**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents’ Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 13 February 2020 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, 1 Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) |
| Pamela Tames (Treasurer) | Steve Feltham (Secretary) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Paul Medlycott (Area 12) |
| Pamela Roberts (Area 10) | Siyu Smith (Area 2) |
| Tim Smith (Area 2) | Tim Marsh (ACER) |
| Caroline Smith (Hillside WBC councillor) |  |

**Apologies received**

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| Jonathan Brown (Magazine Editor) | Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Edwin Trout (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) |
| Anne Booth (Area 9) | Judy Clark (Area 5) |
| Celia Smith (Area 6) | Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Mary Bather (ACER) |
| Jennifer Lissaman (ACER) | Sion Williams (ACER) |

**In the Chair: Colin Mair**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Pavement parking**

The Secretary reported that the Traffic Management, Parking & Road Safety Team Manager was not prepared to accede to MERA’s request to place a bollard on the edge of the pathway by the telephone box in The Parade. Martin Heath was of the view that a bollard would restrict pedestrian movement further on this narrow stretch of footpath. The Committee was advised that this was open to question as the proposed bollard would be in line with the nearby railings and the existing bollard, and that pedestrians who wished to cross the road could do so either side of the two bollards. Cllr Smith agreed to discuss the issue with Cllr Maher.

**AGREED:** The Secretary be authorised to respond to the council to express its disappointment with the decision and to convey its concern that this would continue to expose school children to a dangerous situation.

**McColls**

The Chairman advised that the position regarding the former McColls shop in The Parade remained unchanged. It was unlikely that the new shop would be opening before April.

**Report for Earley Town Council**

The Secretary reported that he had given a PowerPoint presentation on MERA’s proposals for bus services in Maiden Erlegh to Earley Town Council at its Bus Working Party on 21 January 2020. The report appeared to be well received and the proposed new routes would be inserted on a map that was being prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk to assist in further discussions. The Working Party also agreed to conduct a survey into the condition of existing bus shelters in Earley in line with the Terms of Reference.

**NORA – Relaxation of planning permissions**

The Secretary confirmed that he would report the response from Sir John Redwood in relation to the concerns expressed by the committee regarding the forthcoming legislation on two-storey extensions to properties when it was received.

**MERA AGM proposed speaker**

The Treasurer confirmed that she had cancelled MERA’s booking of the Day Centre for 14 May 2020, as agreed at the last meeting.

**Underground electricity cable compensation**

The Chairman reported that the website now included advice to residents regarding compensation for underground electricity cabling on residents’ properties.

**Recycling**

The Chairman stated that Wokingham Borough Council was now considering the possible implementation of a glass recycling service. Discussions were currently taking place with Reading and Bracknell Forest councils and re3 to look at the feasibility of providing this proposed new service, which MERA had been asking for over a period of time.

**NORA**

The Chairman confirmed that the information provided by NORA as discussed at the last meeting had been circulated with the minutes, as promised.

**Smallmead waste disposal facility**

The Secretary confirmed that notification of the need for residents to take ID with them when visiting the Smallmead waste disposal facility had been uploaded onto the website.

**Annual community litter pick**

The Chairman confirmed that the annual litter pick in Earley would be taking place on 29 March. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that this would commence from the Interpretation Centre. Further details would be available at the next meeting.

**Application to fell oak tree**

Following the discussion at the last meeting, the committee was advised that the application to fell the oak tree at Measham Way, Lower Earley, had been refused.

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s Report**

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

**Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer reported that all the subscriptions and advertising monies for 2019/20 had been received. It was agreed that Area Representatives would be requested to ensure that subscriptions were collected during the summer period in future to avoid cashflow problems.

**Editorial Team report**

The Newsletter Editor was not present and had advised that there were no specific issues to raise, except to remind members that the last date for the receipt of articles for the next magazine was 20 February.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**Draft local plan**

The Chairman reminded the committee that the draft local plan was now out for consultation. The draft plan covered a range of topics including proposed allocations for housing and other development, climate change, sustainable transport, affordable housing, etc. The Secretary would provide members with links to the document, or alternatively the information was available on the Wokingham Borough Council website. The deadline for responses was 20 March 2020.

There was some discussion about whether a formal response should be submitted by MERA. It was pointed out that Earley could be affected by the proposed development at Grazeley and Tim Marsh was of the view that the situation regarding HMOs were also of concern. Tim Smith commented that Portsmouth had been totally transformed by the number of HMOs that had been established in the area. Rosemary Cook drew attention to the need to protect land through designation as Sites of Urban Landscape Value (SULVs) and that consideration should be given to whether MERA should respond directly to the council on this matter.

The Chairman stated that he would take a further look at the draft local plan and he would bring this forward for further debate at the next meeting.

**Joint Minerals and Waste Plan**

The Chairman advised that local authorities in the Central and Eastern Berkshire area including Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell Forest and Windsor & Maidenhead were working in partnership to produce a Joint Minerals and Waste Plan which would guide decision making in this area. The consultation document was available at [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult). There would be a consultation drop-in event at Swallowfield Village Hall between 5pm and 7pm on 11 March and the closing date was 23 March 2020.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NORA**

The Secretary advised that the latest newsletter from NORA would be circulated with the minutes.

**Complaints from residents**

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that two complaints had been received through the ‘askmera’ email address, one of which had also been raised directly with him. The first complaint related to a grass verge which had been destroyed by a refuse lorry that had driven over it. The council confirmed that the grass verge would be reinstated once it had dried out.

The second complaint related to the 8.07 19b bus on Beech Lane, which had recently turned away passengers at Chelwood Road due to overcrowding on the bus. The Secretary confirmed that he had written to Reading Buses about this, and that he would liaise with Cllr Pauline Jorgensen in an attempt to resolve the matter.

**NEW ITEMS**

**Area representative – Area 13**

It was reported that James Barr, who represented Area 13, had written to advise that he was no longer able to carry out his duties as an Area Representative as he was moving away from the area. The Secretary advised that he had contacted Paul Medlycott (Area 12), who confirmed that he would be prepared to take over this area until the next AGM in May.

Accordingly, it was formally proposed that Paul Medlycott be elected to serve Area 13 in addition to his present area until 14 May 2020. This was seconded by Rosemary Cook. On being put to the vote, Paul Medlycott was duly elected.

**AGREED:** That Paul Medlycott be elected to serve as Area Representative for Area 13 in addition to his existing area until 14 May 2020.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**ACER AGM**

The Committee was advised that the ACER AGM would be held on 25 March 2020 at St Peter’s Church Hall. The guest speaker would be an officer from Wokingham Borough Council, who would speak on the subject of the Local Plan.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

12 March 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.