



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 4th January 2024 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present:

Pete Saunders (Chair) Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Dave Wiltshire (Treasurer), Monica Wiltshire, Mark Ladd, Andrew Lancaster, Rosamond Eele, Margaret Brearley, Bill Mitchell, David Page, Cllrs Graeme Casey, Michael Tickner & Adam Grant, Jane Nickalls, Tricia Saunders, Nicholas Ansdell-Evans, Lorraine Knight; Jon Baker, Richard Fagg

1 Welcome & opening remarks

The Chairman presided over the meeting.

2 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

Apologies received from: Dolores & John Ealey; Val Crowdy, Alan & Carole Mullord, Marilyn & Mick Pinson, Linda Mueller, Martin Poupard, Cllrs Webber, Ireland, Ross and Connolly, Martin Ruddick

3 Approval of minutes of last meeting and discussion of matters arising

Amendments already flagged were effected – no new amendments raised.

4 Election of Officers

The election of a new Chair Designate – Margaret Brearley - was proposed (by Pete Saunders) and seconded (by Jacqueline St. Quinton). The formal vote will take place at the AGM in March – as will elections for other posts. It was generally agreed that all officer posts should have a 'shadow'; this is especially important to ensure continuity. It was also suggested that officers and shadows should be in post for a specified time only (this is already in the Constitution). The current Treasurer has stated that he will not be standing for re-election in 2025.

5 Planning Issues

The planning section was presented by Clive Lees – as follows:

- (a) Clive went through a number of slides that illustrated conservation regulations frequently contravened; these included high fences, satellite dishes affixed to trees, size and height of decking, etc.
- General reasons for enforcement are as follows: to remedy the harmful effects of unauthorised development; to help protect the credibility of the planning system, ensuring fairness for those who comply with planning controls; to ensure that development is in accordance with planning permissions and controls; to ensure that Bromley planning policies are implemented. For examples of applications that are subject to enforcement, see <https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Enforcement>
- Example reasons for enforcement include: changing use without permission; building without permission; building not in accordance with plans submitted; untidy site; breach of condition; lack of advertisement consent; felling or lopping a TPO tree. Specific addresses that fall under these categories are: **79 Coniston Road; 100 Ravensbourne Avenue; 18 Ravensbourne Avenue; The Chalet; 61 The Avenue; Edward Ashdale Est. Agents; 2A Downs Hill (2016/2019)**. On the subject of cutting down trees that were subject to a protection order, Cllr Tickner pointed out that the council can insist on a new mature tree to replace the one that has been cut down – incurring a cost that could exceed £1000.

6 Finances

- (a) The Treasurer's finance report was presented by Dave Wiltshire, highlighting the receipts (member subscriptions & NS&I interest) as follows: **£2309.00** and **£4.93** respectively. Payments: Expenses and donations for the financial year to date - **£2905.63**. Deficit for the year: **£591.70**. The General Reserve (Santander Current Account + NS&I Investment Account + Petty Cash) amounts to **£9684.60**. The report was noted and no issues were raised.
- (b) A request by Shortlands AFC for a contribution from RVR to assist with the acquisition of a defibrillator (which would be for the benefit of the general community) was put to the vote. It was agreed that RVR would contribute £500.00. The RVR Secretary will inform the Chair & Secretary of Shortlands AFC and request information to be specified by the RVR Treasurer.
- (c) Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood group (SSN) requested a contribution from RVR for their meeting venue (£45/meeting 6 times/year). The meeting did not agree on this use of RVR funds and suggested that SSN find an alternative, less costly venue.

(d)	Another possible donation to a charity (Everyone Matters) for some classical musical entertainment at the AGM was deferred until a jazz musician acquaintance of one of the attendees could be contacted.
7	Community Projects/Issues
(a)	<p>Street Friends Monica Wiltshire's report – as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a river walk on 5th December instead of a river wade due to weather conditions. Nonetheless we had a very interesting and enjoyable morning with information about the regeneration and flood alleviation project on the east side of Beckenham Place Park both along the riverside walk and with refreshments in the old nursery building which will be a new café • Participants requested we ask Catriona (Environmental Charity Thames 21 Engagement Officer) and James (Beckenham Place Park Ranger) to talk at the AGM on 7th March. This has been confirmed and their talk will be titled <i>Beckenham Place Park improvement and Ravensbourne river conservation update</i>. • I have heard from Bromley Council that all RVR Street Friends need to register with Bromley Council both as Street Friends and Tree Friends. Because we do both litter picking and basal pruning/cutting back overgrowth there is an overlap. The reason for having to do this is that it is now necessary for all Tree/Street Friends, and not just the co-ordinator to be registered with the Council so they know we have received adequate training. The benefit is we are then individually covered by the borough's liability insurance which is specific for the work we do. I have passed this information on to all RVR Street Friends and it is good to know that everyone will be covered in case of an incident/accident • Our next session will be river wading on Tuesday 6th February for 15 participants. All places are taken but I can take 1 or 2 reserves if wanted
8	Membership Matters
	The Membership Secretary and one of our Road Reps reminded us that RVR needs volunteers to replace our reps for 2 areas: (1) Elstree Hill/Erin Close/Hillbrow Road and (2) Oaklands Road, Spencer Road, Lullington Garth and Hawkshead Close.
9	Transport Issues
	<p>The Roads & Traffic Group has not met in the last 2 months since the previous RVR meeting; no specific new issues or developments regarding existing ones upon which to comment. However, traffic issues continue to feature prominently in discussions at the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting 12.12.23 had Bromley's newly appointed Police Superintendent Luke Baldock as guest speaker. His strategy revolves around 3 "C"s:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community – what the Wards tell them are residents' priorities:- road safety, speeding, off-road motor cycling, E-scooters, mopeds, boy racers, anti-social behaviour on the high streets and in the shops. Residents feel intimidated and less safe. Retail crime – shoplifting, threats and abuse of shopkeepers. o Crime – motor vehicle crime, stolen vehicles, burglary. o Confidence – residents do not know their local police teams. Thus posters of the local team with photos, names, phone number, email address, are to be generated and circulated on notice boards (e.g. railway station, churches, doctors' surgeries), in shops, anywhere so that people know how to contact their team. o In response to the suggestion of posters the councillors present at the RVR meeting advised that they will be seeking copies of the posters to expand visibility of the local police teams. - Also mentioned at the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meeting:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There had been recent speeds checks in Ravensbourne Avenue and Queensmead. Fixed penalty notices issued for not wearing seat belts and using mobile phones. "Advice" provided to speeding motorists. o A new, upgraded speed camera costing £5K has been sourced with funding from the Safer Neighbourhood Board. This will include 20 training courses (one PC per Ward), successful completion of which will enable such PCs to issue fixed penalty notices for speeding.
10	Input from Councillors
	<p>Cllr Michael Tickner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roundabout at the junction of Southend Rd / Foxgrove Rd / Park Rd – an Autumn completion had been indicated. Councillor Michael Tickner advised that identification of some underground telecoms cabling – now requiring re-routing - has delayed matters. It is proving difficult to obtain the cooperation of Virgin Media to arrange for the re-routing of the cabling. - 76 A-C The Avenue: developers have bought A & C but not B as the owner (96 years old) is resisting selling. We await further news – e.g. planning application. - Churchfields to close for 3 months. It is unlikely that Waldo will cope. A temporary green waste site has been requested. - Churchill Theatre – items to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The structure is sound enough for about 5 years more o It is not for sale – there are on-going negotiations with Trafalgar Entertainment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Library will be moved to the Top Shop building - Council offices have moved to Bromley South <p>Cllr Adam Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortlands Lifts – work will be carried out over the period January 2024-January 2025. Objections previously voiced have been taken on board. However, those requiring assistance for boarding trains will need to request help. <p>Cllr Graeme Casey:</p> <p>79 Coniston Road – latest application is for conversion to 3 flats – awaiting decision.</p> <p>Romany Ridge – the proposed development was refused. Details on RVR website.</p>
11	Any Other Business
	<p>Uncleared drains - Richard Fagg drew our attention to the poor road drainage around Crab Hill, resulting in water running freely along the road due to uncleared drains – in spite of the council's claim that there is a 3-weekly service to do this. One suggestion is to make use of the Bromley <i>Fix My Street</i> site to draw the council's attention to this problem.</p> <p>AGM in March 2024:</p> <p>In addition to the usual RVR business, the AGM will incorporate</p> <p>Presentation/s from two active workers from the Beckenham Place Park restoration project – they will inform us of the work being carried out and conservation issues facing the park.</p> <p>Musical entertainment – an alternative to St. Dunstan school. Another potential donation to a charity (Everyone Matters) for some classical musical entertainment was discussed briefly but discussion on this was deferred until a possible alternative could be contacted (i.e. a jazz musician acquaintance of one of the attendees).</p> <p>Planning for AGM: It was proposed that the AGM should start earlier than our usual meeting (7.30pm instead of 8.00 pm) to give attendees an opportunity to meet one another. A meeting of RVR officers will take place in good time to plan the evening and confirm that the venue is available as expected.</p>
12	Next meeting: Thursday, 7th March 2024 at 7.30pm – Shortlands Golf Club.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm