**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 11 October 2018 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) |
| Steve Feltham (Secretary) | Pamela Tames (Treasurer) |
| Jonathan Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Anne Booth (Area 9) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Pamela Roberts (Area 10) |
| Celia Smith (Area 6) | Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Ray Jones |
| Mary Bather (ACER) | Sion Williams (ACER) |

**Apologies received**

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| Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Edwin Trout (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) | James Barr (Area 13) |
| Jean Beck (Area 12) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Siyu Smith (Area 2) | Tim Smith (Area 2) |
| Peter Soul (EASI) | Cllr David Chopping (Wokingham BC) |

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 were accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Silverdale Road/Beech Lane bus services**

The Secretary advised the Committee that complaints had been received that the 7.40am Beech Lane service 19b was arriving so full that it was unable to take more passengers on Mondays to Fridays. This appeared to be due to the number of schoolchildren using it to travel to Kendrick and Reading Boys Schools. Reading Buses were looking to provide a double decker bus for that journey, but this would be contingent on Reading Borough Council agreeing to cut back some of the trees on this route.

In the meantime, Cllr Chopping had been working through Rebecca Brooks at Wokingham Borough Council in an effort to bring forward the 8.03am service on Silverdale Road by 10 minutes. This would enable the schoolchildren to use the 19c service instead and arrive for registration on time. It was expected that the revision to the timetable would be in place on the first school day after half term.

It was remarked that there was a two hour gap between the last of the two rush hour services on the Silverdale Road service and the 9.53am journey. A similar gap in the 19b timetable in the afternoon towards Reading was also noted. The Secretary advised that he would seek to persuade Reading Buses to add two additional journeys when the next review took place, but in the meantime, it was important to recognise that Reading Buses had to position these buses where the demand was greatest.

**Graffiti**

The Secretary advised that no response had been received from Virgin Media in relation to the graffiti that had been daubed on their telecommunications box sited by the Lakeside/Beech Lane cycleway.

**Consultation**

The Chairman reminded members that the closing date for comments on the Minerals and Waste Plan was at 5pm on 12 October.

**Maiden Erlegh library**

The Chairman stated that St Nicolas Church had indicated that they did not oppose the idea of a pop- up library being sited on the premises and accordingly, Cllr Grandison had asked library officers to reach out and inform the church of the requirements. It was hoped that there would be an agreement to restore this facility for Maiden Erlegh residents.

**Lakeside subsidence**

The Secretary confirmed that he had chased the council for a response for a second time and was awaiting a response.

**Tesco**

The Chairman advised that in the absence of a response from Tesco, members should report to the Secretary any violations of the planning conditions by Tesco lorries using Sevenoaks Road and Radnor Road rather than Silverdale Road to gain access and exit the grocery store. The secretary stated that it was important to note the date, time, and if possible the registration number of any Tesco lorries using the incorrect route.

The Secretary also advised that he would be writing a magazine article in conjunction with Peter Soul and Jonathan Brown in relation to litter deposited by school children as well as adults within the Maiden Erlegh area.

**Street lamps and wi-fi**

The Secretary stated that he had not encountered any further problems over the last three weeks regarding the jamming of his burglar alarm, caused by the same wi-fi frequency being used for the street lights. He would confirm with the security company that the problem had also been resolved in respect of all those addresses provided by them to the council. The Secretary remarked that it was gratifying to note that Wokingham Borough Council had taken the matter seriously and had acted promptly to resolve this complaint.

**Parking across driveways**

The Chairman confirmed that the Secretary had written to the Parking Manager at Wokingham Borough Council to establish whether the authority had sufficient powers to take action against motorists who parked across people’s driveways. His response had been that there were no towaway powers in the legislation dealing with powers of enforcement. This appeared to be a suggestion that MERA could take forward to John Redwood MP to assist with this recurring problem. This was agreed.

In the meantime, MERA had been invited to send a representative to the Loddon Primary School area of Silverdale Road to discuss the recent problems with parking with a police officer. The Secretary stated that he would attend the following week.

**Occupation of land**

The Chairman confirmed that the Secretary had provided the link to the petition with the minutes, as promised.

**Mass Rapid Transport system**

The Secretary announced that a major gas pipeline had been found running through the site for the new Park & Ride facility, and so the plans had needed to be revised. An updated proposal was set to be approved at the council’s planning committee on 10 October.

**REPORTS**

The Chairman advised that he did not have any matters to report at this time.

The Treasurer stated that subscriptions were outstanding in only two areas.

Jonathan Brown on behalf of the Editorial Team confirmed that the copy date for the next MERA magazine was 20 October.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**2018 Review of Polling Districts and Places**

The Secretary advised that public views on the 2018 Review of Polling Districts and Places had been requested by 16 November 2018. Any recommended changes were to be completed by April 2020.

Maiden Erlegh School had asked for an alternative venue to be found for the Maiden Erlegh polling stations and therefore alternative sites would be considered. Possible sites were St Nicolas Church (which already accommodated two polling stations), the Silverdale Centre and Aldryngton Primary School.

Full details were available on the Wokingham Borough Council website.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

Two items of correspondence had been received from NORA.

* **Contacts.** Changes to the various remits and duties between NORA’s members were notified. However, MERA’s main contacts remained unchanged.
* **‘A New Deal for Social Housing’.** A Green Paper had been issued seeking views on the Government’s vision for social housing by 6 November 2018. Further details would be circulated with the minutes.

**NEW ITEMS**

*None.*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Community & Youth Sub Committee: 19 September 2018**

The Secretary advised the meeting of the issues he had raised with Earley Town Council’s Community & Youth Sub Committee on 19 September 2018.

* **Proposed ‘pop-up’ library.** Confirmation was received from Cllr Smith that the proposal to establish a pop-up library at St Nicolas Church would be looked at positively, but a decision would need to be taken formally by the Wokingham Borough Council.
* **Bus service.** Earley Town Council was supportive of MERA’s complaint regarding the overcrowding of the rush hour journey on the 7.40 Beech Lane service. The council was also made aware of the unsatisfactory nature of the short buses being used on the 19 services, which elderly and infirm passengers found difficult due to the two steps that had to be negotiated to gain access to the main seating area.
* **Maiden Erlegh orchard.** The Clerk was unable to provide any further information on the likely transfer of land from Wokingham to Earley Town Council, but he did agree that if indeed the field opposite the Pavilion was to be used as a car park, there may well still be room for the orchard to be relocated there. The Secretary reiterated that public consultation had been promised before any decision was made to establish a car park on this land, and that if this was agreed, netting should be fitted to protect the field.
* **Grass verges.** The Clerk promised to look into the status of the grass verge survey that had been undertaken previously.

The Secretary also reported that Jenny Lissaman’s question about whether a rumour that the Silverdale Centre was to close was correct was firmly rejected by Wokingham councillors. The Sub Committee was assured that there was absolutely no truth in this rumour and that the story had no credence whatsoever. The Secretary had subsequently spoken to Cllr Chopping about this rumour, and he confirmed that there were no plans to close the facility. He stated that on the contrary, the firm intention of the council was to invest in the centre.

Mary Bather reported that Cllr Sheena Matthews had been discussing the terms of reference of the Community and Youth Sub Committee with the new Clerk of the Council, Jo Friend. There was some discussion regarding the lack of outside bodies having an input to this meeting and it was suggested that a representative of Maiden Erlegh School would be a welcome addition to the list of participants.

**Earley community orchard**

The Chairman stated that the annual general meeting for the Earley Community Orchard was to be held at 2.15pm on 28 October at the Interpretation Centre, Instow Road. Tea and refreshments would be provided and participants were invited to bring any favourite cakes that they wished have sampled.

**Waste disposal and recycling**

The Secretary reported that Wokingham Borough Council’s Executive Committee had approved the re3 waste strategy on 27 September. As part of the strategy, the council was aiming to obtain an overall 52% recycling rate through the introduction of food waste kerbside collections from 1 April 2019 and by increased recycling of plastics and glass.

**Refuse collection problems**

The Chairman advised that Peter Baveystock had apologised for the incident on 19 September in which the blue bags were removed from recycling crates on collection day, permitting some of the contents of the recycling crates to be scattered by the wind. This appeared to be a one-off incident that would not be repeated.

**Woodley & North Earley Community Forum meeting: 19 September 2018**

Mary Bather provided an update from the Woodley and North Earley Community Forum meeting held on 19 September 2018. It was reported that the Community Speedwatch initiative had now been set up under the leadership of Tim Woolford.

**Cycling without lights**

Rosemary Cook highlighted the problem of cyclists not using lights after dark, which was a dangerous practice.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.03pm.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 8 November 2018 at 8pm.