Bowerhill Residents Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2015

At Bowerhill Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present		
Mike Mills	Pauline Helps	Jenny Butcher
Marilyn Mills	Graham Butcher	John Simmons
Rolf Brindle	Mike Sankey	Roy While
Dale Robinson	Liz Harrison	Graham Howe

1. Apologies

John Glover	Barry Dalton	Maggie Ledbury	
		Actio	n
2. Minutes last ordinary Minutes of last meeting w	meeting 14 July 2015 ere accepted as a true record		
3. Matters arisinga) Additional bark for pDR will chase Ed Bodmar		DR	
b) Parking opposite bus This is no longer seen as	-		
RW said he would speak t the Parish Council (PC) co some residents (inc. Simo some residents could do th for local involvement. MM said that the proposed	Ateract water-logging at time o Jonathan Seed tomorrow. H buld take over the upkeep of th n Sparke) had approached him his. RW suggested this could d path round the green is being proval. It will be about £10k at Council.	RW Re suggested that perhaps RW ne green. MM said that and floated the idea that work as the Council is all g costed by the PC so that	r
	or BRAG. n Asda. MM said that Waitros es. All have been contacted b		
-	fill subsidy grants for project 0 - £5000) is available twice a		
project MM has spoken to a direc	se via Sharon Pike to see if t tor of Knorr Bremse and they ring field. MM suggested that sted.	are willing to sponsor 2	
	picnic benches on the green a ers are not so sure because of		

bench at the picnic area. The police were informed of the damage at the picnic area and a policeman had spoken to narrow boat users and established there was a rowdy crowd there about 11.45pm who also left a trail of litter that the narrow boat users cleared up. MS asked if the PC insurance would cover this. MM will check this. GB asked RW about the picnic benches that were at Melksham House. RW will check this.	MM RW
 g) Is there a new improved road surface that can be used to prevent potholes. Nothing is known of this. RW said that the re-surfacing at Bowerhill - on Industrial Estate and outside the school will now take place early 2016. 	
 h) Business contributions towards Security 2000 to provide additional security on the Industrial Estate Security will be discussed at the next business meeting. 	
 i) Level of police activity on Bowerhill This has been raised at the Community Safety Group as Maggie Ledbury has 7,500 acres to cover, but as crime is low there is little hope in the current climate of an improvement. There may be more PCSOs engaged in Wiltshire but there is little likelihood we would get one. JS said there is an issue with many vehicles parked outside a house in Park Road that is leading to obstructions. 	
 j) Overgrown roundabout nr Audi/VW garage This has been dealt with. If there are any other issues with overgrown bushes and trees, residents should report this to the PC who will then refer it to Wilts Council. 	
 4. Correspondence MM has heard about the Neighbourhood Plan that wants volunteers to represent the community on its various steering groups, such as Transport, Housing, Health, Well-being, and Education. RB said he was leading the Transport group and MS was on it. They would like someone from the Ramblers to also be on it, or to just report issues with footpaths in the area. Alan Baines is on Housing, and MS said that someone else should really be on it. If anyone is interested in any of these topics they should contact MM. PH said she had been told about the Air Ambulance consultation for their new headquarters. It was felt that this was a good idea, but there may be a noise problem. Once consultations are finished then an application will be submitted to Wilts Council.	
 5. Working party plans for the next 2 months No specific plans were made, just that litter picking will continue and the picnic area kept up together. Dave has done more strimming and the ditches have been cleared. It was agreed that volunteers attend the picnic area at 10.00am on Tuesdays with rakes, shears and hoes to ready the site for winter. Members were reminded to report issues of fly tipping quickly so Wilts Council knows how big the problem is. RW said that the Council will review the opening	All

times of the recycling centres if necessary. RB wondered if the recycling centre would be enlarged when the surrounding hangers are demolished.	
6. Treasurer's report We currently have a balance of £491.65. A grant of £400 from MWOPC has been received and expenditure includes bird seed, petrol for strimmer, plants, cement and tickets for MM and MM to attend the Dartmouth award ceremony for the South West in Bloom competition next week. Future expected expenses are for more bird seed and rent for the hall. The PC wants to see accounts up to 31 Jan. in future so JB will do this.	
7. Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Without South report RW said that a concern being raised is parking on pavements. He has spoken to Barry Dalton about this and is taking it up with the Transport Dept. at County Hall to see if a bye law can be made.	
Another problem is the number of seagulls around the estate, on the Industrial Estate and at Melksham Oak. RW is monitoring a possible solution being undertaken in Devizes where nests are being removed. Herman Miller and Great Bear are already on top of this, and the removal of the old hangers may also get rid of some nesting areas, but there is still a problem near Christie Miller.	
There is a Community Governance Review on which a decision will be made on 24 November. Consultations will be made before then, and one will be held this Saturday at the opening of the new Pavilion. One issue is - does Bowerhill want to stay separate from Melksham.	
The small green off Hornchurch Road where the electric sub-station is will have planting to deter youths playing there and making a noise. The Electric Company is not interested in any solution. RW said that the Area Board has agreed a grant of $\pounds 2.5k$ for this. There has been an objection but RW will go ahead with the plans.	
 8. MWOPC Report This Saturday there will be the official opening of the Pavilion on the Sports Field at 10.00, then there will be tours until 12.00. There will be a consultation event about Bowerhill during this time. Other plans to be discussed in the Community Governance Review is the change of Boundary between Bowerhill and Seend - to move it to the centre of the canal. Also, should the Melksham Without PC merge with the Melksham Town Council. (The Melksham Without area consists of 1/3 the total population of 23k and the Town area 2/3, so the villages may feel they have a lesser say.) RB said he has seen the paperwork about the Community Governance Review and it will be on the Wilts website later so people can have their say. It may also be mentioned in The Villager and the Melksham Independent. 	
9. Police Report As no police were able to attend PH read out Barry's report. A report of common assault following a wedding party at the Pilot had been resolved; a resident reported a couple arguing violently but they ran away when chased, and nothing further was reported; a bench at the picnic area was broken; a 16 year old was arrested for a burglary reported last month and patrols have been made of the	

wooded area at Hornchurch but no offences identified.	
MM said there was still an issue at the wooded area at Hornchurch and it was suggested that BRAG clear up the litter. MM said we wouldn't as it may be dangerous. MM has met up with Chris Clark from Wilts Council and Tracey Geiran from the Payback team. The council will cut down dead trees and clear the area then the Payback team will remove litter and finish the job. A further meeting about this will be held in October	ММ
10. Other issues A dropped kerb is scheduled to be done by the cut through to the Industrial Estate between Superior and Dance Direct.	
Now that Balfour Beatty have ceased the contract by mutual consent with Wilts Council, another company is doing the work for the rest of this year until the work is tendered again.	
JS asked about the future of the old Sandridge school and was told it was to be demolished for housing to be put on the site.	
11. Date for next meeting The next meeting will be on 10 November 2015	

Dates for your diary

Saturday 19 September 2015 at 10.00am - Opening ceremony for the new Pavilion at the Sports Field, followed by consultation.

Tuesday 10 November 2015 – Next meeting at 7.30 in the Village Hall