**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents’ Association Executive Committee (online) held at 8pm on Thursday 13 May 2021**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Steve Feltham (Secretary) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Pamela Roberts (Area 10) |
| Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |  |

**Apologies received**

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| Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) | Jonathan Brown (Editor) |
| Patricia Brown (Editorial Team) | Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) |
| Anne Booth (Area 9) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Paul Medlycott (Area 12) | Celia Smith |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Tim Marsh (ACER) |

**In the Chair: Colin Mair**

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Borough Planning and Design Guide**

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had not received a response yet from Earley Town Council regarding his proposal for tree planting on grass verges. Rosemary Cook advised that the matter was to be considered on 26 May 2021.

The Committee was asked to submit any further ideas for environmental improvements to the Secretary.

**Swallows Meadow**

The Chairman reported that a response had been received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the Town Council’s request that Swallows Meadow be included as Designated Green Space. A copy of the email received had been copied to committee members. The Secretary advised that if the proposals were to be accepted by the council, the inclusion of these sites would not carry any significant weight against a planning application until the Local Plan was approved.

**Earley Town Council**

The Secretary confirmed that an item on MERA’s response to the Town Plan had been included on the website.

**Cycle rack at Tesco**

The Secretary confirmed that the bicycle rack shelter had been replaced already and Tesco was currently looking to replace the rack itself. In the meantime, the manager had suggested that any residents unable to lock their bicycles to the shelter would be able to request that they were locked inside the warehouse until they had completed their shopping.

**Bulmershe allotments**

The Secretary confirmed that the allotments that were discussed at the last meeting were located near Mays Lane. The Town Clerk had contacted the Secretary to query the location of the site and cautioned that the Town Council might not be sympathetic to a request for them to take over the management of the allotments, given that they were owned by Reading Borough Council. In a further conversation with the Secretary, John Saunders advised that the allotment holders may be prepared to take on some of these management responsibilities themselves. He agreed to clarify the position as soon as possible.

**Water leakage at a Lakeside property**

The Committee was advised that Wokingham Borough Council had now inspected the water leak, and the Specialist Drainage Engineer had subsequently written to Earley Town Council to suggest a solution. This involved installing an ACO drain and a pipe to pick up the water and conveying it to the lake. A response was awaited from Earley Town Council. The Secretary stated that he would also write to the Town Clerk on the matter if necessary.

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman advised that he had nothing to report on this occasion.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer submitted a written report confirming that 16 out of 17 advertisers had paid for their advertisements for the spring edition of the magazine by online bank transfer. Overall, the Treasurer was of the view that the process was very efficient and MERA’s account currently stood at £1,688.11.

The Secretary added that the Borough Council’s Chief Executive had not yet responded to his request for assistance with MERA’s annual audit and therefore a search would commence to find a qualified individual who would be prepared to audit the accounts. Arrangements would be made to upload an item on MERA’s website and in the next edition of the magazine.

**Editorial Report**

The Magazine Editor advised in a written report that work was now commencing on the summer edition of the magazine, the copy date for which was 20 June.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**Sports and leisure strategy (closing date 13 June 2021)**

The Chairman drew attention to a new consultation announced by Wokingham Borough Council. The Secretary advised that a survey in connection with the Sports and Leisure strategy for the period 2021 to 2025 was available on the council’s website and would be uploaded to the MERA website after the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

The latest correspondence from NORA had been circulated to the committee for information.

**NEW ITEMS**

There were no new items to discuss.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Tesco lorries using Sevenoaks Road**

The Secretary reported that Judy Clark had contacted him regarding further complaints about lorries using the section of Sevenoaks Road leading to Avalon Road, contrary to the planning permission granted to Tesco when it received approval for its change of use. Unfortunately, the complainant had failed to record any further details that would enable the complaint to be investigated by the council. The Secretary agreed to draft a letter to be delivered to the resident concerned drawing their attention to the fact that a small amount of specific information including the dates and times of these incidents was required to enable an investigation, as required by the council.

**Winnersh relief road Phase II completed**

The Secretary drew attention to the completion of the second phase of the Winnersh relief road and reported that some residents were unhappy that they were no longer able to access this road from King Street Lane. He advised that residents should now turn right onto the Reading Road (A329) when leaving Sainsburys and join the relief road from the new roundabout.

**Maiden Erlegh Dry Cleaners and Launderette**

The Secretary reported that the dry cleaning/launderette service provided from the Parade was now under new ownership.

**Wokingham Veteran Tree Association**

Rosemary Cook drew attention to the concerns being expressed about the felling of trees by the Veteran Tree Association, and stated that Earley Town Council would be involved in the drafting of a tree strategy to address the situation. Members were advised that if they had any ideas that could be included in a tree strategy to protect trees in the area, they should let her know.

The Chairman asked whether there was a map available showing the Tree Preservation Orders that had been granted. Rosemary Cook stated that there was a tree map available in the planning section of the Wokingham Borough Council website, which also revealed where planning applications were being lodged.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

10 June 2021. The Chairman stated that he hoped that the next meeting would be the last virtual meeting of the committee and that the following meeting on 8 July could be held once again at Kenton Road Day Centre. The Secretary confirmed that he had made the necessary arrangements already and that the Day Centre was booked provisionally for the July meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.