



DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

Thursday 4th Sept 2025 (Bromley United Services Club)

Present: Margaret Brearley (Chair); Sharon Richardson (Treasurer); Andrew Lancaster (Roads & Traffic); Terry Richardson; Euan McMaster (Editor); Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary); Joel Kibazo; Jay Sharma; Rosamond Eele (Webmaster); Linda Müller; Dick Groves; Beatrice Osborn; Dave & Monica Wiltshire; Cllr. Mike Tickner, Alan & Carole Mullord; Denise MacDonald; Chris Brown; Steve Hadley; Alastair Holmes

1	Welcome and opening remarks
	<p>Our Chair presided over this EGM. This meeting replaced the usual bi-monthly Members' meeting because it was necessary to elect a Vice Chair (our previous Vice Chair having resigned at the Annual General meeting in March this year). As prescribed by the constitution, the membership was notified of this EGM two weeks prior to the meeting. Only one candidate expressed interest in this post prior to the meeting. However, provision was made to allow other candidates to put themselves forward (and be voted for) by shortening the usual RVR content of our meetings. No additional candidates came forward.</p> <p>The members present – including the 4 current officers – unanimously elected a new Vice Chair and agreed that this change be reflected in our dealings with the bank. Thus, Jay Sharma is now the 5th elected RVR officer and brings her enthusiasm and experience to help serve the interests of our members. The shorter content of the meeting also allowed time for our guests (see Item 11 below) to address/entertain us.</p>
2	Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors
	Nicholas Ansdell-Evans; David Page; David Mackenzie; Nigel Foster; Cllrs Gemma Turrell, Adam Grant Early leavers: Beatrice Osborn & Cllr Graeme Casey; Clive Lees.
3	Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising
	No matters arising. These are now approved.
4	<p>Elected Officers: Five officers have now been elected, thus fulfilling the requirements of the RVR constitution.</p> <p>Appointed Officers: (1) We have a new Webmaster – Rosamond Eele – who will help provide us with an up-to-date and easy-to-use website as soon as she has been able to scope the work required. (2) There is still a vacancy for a Beckenham Place Park Rep - someone to keep us informed of matters of interest to our membership.</p>
5	Finances
	<p>Treasurer, Sharon Richardson: Monies recorded for the period 22nd June 2025 – 4th Sept 2025 are shown below: Income from subscriptions - £360.00 (26 members x £5 each; 21 members x £10 each; 1 member x £20.00) Expenditure - £903.58 (Shortlands Community Garden; Yola website; Newsletter printing; United Services Club for our September meeting)</p> <p>Closing Balance as @ 21st Aug 2025: £4852.89 Current Balance as @ 4th Sept 2025: £4314.89</p>
6	Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues
	<p>Street Friends At their last meeting, the Street Friends team cleared the garden at Christ Church, Bromley – as well as Grasmere and Highland Roads.</p> <p>The Shortlands Community Garden at the back of the railway station is taking shape thanks to the sterling efforts of Dee. As a reminder, RVR donated £200 in August towards this project. Sadly, for all of us, Dee is retiring at the end of this year – BUT her work will continue – overseen by the committee that has been formed to maintain the garden. Some £7,000 has been raised through crowdfunding to help with this. Volunteers will be welcome to help with the upkeep of this project - details on how get involved to be announced.</p>
7	RVR Membership
	Allowing for small changes in numbers, the overall status of RVR membership is unchanged.
8	Road Safety & Traffic
	<p>From Andrew Lancaster: Very little change regarding matters dealt with at the last meeting - see the July minutes on the website https://www.ravensbournevalley.org/resources/JULY%202025%20RVR%20Minutes.pdf</p>
9	Planning Issues

	No report on planning matters were dealt with at this meeting. This had been announced in the agenda and members had been informed that, if they flagged any planning issues to the RVR Secretary, that these would be forwarded to our Planning Officer. None were received by the Secretary.
10	Update from Councillors
	<p>Cllr. Tickner remarked that August is a 'slow' month and he did not have any momentous news to impart. He did flag that the drive for housing in the borough may threaten the existence of allotments and these may be fought over. Planters are now in place at Shortlands Village.</p> <p>Cllr Tickner was happy to address questions raised by the attendees – e.g.</p> <p>Q: Overhanging trees – can we clip them? A: If trees/branches are an impediment to users of pavements or roads, this should be reported to the Council via the web page https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/</p> <p>Q: What is happening to the Old Civic Centre site? A: The intention is for the lake and grounds to be kept for public use. However, full planning is needed – including the involvement of the Mayor of London's planners.</p> <p>Q: Asylum seekers being evicted from hotels: landlords potentially cashing in? A: Some properties had been purchased by Bromley in Biggin Hill, but these were only to rehouse Bromley homeless people, some of whom were currently in B&B at distant places such as Hastings. Cllr Tickner could speak only for this ward, saying that applications for HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) in the Copers Cope area will be resisted.</p> <p>Q: Refuse collection: bin men leaving bins on pavement, obstructing the pavement. Unacceptable – especially as residents are fined for such behaviour. A: Residents should place their bins within their property BUT at arm's length reach for the bin men to take them. The bin men should return the bins to the property area. The lid may be left open after the bin has been emptied - this is to allow aeration of the container. In rainy weather, the open bins may be left on their side. Residents wishing to report problems with their bin collection and other issues may do so under the appropriate topic at https://www.bromley.gov.uk/report</p> <p>Update from Cllr. Grant (via Cllr Tickner): Regarding an additional exit at Shortlands Railway Station: Funding is being sought to re-open the passage between Station Road and the station building.</p>
11	Guests
	<p>RVR members present were treated to two very enjoyable entertaining sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Conlan (the Pearly King of Bromley) informed us of the origins (fact and folklore) of the Pearly Kings. The suit has a history of its own and has been a tradition for some 150 years This is primarily a charity endeavour that requires commitment – rain or shine – to appear or participate in occasions that can raise money for a charity of their choice. Information about the Pearly Kings can be found online https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearly_Kings_and_Queens . RVR was pleased to make a £100 donation to the Pearly King of Bromley for his chosen charity: CASPA & The Maypole Project. The Ravensbourne Morris Men regaled us with their history, singing and dancing – encouraging the audience to join in the dancing and chorus – which most attendees readily accepted. Great interest was shown in the Hurdy-gurdy - an unusual instrument played by the Morris Men. RVR contributed a charity fee of £150 for this entertainment and covered the cost of refreshments for the Morris Men. Further information about the Ravensbourne Morris Men can be found here https://www.ravensbourne.org/home The talk by the Director of Bromley Samaritans was postponed – it will be rescheduled for a future meeting.
12	Any Other Business
	<p>RVR Social events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadly, the Summer Party planned for late September at Harcourt House, Highland Road has been cancelled due to building work at the venue.
13	<p>Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 6th November 2025 at 7.30 pm – Shortlands Golf Club.</p> <p>Our guest for this meeting will be Hadyn Davies who will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Rebirth of a Legend', focussing on his transformation – (as the civil engineer in charge) of the St. Pancras Hotel.</p>