**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents’ Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 14 April 2022 at Earley Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Peter Woodward (Vice Chairman/Area 1) | Ryan Yao-Smith (Treasurer) |
| Steve Feltham (Secretary) | Paul Medlycott (Area 12) |
| Pamela Roberts (Area 10) | John Saunders (Area 13) |
| Siyu Smith (Area 2) |  |

**In the Chair: Peter Woodward**

**Apologies received**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Jonathan Brown (Magazine Editor) |
| Patricia Brown (Editorial Team) | Anne Booth (Area 9) |
| Judy Clark (Area 5) | Rosemary Cook (Area 11) |
| Celia Smith (Area 6) | Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Tim Marsh (ACER) |

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Water leakage at a Lakeside property**

The Secretary stated that Cllr Norman Jorgensen had provided an update on the situation regarding the water leakage in Lakeside. The meeting was advised that officers believed the water seeping from the driveway onto the adjoining pavement and road was groundwater. One of the Flood Risk staff would be liaising with the owner of the property owner to work out possible solutions, including a connection to the drain, as suggested by MERA last year.

**Bus service improvement plan**

The Secretary advised there had been two positive developments in relation to the Bus Service Improvement Plan. The first was confirmation that Reading Borough Council had agreed to enter Into an Enhanced Partnership arrangement with Wokingham Borough Council, which meant that there should be a good deal of co-operation between the two councils and Reading Buses to deliver improvements on the network.

The second development was that the government had agreed to extend the special temporary funding arrangements that were introduced due to the pandemic until September 2022 to ensure that the lower passenger numbers still being experienced could be accommodated during the spring and summer periods.

**Overflowing bins**

The Secretary reported that The Cleaner and Greener Team had now confirmed that it would take proactive inspections of the bins in Kenton Road and The Parade to ensure that these were emptied by the contractor as scheduled. They would also look at whether any bins in the area were being underused and could be relocated, and whether any bins should be increased in size to meet demand.

The meeting was advised that the inspections would take place over a 4-week period both inside and outside term time, and that any further information residents may have would be appreciated. The Secretary stated that he would liaise with EASI to establish whether they had any further useful information that could be passed on to the Council.

**Beech Lane roundabout on Rushey Way**

The Secretary reminded the committee that it was decided at the previous meeting to raise this issue again with the representative of Area 12 as he was not present at that meeting.

Paul Medlycott was shown the pictures taken of the roundabout, and he explained that some vehicles approaching from the direction of Sindlesham Mill were travelling too fast to enable vehicles from the Asda direction to stop proceeding in time. The Secretary reported Anne Booth’s observation that it was sometimes difficult to work out which direction cars from the Sindlesham Mill direction would take because the right-hand indicators could be out of sight. However, the point was made that the direction signs on the roundabout were just as high, and that the council would be unlikely to take any further action having inspected the site.

The Secretary advised that he would discuss the matter with the Chairman after the meeting.

**Proposed 3G football pitch at Laurel Park/Maiden Erlegh School**

The Secretary reported that he had written to Cllr Pauline Jorgensen regarding the public consultation arrangements as discussed at the last meeting. Cllr Jorgensen had agreed to look again at the arrangements in place and it was hoped that this would lead to a better process if the council decided to proceed with the Maiden Erlegh School alternative.

The Secretary had circulated the proposed grounds for objecting to the Maiden Erlegh School proposal and these were agreed. Accordingly, the Secretary would add the Maiden Erlegh School and Laurel Park letters of objection for discussion at the May 2022 AGM.

**Annual General Meeting**

The Secretary stated that Robert Williams had confirmed that he would attend the MERA AGM on 12 May 2022 and that the auditor had provided her statement of accounts. The Chairman had agreed to provide the wine and soft drinks for the meeting. Siyu Smith agreed to bring some nibbles, disposable plates, cups and cutlery to the AGM. The Secretary reminded the meeting that reimbursement for any expenditure in relation to the provisions made available to the AGM would be made on the submission of a claim to the Treasurer.

The Secretary stated that under the existing constitution, nominations for officers and area representatives should be received in writing by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM. Paul Medlycott confirmed that he would be standing down from his Area Representative role due to health reasons. In the meantime, it appeared that all existing Area Representatives and Officers wished to continue with their roles for the 2022/23 year.

The flyers were distributed to those present and the Secretary stated that he would arrange to distribute the remainder to those not in attendance after the meeting. He requested that all the flyers should be posted through letterboxes by 5 May 2022.

The Secretary asked that as many members as possible arrive at the Church by approximately 7.15pm to assist with the meeting and greeting at the door. All attendees should be guided towards the attendance list and the petition that will be available at the entrance, and advised that refreshments were available.

Confirmation was provided that the three resolutions or rules changes would be voted upon at the AGM. These were the letters of objection in relation to the 3G pitch proposals, the inclusion of The Crescent into MERA’s catchment area, and the online petition calling for a mini-roundabout to be established at the junction of Gypsy Lane and Rushey Way.

**Correspondence with residents: Queen’s Jubilee street parties**

The Secretary confirmed that he had provided guidance in respect of organising street parties to Colin Mair and Siyu Smith, both of whom were looking to organise street parties in their roads (Lakeside and Crawford Close).

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s Report**

The Vice Chairman advised that the Chairman had not submitted a report on this occasion.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer reported that the audits for 2020/21 and 2020/22 had been completed and that his report for the AGM would be submitted to the Secretary within the next few days. The amount due for the hire of the Day Centre for the current year had been paid. MERA’s accounts stood at a healthy £2,350.

**Editorial Report**

The Vice Chairman advised that the Magazine Editor had not submitted a report on this occasion.

**CONSULTATIONS**

The Committee was advised of the current consultations that were currently taking place.

Election Cycle – closing date 15 April 2022.

Serious Violence Survey – closing date 22 April 2022.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence from residents: TV reception**

The Secretary reported that a resident had complained about the loss of reception on some of her BBC channels, but following advice to re-boot her Freeview box and TV, the channels were restored.

**NEW ITEMS**

*(There were no new items).*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Whiteknights Road closure**

The Vice-Chairman informed the committee that Whiteknights Road would be closed between 9.30am and 3.30pm from 19 April to 22 April to allow works to be carried out by T-Mobile. Buses using that road would be diverted via Pepper Lane and Shinfield Road, Elmhurst Road and Alexandra Road.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

12 May 2022 at St Nicolas Church, Sutcliffe Avenue (AGM)

9 June 2022 at Kenton Road Day Centre (next regular meeting).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.56pm.