**Minutes of the Maiden Erlegh Residents’ Association Executive Committee held at 8pm on Thursday 9 September 2021 at Earley Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Present**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | 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) | Elaine Spratling (Area 4) |
| Tim Marsh (ACER) | Ray Jones (resident) |

**In the Chair: Colin Mair**

**Apologies received**

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| Jonathan Brown (Editor) | Patricia Brown (Editorial Team) |
| Edwin Trout (Editorial Team) | Anne Booth (Area 9) |
| Rosemary Cook (Area 11) | Celia Smith (Area 6) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | David Chopping (Luckmore Drive RA) |

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS HELD 12 NOVEMBER 2020 – 10 JUNE 2021**

The minutes of the virtual meetings held between 12 November 2020 – 10 June 2021, having been agreed as a correct record at subsequent meetings, were signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Bulmershe allotments**

The Secretary stated that the Town Clerk had notified him that the council had decided the proposal for the Bulmershe allotments to enter into a shared management agreement of the site was not considered to be a feasible proposition, and it was therefore rejected.

**Water leakage at a Lakeside property**

The Secretary reported that Cllr Norman Jorgensen had referred this issue to the Specialist Drainage Engineer to establish the options available for dealing with the leak that was creating a pool of water in the road, even in dry weather.

**Hedge on Lakeside**

The Chairman advised the meeting that had received responses to the updated questionnaire sent to Lakeside residents who lived opposite the lake, and that over 91% had expressed a preference for the hedge to be cut back to the height approved by the Amenities and Leisure Committee in 2006. Subject to any further responses received from the small number yet to complete the questionnaire, a summary of these results would be sent to the Town Clerk with a request that the matter be considered again in the light of the overwhelming support for the hedge to be cut back. The Secretary stated that dependent on this response, the matter may be referred to Town Councillors as a complaint that a resolution of the committee and a subsequent agreement between residents and the Town Council has not been enforced, and this referral may be accompanied by the issue of a press release.

It was suggested that Brian Hackett may be in possession of the 2006 decision to restrict the height of the hedge.

**Brookside General Practice complaints**

The Secretary advised the committee that a response had been received from the Brookside Practice Manager regarding the complaints by residents about the service provided by Brookside General Practice. He stated that an offer had been made to meet with MERA members to discuss the matters raised. The Committee

**AGREED: That the Chairman and Secretary meet with the Practice Manager to discuss the issues and the way forward in addressing the complaints received.**

**Bus service improvement plan**

The meeting was advised that a virtual meeting had been held with Rebecca Brooks, the Community Transport Manager for Wokingham Borough Council. The possible routeing solutions as reported at the previous Executive Committee were discussed, and a summary of the points made were lodged. Also covered at the meeting were MERA’s concerns about the lack of bus shelters, suitable seating and real time information at bus stops. The unsuitability of the smaller ‘Little Oranges’ vehicles for elderly and disabled people was also raised, although for the time being, these vehicles had been removed from the 19 routes.

Tim Marsh stated that Wokingham Borough Council had yet to consult ACER regarding the BSIP. The Secretary confirmed that he had advised the Community Transport Manager of ACER’s interest in participating in the consultation.

**Deferred items**

The Secretary confirmed that he had written to Martin Heath to follow up the request made at a previous AGM for a mini-roundabout at the junction of Gypsy Lane and Rushey Way.

**REPORTS**

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the current position regarding the proposed planting of trees on grass verges. The Committee was informed that the contact he had been given by Cllr Gregor Murray had not yet responded to his request, and he had now written to the councillor to establish whether the request was being considered.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer advised that subscription monies had been received from five areas to date. The Secretary confirmed that he had collected the outstanding advertisement charges from the previous magazine issue.

**Editorial Report**

The Committee was reminded that the copy date for articles for the Autumn magazine was 20 October 2021.

**CONSULTATIONS**

**Mental health consultation**

The Chairman advised that the Borough Council was carrying out a public consultation to enable them to develop their mental health strategy based on the priorities of the people that lived, studied and worked in the Borough. The closing date for responses was 30 September 2021.

**Statement of Licensing Policy Principles under s349, The Gambling Act**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Borough Council was consulting residents on the council’s approach to applications under the Gambling Act 2005, as reported at the last meeting. The closing date for comments was 29 September 2021.

**Petition: Grass cutting contract**

The Chairman stated that a petition about the deficiencies in the performance of the grass cutting contract with the Tivoli Group had been submitted. The petition was running until 18 October 2021. The meeting was reminded that the grass cutting contract was discussed at the last meeting, and it was noted that the council had already taken up this matter with the contractors.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Red kites**

The Chairman stated that an inquiry had been received by a resident regarding the feeding of red kites. Some residents around Sevenoaks Road were feeding these birds, scattering food onto the Maiden Erlegh School field, which attracted vermin and foxes. The birds were often circling nearby gardens, leaving a considerable amount of mess in gardens and on patio furniture. The resident stated that there was advice online against feeding kites and wondered if residents could be informed that feeding the birds was causing problems.

The Secretary stated that he would ensure that an article on this appeared in the next edition of the MERA Magazine. It was suggested that an ornithological organisation could be contacted to write a brief article on the subject.

**NORA**

The latest correspondence from NORA had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting for information.

**NEW ITEMS**

*(There were no new items).*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Car parking at the rear of Silverdale Road shops**

The Chairman advised that a parking management service had been introduced to the rear of Silverdale Road shops and that only those issued with a parking permit would be permitted to park there from 21 September. Failure to abide by the new restrictions would result in a PCN being issued.

**Beech Lane/Rushey Way junction roundabout**

Paul Medlycott stated that the vegetation on the roundabout at the junction of Beech Lane and Rushey Way was overgrown and obstructed visibility. As such, he was concerned that this was a traffic hazard. The Secretary stated that he would report this to the council.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

14 October 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.