**MERA**

**Notes of an informal meeting of MERA Executive Committee members at 8pm on Thursday 9 June 2022**

**Present**

Steve Feltham (MERA Secretary) (in the Chair), Anne Booth (Area 9), Pamela Roberts (Area 10), John Saunders (Area 13).

**Announcement**

The Secretary explained that the planned Executive Committee meeting was inquorate, and therefore an informal meeting would commence in its place. The meeting would be free to debate the items raised but it would not be possible to make any decisions, although recommendations to the Chairman could be made on any urgent issues.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3), Peter Woodward (Vice-Chairman/Area 1), Ryan Yao Smith (Co-Treasurer), Siyu Smith (Co-Treasurer/Area 2), Jonathan Brown (Editor), Patricia Brown (Editorial Team), Judy Clark (Area 5), Rosemary Cook (Area 11), Chris Haines (Area 12), Elaine Spratling (Area 4), Barbara Stansfield (Area 8), Ray Jones (resident), Tim Marsh (ACER), Tahir Maher (Councillor)

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2022**

There was agreement that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 April 2022 were correct. Confirmation of this and the signing of the minutes by the Chairman would be carried out at the next meeting.

**Water leakage at Lakeside property**

The Secretary reported that the water leakage at a property in Lakeside had now been fixed.

**Bus service improvement plan**

The Secretary reported that Wokingham Borough Council’s bid for government funding for bus services was unsuccessful, as communicated by Robert Williams at the AGM, and that it was not known whether any further funding would be available to improve routes, service frequencies and areas served. He stated that he would write to the Community Transport Manager at Wokingham Borough Council to see if he could find any further information on this. He stated that a review of bus services was due to be carried out in September, and bus companies would be invited to bid to serve unprofitable routes.

**Overflowing bins**

The Secretary reported that he had provided the Cleaner and Greener Team with further information from EASI, as had been requested.

**Beech Lane roundabout on Rushey Way**

The Secretary reported that the Chairman considered this matter and had decided not to proceed with this matter at this stage as it was not considered to be particularly dangerous and there were other more worrying cases within the Borough that had been drawn to the attention of the council but not pursued. However, in view of further information provided by Anne Booth regarding traffic turning right out of Rushey Way into Beech Lane, the matter would be kept under review.

**Proposed 3G football pitch**

The meeting was reminded that the grounds for objection to the proposed 3G football pitch at Maiden Erlegh School were agreed at the AGM on 12 May 2022, but that members were content to take the approach that mitigations would be sought to resolve these issues rather than submitting a formal objection at this stage. Accordingly, the Chairman and Secretary would seek a meeting with the Head Teacher to discuss these matters before the end of term if possible.

The Secretary confirmed that the Laurel Park formal letter of objection was approved.

**Annual General Meeting**

It was agreed that there was a disappointing attendance at MERA’s AGM, probably due to the reluctance of some members to attend public gatherings so soon after the recent pandemic. The Secretary thought the AGM itself was successful apart from that, and the speaker, Robert Williams (CEO, Reading Buses) assisted everyone to understand the position in respect of the bus services in the area.

The proposed resolutions were all passed, and the necessary actions would be addressed by the Secretary. Sufficient signatures had been received to enable an online petition to be added to the Borough Council’s website.

The Secretary expressed his thanks to Siyu Smith for providing an excellent choice of nibbles at the AGM, and to Colin Mair for providing the drinks.

The meeting was reminded that Ryan Yeo-Smith and Siyu Smith were appointed as Co-Treasurers and Chris Haines was elected as representative for Area 12, replacing Paul Medlycott who stood down on this occasion. The Secretary expressed his thanks to Paul for extending his period of time as Area Representative beyond the original expectation due to Covid.

**Queen’s Jubilee street parties**

The Secretary reported that a number of Jubilee parties were held in Maiden Erlegh during the recent bank holiday period. Those organised by MERA members include the Lakeside event that he had attended and there was another at Crawford Close. Photographs taken of both had been sent to Jonathan Brown for inclusion in the next issue of the MERA Magazine.

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman had nothing to report on this occasion, other than to note that a reply was still awaited from the Borough Council in relation to the suggestion that trees be planted on grass verges in Maiden Erlegh.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer had reported that MERA’s main account stood at a total of £1,622.90, with the latest relevant payment made to St Nicolas Church for the venue used for the AGM.

**Editor’s Report**

The Secretary reported that the copy date for the next magazine was 20 June 2022.

**Consultations**

There were no consultations to report on this occasion.

**New correspondence**

NORA had distributed the May edition of the newsletter, which had been forwarded to Committee members by the Secretary.

**New items**

1. **MERA Modernisation Programme**

The Secretary referred to his paper on the MERA Modernisation Programme was distributed and the Secretary asked for views to be provided at the July meeting.

1. **Membership lists**

The Secretary advised that he would be distributing up to date membership lists to all Area Representatives at the next meeting. In the meantime, if there were any changes, these should be notified to the Secretary as soon as possible.

**Any other business**

1. **Parking on Silverdale Road**

It was reported that the level of abuse suffered from motorists parking on Silverdale Road had been reduced, and that the yellow lines and patrols had assisted with this outcome.

1. **Proposed eco-tax on artificial grass**

The Secretary drew attention to a petition for an eco-tax on artificial grass, which would be forwarded to all Executive Committee members, should they wish to sign it. He thanked Anne Booth for the information.

1. **Accident at entrance to Maiden Erlegh School**

Rosemary Cook had reported to the Secretary prior to the meeting that there had been a motor vehicle accident involving a child at the school exit by Maiden Erlegh Shops at The Parade. Earley Town Council Planning Committee had decided to write to the Borough Council requesting a professional independent safety assessment undertaken as this was regarded as a high risk area for children. The Secretary proposed that MERA support the request for such a review take place, particularly as he had raised this with the Highways Authority previously, but they were disinclined to take any action at the time.

1. **Hedge and grass verge removed by householder**

The meeting was informed that a planning violation had been committed in Beech Lane, and the owners of the property had been advised to seek a retrospective planning application, which they have done (planning application 220901).

**Date of next Executive Committee meeting**

14 July 2022

**Meeting closed**

9.02pm