**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 11 July 2019 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) |
| Pamela Tames (Treasurer) | Steve Feltham (Secretary) |
| Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) | James Barr (Area 13) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Paul Medlycott (Area 12) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | David Chopping (Luckmore Residents’ Assoc) |

**Apologies received**

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| Jonathan Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Anne Booth (Area 9) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Pamela Roberts (Area 10) | Celia Smith (Area 6) |
| Caroline Smith (Hillside councillor) | David Chopping (Luckmore Residents’ Assoc) |
| Tim Marsh (ACER) |  |

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2019**

Rosemary Cook pointed out that the information on School Bee Day under ‘Any Other Business’ at the last meeting was provided by James Barr. Apart from this correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Tesco**

The Chairman reported that Wokingham Borough Council had confirmed that MERA’s complaint regarding the Tesco lorries using Sevenoaks Road was being investigated. It was noted that there were difficulties facing the drivers of larger lorries in turning right out of the exit from the store, but it was pointed out that this could be rectified if Tesco removed part of the wall at the exit point.

**Beech Lane**

The Secretary reported that further work had been carried out on the blocked drains in Beech Lane and that an inspection would be carried out with the next heavy rains to establish whether this rectified the problem. The drains in Radnor Road also appeared to have been cleared and this area too would be monitored. Wokingham Borough Council had been reminded that the bush on the corner of Lakeside and Silverdale Road was continuing to cause problems with the sight lines for motorists emerging from Lakeside at the junction.

**Asda**

Rosemary Cook reported that a planning application for a change of use of the Martin’s shop in the Asda arcade had been received. Greggs had applied to convert the shop into a restaurant. The Chairman clarified that this would not affect the Post Office.

**Community and Youth Sub Committee: 20 March 2019**

The Secretary reported that the theme of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 was ‘older people’ and that a number of organisations providing services to the elderly were present to share the details of their work. These included the Link Visiting Scheme, Community Navigation Scheme, Earley Bus and Earley Oaks. Age UK were unable to attend the meeting, but they did express interest in providing services to Earley.

The Secretary followed up Shelagh Quick’s question about the ‘Keep Mobile’ service and asked why Earley Town Council did not support it when the organisation provided services to the rest of Wokingham. The Town Clerk thought that this may because Keep Mobile had not applied for funding, but an email had been received from the Chairman of the charity which indicated that the council had made a decision not to fund the charity. The Secretary stated that he would follow this up with the Town Clerk.

The Secretary raised concerns about the problems caused for elderly people with the number of cars parked on pavements and he outlined the actions MERA had taken on this to date. He had also raised the inadequacy of the bus services along the Earley secondary routes and the difficulties facing the elderly in travelling by public transport to gain access to the Brookside and Chalfont surgeries. He advised the council that it would be a good idea to prepare for the next review of bus services in advance so that the community was in the best position to propose alternatives to Earley’s existing public transport network around the area. The Secretary was asked to prepare a report on the current position, which he agreed to do.

**Road works**

The Chairman reported that Cllr Jorgensen had kindly agreed to address the Executive Committee at its August meeting in relation to the way in which road works within the Borough were co-ordinated.

**Consultations**

The Chairman advised that the climate emergency discussion was on the agenda.

**Pavement parking**

The Secretary advised that he had written to Martin Heath to propose that parking enforcement officers who identified illegally parked cars on pavements in circumstances where parking tickets could not be issued be asked to leave leaflets such as those previously produced by the council drawing attention to the fact that vehicles should not be parked in this way. However, Geoff Hislop had responded to advise that the police should be contacted on such a request as the parking enforcement service was not permitted to undertake such activities.

Accordingly, the Secretary would now write to Julie Susel to establish whether the police could do this. He was not confident of a positive response, however, as the police no longer appeared to have the capacity to carry out such tasks. Rosemary Cook advised that Cllr Andrew Mickleborough would be interested in any information relating to pavement parking in the area.

**AGM**

The Secretary stated that he had written to Martin Heath to remind him of the various points that were raised in relation to highways issues at the last AGM. This included the visibility issues at road junctions with hedges obstructing sight lines. A response had now been received to confirm that these issues had been added to the traffic management programme and a reassurance had been given that MERA would be notified as each matter was addressed and completed.

Following Jean Beck’s decision to retire from her duties as Area Representative for Repton Road (area 12), the Chairman and Secretary delivered flowers to her earlier in the week.

**Maiden Erlegh Drive**

The Secretary reported that he had been advised that a meeting was scheduled for the following day to discuss the next steps in relation to the resurfacing of Maiden Erlegh Drive. A condition survey of the road had been obtained and a tendering process was being carried out to obtain best value in terms of the work to be done.

**Membership update**

A revised introductory letter had been circulated for new members, together with a revised consent form which asked only for names and addresses. Area representatives were asked to advise the Secretary of any new or departing members so that an updated list could be compiled and to ensure that the GDPR information was up to date.

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s report**

The Chairman had no further issues to report.

**Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer had no further issues to report.

**Editorial Team report**

The Chairman stated that the new MERA Magazine was now published and ready for distribution. The magazine should be with residents prior to the Earley Green Fair to be held on 3 August. Additional magazines were available this time to assist with recruiting new members and these were available on request. Members were asked to collect subscriptions at the same time as the magazines were distributed on this occasion to assist the Treasurer with cashflow at this time of the new financial year.

On a separate note, the Magazine Editor had drawn attention to the pressure that existed on colour space in the magazine. There was concern that although new advertisers wanted to insert colour advertisements, he did not wish to offer this at the expense of editorial colour space. The Committee was of the view that the whole magazine could be produced in colour, the additional £80 per copy paid for with the colour advertisements replacing black and white. It was pointed out that two full-page colour advertisements would cost the advertisers £80, which would cover the extra cost.

**AGREED:** That the matter be investigated with the Editorial Team and the Treasurer and a report be submitted to a future meeting.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**Housing Target Survey**

The Chairman referred to the Housing Target Survey currently being conducted and the questionnaire that had been posted to all households in the Wokingham Borough. He reminded the committee that the deadline for individual responses was 23 July.

**Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council was currently consulting on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which was now subject to the statutory 10-year review. Details were set out on the council’s website and the deadline for responses was 26 September.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

An update of pending planning legislation had been received from NORA. The Secretary stated that he would circulate the details with the minutes.

**NEW ITEMS**

**Climate emergency initiatives**

The Secretary invited the committee to put forward any possible initiatives that could be referred to Wokingham Borough Council to support the response to the declaration of a climate emergency. Following discussion, it was

**AGREED:** That the following ideas be submitted to the council for consideration.

1. Tree planting, to absorb more carbon, pollution from roads and to soften noise. Oak trees should be considered for planting in Maiden Erlegh, which was originally forested with oaks.
2. Provision of more cycle lanes and paths, preferably separated from roads by kerbs or rails.
3. Consideration be given to encourage schools to stage competitions about the environment with a view to increasing awareness of the damage caused by mankind.
4. Provision of many more charging points for electric cars throughout the Borough.
5. A commitment to the early adoption of inductive charging loops in roads to ease concerns about ownership of electric cars.
6. Promotion of low energy use throughout the Borough and the council to consider issuing planning consents for all new builds with a requirement for installation of solar energy panels.
7. Launch of a major initiative to encourage use of buses by working with operators to establish new or improved routes, better frequencies and choice of destinations, installation of bus shelters, seating, and real time information wherever possible.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Noise complaint from resident**

The Secretary reported that a complaint had been received from a resident regarding noise that appeared to emanate from Laurel Park on 15 June. Unfortunately, the complaint was received after the event and so he was unable to investigate it at the time, although noise from a public address system was certainly heard on that day. The Committee was advised that complaints about noise should be lodged with the Borough Council at the time of the event so that noise levels could be measured, and if the council decided that it constituted a statutory noise nuisance, they would take enforcement action. However, public address systems were not likely to be regarded as a statutory nuisance as this was permitted under the relevant legislation.

**Planning notices**

Tim Marsh (ACER) had observed that there had been several instances of planning application notices not reaching immediate neighbours over the last few months. Although the delivery system used had been blamed, this had happened so often recently that it no longer appeared to be a credible reason why neighbours had failed to be contacted.

Rosemary Cook stated that a resident had complained to her that she had not received a notification regarding an application that would have had a significant impact for the resident and that despite chasing this, the notification had still not been received.

**AGREED:** The Secretary to raise this issue with the Borough Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 8 August 2019 at 8pm.