community Scrutiny Committee. This will also be an item on the agenda for the next RoRE meeting.

8 Christmas

After discussion, it was agreed that the usual children's Christmas party, with Santa's grotto, could not be organised within the current Covid 19 guidelines. Instead, it was agreed to try to enhance our other traditional event, Santa's tour of the estate in his sleigh. Donna and Kevin reported that WCC is providing a new sleigh and that Santa can tour the four Woughton Estates on two of the Saturdays in December. TBRA has already decided to try to do this on Saturday 19th. A transporter s needed for the sleigh and both Dave and Cliff have ideas about how to do this.

**Action
Dave
and Cliff**

It was agreed to try to use this occasion to give every child on the estate the present normally handed out by Santa in his grotto (usually a selection box). In order to do this, we need an indication of numbers. Denise offered to design a flier for Cliff to print, asking residents to make an "expression of interest" in participating. Donna pointed out that the Community Fridge would be able to use any surplus presents.

**Action
Denise
and Cliff**

It was unanimously agreed to apply to MKC for a grant for this event.

**Action
Sheila**

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Trees

There are major problems caused by trees on Tinkers Bridge. Anthonia raised a specific example about the ownership of the land where a tree is threatening her property. Kevin undertook to find this out.

**Action
Kevin**

9.2

Sheila reported that she has had an email from Anita Sutton, the new Neighbourhood Officer for Tinkers Bridge. She would like to meet residents to discuss the estate improvement fund. This would involve an estate walkabout. Sheila will send an email, including members who are not able to attend this meeting, to see who would like to attend this meeting

**Action
Sheila**

9.3

Dave listed some forthcoming meetings:

MKC Residents Association Network 4/11/20 by Microsoft Teams

WCC Residents Association Forum 12/11/20 by Zoom

WCC have also alerted us to the opportunity of a Business School for people hoping to start their own business from 2nd-13th November.

Dave also mentioned the Warmer This Winter Campaign

9.4 John congratulated Anthonia on qualifying and opening her own solicitor's firm.

10 **Date of next meeting**
27/11/20