

MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 6TH May 2021 (online via Zoom)



In attendance:

Clive Lees (Chair), Jonathan Baker, Chris Curran, Kate Curran, Brendan Donegan, Councillor Nicky Dykes, Dolores Ealey, John Ealey, David England, Ian Fellingham, Linda Harvey-Shipp, Andrew Lancaster, Gillian Lees, Euan McMaster, Karl Martin, Bill Mitchell, Catherine Morgan, Carole Mullord, Beatrice Osborn, Vishal Patel, Jane Willcocks, Dave Wiltshire, Monica Wiltshire

1 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

Apologies received from Tony Illingworth.

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

The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

3 Finances

The Treasurer presented the finance report, highlighting that the main bulk of the society's income (member subscriptions) would be due in the coming months. The report was noted.

4 Community Projects/Issues

a) Update on community activities

The Tree Officer provided an update as follows:

- The tree pits in Madeira Avenue look good and will be featured in the next newsletter. Sadly, heavy dog traffic has ruined the pits in Crab Hill.
- Litter picking dates are being planned, including one for a small group to focus on a hotspot in Beckenham Place Park (BPP) and another for a larger group to focus on allocated areas, starting with coffee at Ravensbourne Station. The dates will be publicised in due course. There is now a database of litter pickers.
- The Tree Officer still has some litter pickers available. In future, they can be accessed by registering as a street friend with Bromley Council.
- There is scope for other community activities in addition to tree-related ones and members were invited to submit any ideas to the Chairman.

b) Use of reserves to purchase bench(es)

The Chairman explained that there was a shortage of benches in Warren Avenue Playing Fields. It would cost c£750 to buy one through Lewisham Council or c£400 to buy one independently. Members were in support of the idea in principle, but concerns were raised over the risk of vandalism if the bench was not secured to the ground. The Chairman proposed that he should present a firm plan at the next meeting.

c) Beckenham Place Park update

The Newsletter Editor highlighted the following:

- a wide range of arts, fitness and other activities at the Mansion were due to resume over the next few weeks. Details would be included in the forthcoming newsletter.
- the popular Street Food Market would resume on Thursday evenings, starting on 27th May.
- a licence application for a music festival for 8,000 people in 2022 has been approved, although there may still be a chance to appeal.
- The lake has reopened for swimming and paddle-boarding.
- There is a photo competition for Spring pictures up to 31st May, followed by a competition for Summer pictures from 1st June-31st August.
- A planning application has been approved for lighting in the courtyard between 1st May-31st October.

5 Planning Issues

a) Bromley applications

Billingsford – discussion focused on the following points:

- Concern about the number of houses (four) included in the application. While the need for houses is recognised, a development of two-three houses would be more acceptable.
- Impact on outlook from 27 Elstree Hill and diminution of daylight.
- Concern about the increase of traffic on the unmade road.

It was agreed that RVR should submit an objection to the proposal.

Progress of the following Bromley applications was also noted:

76A&B The Avenue – awaiting outcome of application to replace houses with block of flats.

151 Ravensbourne Avenue – height of fence exceeds PD rights. Outcome awaited.

	<p>8 Madeira Avenue – application refused.</p> <p>70 High Street – original application refused. No further update.</p> <p>2A Downs Hill – car port subject to enforcement. LBB investigating building in garden.</p>
b)	Lewisham applications
	26 Hillbrow Road – appeal dismissed and a second application withdrawn.
c)	Tree issues
	<p>2A Downs Hill – concern was raised that the two replacement trees are not adequate and that Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) would be ineffective without enforcement action by Bromley Council. Councillor Dykes agreed to investigate further as to whether the council intended to prosecute.</p> <p>10 Crab Hill – it was noted that the insurance company has withdrawn its application to fell the holly tree as it has now been established that the subsidence is due to drainage issues rather than the tree.</p>
d)	Other
	<p>Goan Playing Field – the Chairman indicated that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to Lewisham Council as he had noted that the speculative planning application had been removed from the developer's website.</p> <p>Land behind 150 Farnaby Road - there is extensive fly tipping, a trading business and garages without planning permission. It was noted that Councillor Harmer is chasing Environmental Health for a response.</p>
6	Transport Issues
a)	Member surveys
	Brendan Donegan reported that the traffic survey would be distributed shortly and that the results would provide an evidence base for future decisions.
b)	Ravensbourne Station improvements
	The Chairman presented a picture of the proposed mural, which would be appearing over the next few weeks. The picture has been based on the scenery of BPP.
c)	Parking in Ravensbourne Avenue (unmade section)
	Bill Mitchell indicated that the owner of the road, Phoenix Community Housing, was in legal dispute with Bromley Council over the proposed parking scheme, which was intended to alleviate the inconvenience caused to residents due to increased congestion and frequent obstruction of driveways. He also noted that over £30k has been paid over the last four years by the residents and owner to maintain the road.
d)	Possible changes in Station Road
	Councillor Dykes indicated that the modelling had now been completed and that an update could be provided at the next meeting.
e)	Albemarle Road traffic scheme update
	The Chairman indicated that the revised plans were now on the Society's website.
7	Update from the Councillors
	<p>Bromley Town Centre pedestrianised area – Councillor Dykes indicated that the application for a Greenhouse and HG Wells time machine might be withdrawn and resubmitted.</p> <p>Shortlands Village conservation area – plans are being submitted to the Development Control Committee (DCC) on 20th May.</p>
8	Any Other Business
	<p>Farmers Market – Sunday 4th July on Station Road, Shortlands.</p> <p>Bromley Hill Wood - Beatrice Osborn highlighted features from a 1960's A-Z, including Bromley Hill Wood between Elstree Hill and Madeira Avenue.</p> <p>Face to face meetings – the Chairman indicated that he was looking to resume in-person meetings again and estimated that this was likely to be towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Door to door subscription collections – in response to a question from Monica Wiltshire, the Chairman indicated that it would be possible to resume the collection of subscriptions by the Road Representatives, but he would discuss further with the Treasurer before making a final decision.</p>
9	Next meeting – Thursday 1st July 2021 at 8pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.01pm.