**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 13 June 2019 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Steve Feltham (Secretary) |
| Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) | James Barr (Area 13) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Pamela Roberts (Area 10) |
| Celia Smith (Area 6) | Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) |
| Tim Marsh (ACER) | Caroline Smith (Hillside councillor) |

**Apologies received**

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| Pamela Tames (Treasurer) | Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) |
| Jonathan Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Anne Booth (Area 9) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Siyu Smith (Area 2) | Tim Smith (Area 2) |
| David Chopping (Luckmore Residents’ Assoc) | Ray Jones (resident) |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Peter Soul**

The Chairman paid tribute to Peter Soul, who passed away on 15 May 2019. A thanksgiving service was held on 7 June and there was a very good attendance, demonstrating the high regard in which he was held by his family, friends, his choir and the community.

**Cllr Caroline Smith**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Caroline Smith to the meeting, who was elected as Liberal Democrat councillor for the Hillside Ward of Wokingham Borough Council. Caroline was one of two councillors elected to represent MERA residents at the election in May, the other being Cllr Tahir Maher, both of whom had been invited to agree the attendance of one of them as co-opted member to advise as appropriate on Borough Council matters.

**Cllr Rosemary Cook**

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Rosemary Cook for having been elected to serve residents of the Radstock Ward on Earley Town Council. Rosemary had agreed to continue serving as MERA Area Representative for the current year.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2019 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Tesco**

The Chairman reported that the Secretary had now written to one of his contacts at Wokingham Borough Council regarding the breach of planning consent relating to the Tesco lorries using Sevenoaks Road. He expected to receive a response within the next week.

**Beech Lane**

The Secretary explained that although the Beech Lane drains had been attended to, there still appeared to be an obstruction in some of these drains, which flooded when it rained. The council’s attention had been drawn to this and his contact at the council had confirmed that this matter would be addressed.

He reported that the owner of the property on the corner of Lakeside and Silverdale Road near to the bus stop appeared to have cut the bush on their property very untidily, but that subsequent growth over the month had negated the slight improvement in the sight lines for motorists emerging from the junction. Accordingly, he advised that he would write to the council asking for further action to be taken.

Celia Smith reported drain problems on Radnor Road that had led to flooding problems recently. The Secretary undertook to investigate this and report back to the council as necessary.

**Asda**

The Chairman reported that there had been no further news about who would take over Martin’s, but it was known that Greggs was looking into opening a shop in Lower Earley. There was speculation that Greggs would open in the Asda arcade, but nothing had yet been confirmed. It was now believed that the Post Office was not threatened by any changes that were likely to take place after Martin’s vacated the premises.

**NORA AGM**

The Secretary confirmed that he had written to NORA to confirm that MERA would not be sending a representative to the AGM on this occasion.

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

The Secretary reported that there was a new Administration controlling Earley Town Council following the election. He proposed asking the council at the next meeting of the Community and Youth Sub Committee whether they would be pursuing the asset transfer of Laurel Park from Wokingham Borough Council, and if so, whether they were prepared to give an assurance that a proper consultation would be held over the future use of the field opposite the Pavilion.

The next meeting had been deferred to 25 June and confirmation had been received from the Town Clerk that the theme for the next meeting would be ‘Older People’. The Secretary advised that he had not received any specific items from members of the committee that they wished to see raised at that meeting, but he had received a query from Shelagh Quick, who had questioned why the ‘Keep Mobile’ service was not operating in the Earley area. It had been speculated that this could be because the council supported the Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau instead. He would report back on the answer received to the next meeting.

**Road works**

The Secretary advised that he had not yet received confirmation from Cllr Jorgensen regarding a date to explain to the Committee how road works were co-ordinated by the Borough Council.

**Consultations**

The Secretary confirmed that he had circulated the link to the council’s validation list, as promised.

The Committee was also informed that the climate emergency petition had received 109 signatures as at 9 June 2019 and that the closing date was today. In the meantime, the council had indeed declared a climate emergency, and Cllr Gregor Murray (Norreys Ward) had asked schools, churches, community groups and individuals to send him any suggestions and initiatives they may have. In the meantime, the Committee was advised that this would be added to the next agenda and that a discussion would take place on the possible initiatives that would assist the council in achieving its goal.

**Pavement parking**

The Secretary confirmed that he had submitted MERA’s views on pavement parking as expressed in the letter sent to Sir John Redwood, MP in response to the consultation that was being carried out by the Government.

It was also reported that an email had been received from Julie Susel regarding an issue raised by Judy Clark, who had drawn attention to a van parked on the pavement on Sevenoaks Road which had completely blocked the right of way. The email advised that the police were not able to deal with parking issues currently as they did not have sufficient time, having regard to the cuts that had been made to police budgets. The Secretary proposed to discover whether leaflets could be provided by the police that members could put under the windscreen wipers of vehicles, but he was not optimistic that the police would be happy with such a move.

Tim Marsh suggested that it might be possible to ask the parking enforcement team to place notices on vehicles seen to cause an obstruction. He promised to let the Secretary have a copy of a notice printed by the council for this purpose some years ago.

**Parks and Green Spaces**

The Secretary confirmed that full details of the progress made by the Government in relation to the future of public parks had been circulated with the minutes, as promised.

**AGM**

The Chairman reported on the successful AGM held by MERA on 9 May 2019. He advised the meeting that the speakers for the evening, Geoff Hislop and Martin Heath, had been thanked in writing for agreeing to speak at the meeting and to answer questions. The Committee was reminded that a number of points were raised with the speakers by members at the AGM, and it was agreed that these matters would be confirmed formally with Martin Heath as outstanding issues. Cllr Rosemary Cook wished to have added to that list the parking problems at the top of Redhatch Drive near its junction with Elm Lane.

James Barr was concerned with the number of parents using their vehicles to transport children to and from school, and a suggestion was made that a ‘crocodile’ system in which a row of children walked together with supervision might be a practical means of reducing the number of vehicles used for this purpose.

The Chairman stated that the new GDPR policy, constitution and co-option of political representatives were all agreed, and the Secretary had written to Cllrs Tahir Maher and Caroline Smith to invite one of them to attend future Executive Committee meetings.

Paul Medlycott had been elected as Area Representative for Repton Road in place of Jean Beck, who had decided to step down from this role. The Committee expressed its thanks to Jean for all the work she had carried out for MERA over the years.

The Committee also expressed its gratitude to Siyu and Tim Smith for providing the food for the AGM, which had been much appreciated.

**AGREED: That**

**1. The Secretary write to Martin Heath to request that the highways issues raised at the AGM and the Redhatch Drive matter be investigated.**

**2. A bunch of flowers be sent to Jean Beck to thank her for the work she has carried out for MERA as Area Representative.**

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s report**

The Chairman had no further issues to report.

**Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting and had not submitted any items.

**Editorial Team report**

The summer edition of the MERA magazine would be printed in July. The deadline for items was 20 June 2019.

**CONSULTATIONS**

There were currently no public consultations affecting Maiden Erlegh to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

* **AGM**

Dr Shrank had stepped down as Chairman of NORA and was being replaced by Zofia Lovell.

* **Chancellor’s Spring Statement**

NORA had advised of a number of planning related proposals, including a Written Ministerial Statement by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The progress on various planning bills was also set out in this communication. The Secretary advised that he would provide full details with the minutes.

* **Pubs code**

The Government was calling for comments and evidence to be submitted by stakeholders on the Pubs Code. Details would be despatched with the minutes.

**Maiden Erlegh Drive**

The Secretary reported that he had received an email from Jonathon Peck, Chief Financial and Operations Manager of Maiden Erlegh Trust, who explained that the delay to resurfacing work on Maiden Erlegh Drive was due to a more intrusive structural survey that had been undertaken on the surface of the road to ensure that the resurfacing solution would be the right one and would last. He reassured MERA that the work would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

**NEW ITEMS**

**Membership update**

The Secretary requested that if Area Representatives had gained or lost members since the last membership list was distributed, that they let him know. Cllr Rosemary Cook stated that the new consent forms appeared to be deterring new members from joining. It was thought that if MERA ceased requesting telephone numbers and email addresses, this may resolve the issue. The Secretary stated that in view of the number of members who had not given this optional information, he would amend the consent forms forthwith.

It was also confirmed that Paul Medlycott, who had taken over Area 12 (Repton Road) would be inducted as soon as possible.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Silverdale Road safety issues**

The Secretary reported that no action appeared to have been taken regarding the two bollards that had been agreed should be installed at The Parade following the accident that occurred involving two children being pinned against the telephone box by a car. Accordingly, he had written to Martin Heath to request that the matter be progressed as soon as possible.

**School Bee Day**

Cllr Rosemary Cook reported on a two-day event that was held on the Englefield Estate recently. The event was concerned with environmental and countryside matters. She met two people who lived at Silverdale Road who were interested in litter picking with EASI.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.58pm.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 11 July 2019 at 8pm.