

MINUTES OF RVPS MEETING

Held on Thursday 8th January 2015
at Bromley Court Hotel



Those present:

Brian Atkinson	Keith Barrett	Michael Beecher
Arthur Green	Cllr Will Harmer	Gavin Hurley
Christopher Jackman	Maureen Johnson	Andrew Lancaster
Helga Lane	Clive Lees*	Gillian McIntosh
Euan McMaster	Sheila Mann	Nicola Martin
K Molloy	Linda Müller	Beatrice Osborn
David Page	Andrew Storey	Richard Thomas
Leslie Tucker	Pat Tucker	Wendy Watmore
Dave Wiltshire	Monica Wiltshire	

*Chair

1 Apologies:

Carol Davidson	Cllr Nicola Dykes	David England
Peter Saunders		

2 Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

3 Finances:

Dave Wiltshire gave the Treasurer's report for the two months ending 8 January 2015.

Receipts totalled £120 comprising members' subscriptions. Payments totalled £176.55 in expenses.

Santander Current Account: £3619.00

National Savings Investment Account: £7953.63

Petty Cash £311.66

Total: £11,884.29

There are a few more 2014 subscriptions outstanding.

For the N&SI account three of the four signatories have been confirmed. Dave has written to N&SI to get the fourth (Linda) added.

Our insurance cover is now with Access Insurance and Certificate of Insurance received.

£3000 requested from Bromley for the Farnaby Road project.

Meeting with the auditor tomorrow 9 Jan to confirm and finalise procedure and requirements.

4 Volunteers for Situations Vacant:

Planning Officers – These posts are still vacant. Local residents are being encouraged and supported to pursue their own issues.

5 Society Name and Logo

The Chair reported that following giving the brief to Ravensbourne School for a new logo he had received some ideas. Clive hopes to have proposals for the AGM. We could add a strap line.

5 The Newsletter

Euan handed out copies of the draft February newsletter. A few Road Reps received more copies than they needed so plan to print 250 this time.

6 Community Projects

Tree Officer: Monica's LBBRF Presentation went well. They requested a draft position statement which Monica has prepared. This will be considered at their January meeting and then sent to Bromley Council and the London Assembly.

New trees in Farnaby Road: There is one tree still to be planted. The Council have confirmed verbally that our contribution is not replacing funding that the Council would have provided. Talk in the spring about publicity.

76b The Avenue: A London Plane tree in the street near this property is being cited as causing subsidence. This is expected to go to committee.

72 The Avenue: A request to fell a tree in case it causes a problem has been refused.

10 Crab Hill: Legal & General have made liability claim against LLB. This is with Bromley's senior legal officer. The planning committee decision won't be changed.

A question was raised about what happens if a condition of felling a tree is planting a replacement but this is not carried out. The council should be contacted and they will write a letter, and if necessary, take enforcement action.

7 PLANNING ISSUES:

7a Bromley Applications: (Clive Lees)

61 The Avenue: (at the junction with Downs Hill): There is an application to build 8 flats in two blocks in a Conservation area which we opposed. The application was refused on the grounds that the development was too big. An appeal has been submitted.

20 Blyth Road: The owners were asking for vehicular access into Bracken Hill Lane, but the application was withdrawn on the eve of the meeting. Waiting to see what happens next.

Oak Dene, Oaklands Road: Application refused. Now an appeal has been submitted.

Sunset Hill: Hillbrow Road can't support any more traffic. Cllr Dykes handling this issue and is getting in touch with residents.

River Park Gardens: By the footpath from Ravensmead to Warren Ave Playing Fields there is a boarded up shop, owned by Phoenix Housing. Proposal to demolish and build 9 flats in 3 storeys.

7 Oaklands Road: Large house divided into 7 flats, on the market for £1.2M, either to continue as a rental property or as a "development opportunity".

74 Madeira Avenue: has been bought by a developer. Another one to watch.

7b Lewisham Applications: No items.

7c Joint Working Party for Beckenham Place Park: (Leslie Tucker)

The Working Party will support the proposed scheme.

8 Transport Issues

Bakerloo Line Extension consultation closes 7 Dec. The idea of going to Hayes makes sense but Beckenham Junction to Bromley seems expensive via tunnel.

Valley School: Issue with people parking on the yellow lines outside the zigzag marked areas badly affecting visibility. Last Tuesday Parking Wardens attended and at least one ticket was issued. Ask the Head of Road Safety to inspect.

Larchmont, Crab Hill: If parked cars are encroaching on a driveway entrance and preventing access, the Police will try to contact the registered owner, and the council will issue a ticket. The council can also be asked to paint a white line on the road the width of the driveway, though this has no legal force.

9 Councillors' Update:

Bromley North now complete and there is a reduction in empty properties and an increase in foot fall. The Royal Bell to be purchased by Antic pub chain.

Funding: Formula to calculate funding from Central Government. Bromley gets a lot less than other boroughs. 60% less in 3 years time. The council is campaigning for a fairer calculation. The council cannot borrow and must remain solvent.

Bromley is 37th out of the 50 best places to live in the country.

Highland Rd/Madeira Avenue junction: there is a plot of land with no registered owner but the fence has blown down. This is one of the former ransom strips held by the properties opposite to prevent the lower side of the road from being built on.

Old Town Hall: proposal for a 4* hotel with conference facilities. Parts of the building are listed. Would need to extend upwards two storeys to get sufficient rooms. Valet parking to Civic Centre car park which is empty at night.

10 London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation (LBBRF): Minutes of Nov meeting included news of putting out to tender the running of the core libraries and community groups taking over running of the others. They have also recently changed their insurer to Access Insurance. Date of Next Meeting: 15/01/15.

11 Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board: nothing to report.

12 Any Other Business

AGM speaker: Gavin Plaskitt, Lewisham Council

Biggin Hill Airport Limited: proposed increase in flights does not affect us directly. We support BHAL giving clear, accurate information about hours and noise levels.

13 Next meeting:

Annual General Meeting Thursday 5th March 2015, 8p.m. at Bromley Court Hotel