**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 14 June 2018 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Steve Feltham (Secretary) |
| Pamela Tames (Treasurer) | Jean Beck (Area 12) |
| Celia Smith (Area 6) | Siyu Smith (Area 2) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Peter Soul (EASI) |
| Mary Bather (ACER) | James Barr (nominee) |

**Apologies received**

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| Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) | Jonathan Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) |
| Anne Booth (Area 9) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Pamela Roberts (Area 10) |
| Tim Smith (Area 2) | Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |
| Brian Hackett | Ray Jones |

**WELCOME**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed James Barr, who had indicated his interest in taking over the vacant position of Area Representative for part of Area 12.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2018 were accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Silverdale Road bus service consultation**

The Secretary reported that he now had confirmation that tender bids had been received for the replacement of the existing 12 service. Wokingham Borough Council expected some information on the route and the timing of the re-tendered service for September 2018 to be available around mid-July.

A rumour regarding the possible withdrawal of service 22 was reported to have been unfounded, and both Wokingham Borough Council and Reading Buses had confirmed that there was no such proposal under consideration.

**Graffiti**

The Chairman stated that although the graffiti on the bollards of the footpath/cycleway connecting Lakeside with Beech Lane had been removed by Wokingham Borough Council as reported at the April meeting, the telecommunications box owned by Virgin Media remained untouched.

**AGREED:** The Secretary to write to Peter Baveystock to seek confirmation that Virgin Media had been contacted about the need to remove the graffiti on their box.

**Consultation**

The Chairman reported that Wokingham Borough Council was carrying out a small number of consultations, none of which directly related to Maiden Erlegh. However, the committee was likely to find of interest the fact that views on the route of the proposed construction of the North Wokingham Distributor Road were now being sought. The closing date for feedback was 2 July 2018.

**Litter at the rear of Silverdale Road shops**

The Secretary advised that the litter at the rear of Silverdale Road shops had been cleared, only for a pile of rubbish to appear that had been dumped there. David Foster had instructed a contractor to remove it, and this had now been done.

**Pedestrian hazard at Tesco entrance and exit points**

The Secretary reported that he had been in correspondence with Cllr Chopping regarding all the safety measures proposed for Silverdale Road, which included the access and exit points to the Tesco store. The councillor had advised that there had been no progress made to date and that he would follow this matter up with the officers concerned. He asked if MERA would be happy to be named in the interests of speeding up the process, and the Secretary had agreed to this. The committee was informed that if no response was received in the next two weeks, he would write directly to council officers, and if no progress resulted from that, he would produce a press release.

**Maiden Erlegh library**

The Secretary reported that he had written to the Chairman of Governors of Maiden Erlegh School regarding the concerns raised at MERA’s April meeting.

The Committee was reminded that the main additional concern raised was that a number of vulnerable children and others who were unable to go straight home after their classes currently used the library after school and that they would have nowhere to go when the library closed. The response received was that the school had a well-advertised after school homework drop-in facility that was available every day, which was supervised by school staff and was open to all their students.

In relation to the location of the polling station after the closure of the library, it had been pointed out that Aldryngton Primary School would be a suitable alternative location, but that this was a matter for the council to determine. The Committee noted that if polling were to be carried out there, the school was likely to be closed at elections.

As far as the Silverdale Centre was concerned, the future of this site was a matter for Wokingham Borough Council rather than the school.

The Secretary reported that he had not yet received a response from Tesco as to whether they would be prepared to have the top floor of the building used as a library, but he pointed out that even if they responded positively to the idea, Wokingham Borough Council would need to consider the number of residents likely to use the facility before committing the additional expenditure that would be needed. The council had confirmed the receipt of 128 signatures in support of the recent e-petition.

The Committee was advised that Judy Clark had suggested that MERA conveyed its appreciation to the staff of the library in respect of their work for the community.

**AGREED:** That the ‘thank you’ card provided be signed on behalf of MERA and lodged with the library.

**New data protection legislation**

The Chairman reported that the GDPR forms had been distributed to residents, and that most had now been collected. The Secretary reiterated that the outstanding forms could be collected with the subscriptions in July/August.

The Secretary thanked the Area Representatives for the work they had carried out and asked that any outstanding forms be returned to him when they were received, having first ensured that the information provided matched their records.

**Public notice boards**

The Secretary confirmed that a notice from Earley Town Council requesting that users refrained from removing notices of others had been placed on notice boards, although this notice had been rather larger than expected. Mary Bather confirmed that the council were looking to open up the second notice board currently used only for council notices to selected organisations in the future.

**Data protection legislation training**

The Secretary confirmed that the AGM had approved the recommendation that the duties of Data Protection Officer be added to his position for the remainder of the current year. During this time, he would ensure that the MERA was fully compliant with the new legislation, respond to all data protection enquiries and requests and draft a data protection policy for endorsement by the AGM at its meeting in May 2019.

**Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman reported that he was pleased to hear that the AGM had been successful. The Secretary reported that the speaker was well received and that there was considerable audience participation. Surprisingly, most of the questions had related to the waste services rather than the grass cutting.

The Chairman thanked Barbara Stansfield for organising the nibbles and serving members at the door. The Secretary agreed, and he also thanked others who had assisted on the day, and the Chairman, for providing the wine.

**Retirement of Town Clerk**

The Secretary reported that the Town Clerk, Philip Truppin, was to retire in August, subject to the recruitment of a replacement for his post.

**AGREED:** The Secretary to sign the leaving card and a contribution of £25.00 be made on behalf of MERA.

**Lakeside subsidence**

Peter Soul reported that he had not received a response relating to the subsidence of the road in Lakeside. The Secretary stated that he would contact the council to request an inspection of the highway adjacent to the lake.

**EDITORIAL REPORT**

The Chairman reported that the deadline for MERA Magazine items was 20 June.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

The Secretary informed the meeting that NORA had drawn attention to the encouragement being provided to communities by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to produce neighbourhood plans. The Ministry was preparing documentation in the expectation that the process would be easier and more attractive. The Secretary had responded to advise NORA that it was keeping this matter under review, but that if a more streamlined process was rolled out, the matter would be re-considered at that stage.

**NEW ITEMS**

**Election of Area Representative**

The Chairman advised the meeting that James Barr, currently a member of EASI, had put his name forward to stand as Area Representative in respect of part of Area 12, previously served by Shelagh Quick and Vera Box. Jean Beck would continue to stand as Area Representative for Repton Road.

**AGREED:** That:

1. James Barr be elected to the position of Area Representative to cover 1-73 and 12-118 Silverdale Road, The Orchard and Silverbrook.
2. This area henceforth would be designated as Area 13.

**Involvement of councillors on Executive Committee**

The Committee was informed that Cllr Guy Grandison had expressed an interest in joining MERA, although he currently lived outside the Maiden Erlegh area. The Secretary advised that although the councillor was not a Maiden Erlegh resident, nevertheless he represented Maiden Erlegh as councillor for Wokingham Borough Council. Accordingly, it would be beneficial both to councillors and to MERA if local councillors for the area were able to attend MERA Executive Committee meetings at their discretion.

**AGREED:** That a standing invitation to attend MERA meetings be extended to all three Wokingham Borough Councillors representing the Maiden Erlegh Ward and that with immediate effect, copies of minutes and meeting invitations be sent to them for information.

**Tesco**

The Secretary advised that an EASI member had raised a complaint about Tesco lorries churning up the grass verges in Sevenoaks Road. This appeared to arise from the difficulty that larger vehicles had when turning out of the Tesco exit, forcing them to mount the pavement.James Barr suggested that bollards could be erected opposite the Tesco exit to prevent this from happening.

The committee was also informed that the amount of litter deposited in the Tesco car park had been highlighted as a concern by EASI. Peter Soul indicated that he had received no response to this issue, which he had raised with Tesco himself.

Additionally, a Silverdale Road resident had complained that school children frequently blocked the entrance of Tesco at certain times of the day, which created difficulties for residents to access the store. Thefts from the store by some of the school children had also been witnessed. MERA had been asked what could be done to prevent such events in the future.

**AGREED:** That:

1. The council be requested to take measures to address the problem of vehicles mounting the pavement from the Tesco exit, with a suggestion that one or more bollards be erected to prevent the destruction of the grass verge.
2. The Head Teacher of Maiden Erlegh School and the Tesco store manager be contacted regarding the litter being deposited mainly by school children in the Tesco car park, the blocking of the store entrance and the witness account of thefts from Tesco by Maiden Erlegh school pupils.
3. The thefts from Tesco reported by the Silverdale Road resident be raised as an issue at the next NAG meeting.

**Street lamps and wi-fi frequency**

The Secretary reported that the wi-fi frequency being used to manage the new street light was interfering with burglar alarms in the area, according to a burglar alarm specialist operating in the area. The problem appeared to be widespread and was the result of an oversight by the alarm manufacturers, who had neglected to register the wi-fi frequency used.

**AGREED:** That the matter be raised with Wokingham Borough Council to establish whether the street lighting wi-fi frequency can be changed to avoid such interference.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Community and Youth Sub Committee**

The Secretary reported that Brian Hackett attended the meeting on 30 May. Grass cutting and notice boards were discussed, as well as the poor bus service in the area. The sub committee decided that Reading Buses would be invited to appear before a Town Council committee, although the Secretary advised that there was no certainty the company would accept the invitation. It was also confirmed that Jim Willis had been re-elected as Chairman of NAG.

**NAG meeting**

Peter Soul attended the meeting of NAG held on 21 May 2018. The main items of discussion were burglaries, graffiti and procedural issues including the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**Maureen Devine**

The Chairman reported that one of MERA’s former Area Representatives, Maureen Devine, died on 18 May, aged 81. The funeral service was to be held at 11am on 19 June 2018 at St Peter’s Church, Church Road, Earley. A bereavement card had been sent on behalf of MERA to Maureen’s widowed husband, Ron, who served with Maureen as Area Representative.

**Moths**

Barbara Stansfield alerted the meeting to the number of moths that had been observed in the area.

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

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 12 July 2018 at 8pm.