

WARREN AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

- Minutes of the virtual Committee meeting held via Zoom videoconference
- Date: Tuesday 13th April 2021 commencing 19.30hrs
- Present: Elisa Miles (Chair), Hayley Brommell (Treasurer), Martin Brommell (Secretary), Pam Reynolds, Alistair McLean, Bob O'Neill, Jane Bickerstaffe,
- Apologies: John Heaps, Jan David

1247. Minutes of Last Meeting:

There was one correction to the minutes of the last meeting, held 09/03/2021, which incorrectly recorded the Pumping Station planning application 200718 as being permitted, whereas in fact it had been refused. The minutes have been amended to reflect this change and were signed off by the committee as an accurate record of the meeting. Copy sent to Kevin Miles 14/4/21 to store on the WADRA website.

Action: Closed

1248. Treasurers Report of WADRA Accounts –

		IN	OUT	Details
Savings & Current Fundraising	£29,765.15	£ 20.00		Interest
WADRA current	£728.37	£ 5.00	£ 165.37	1 x new member @£5 Hygiene training [M Howes & Elisa] 2 x £24, Printer paper £2.85, 22 x stamps £17.37 Sue Ryder donation £100
Petty Cash	£62.00			
Grand total	£30,555.52	£ 25.00	£ 165.37	

1249. Phil Darlow

The Committee discussed the recent passing of Philip Darlow, a longstanding WADRA member and long serving committee member, who died after a period of illness. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family. WADRA will be doing an obituary/memorial for Phil in our Newsletter, and on the website, and we have made a £100 donation to Sue Ryder Foundation as per Phil's wishes. Phil's daughter, Jenny, has some recordings of Phil talking about the history of the area as well as the tea set that was commissioned for the Queen Mother's visit. The committee voted to put the recording/transcripts on the website along with pictures of the china.

Action: Elisa to arrange recording/transcript to go on website

1250. Mailchimp and Members lists

There are 210 email addresses on MailChimp. There were 49 questionable member entries (hand deliveries, bouncing on email, unsubscribed). Elisa wrote a letter to all members who were unaccountable via telephone (22) to understand if they were still living at the addresses we had. Results were unsubscribed 3, no reply yet (deadline 15 April) from 9 (Horton, Willcocks, Bucquet, Hathaway, Letchford Smith, Lamden, Rogers, Aitkin/Rogers). Moved or deceased 14. Contact details re-established 17. Hand deliver to 6. Elisa has updated the MailChimp database and Hayley has updated the official Members list.

Action: Closed

1251. New Members

We need to run a drive to get more members. We are currently running at about 200 households. There are approx 600 in the area. WADRA would benefit from more influence with increased membership. Suggestion is to do a member's drive via the Thursday afternoons and also via other members eg. Getting members to ask their neighbours etc. or by leafleting to homes we know are not members.

Action: All committee to drive for new members

1252. Newsletter

Q1 WADRA Newsletter to go out by end of April'21 after we have the information on Phil Darlow. Elisa to draft newsletter and then circulate for committee member approval.

Action: Elisa to circulate draft to committee for comments

1253. Secretary Position

Martin has requested that he is replaced as secretary, before June 2021. This is to allow him to concentrate specifically on the growing commitments relating to MPF, MPFMC and the Safer Neighbourhood Forum. Chair is continuing the search for someone to take on this role.

Action: Elisa ongoing

1254. Website

Elisa to consider a section of the website to reflect on past committee members who are no longer with us such as Mike Eggleton, Robin Bentham, Philip Darlow.

Action: Elisa ongoing

1255. Reading Festival

The Festival is pending this year subject to the Covid situation. Elisa has been contacted by Robert Smalley, Robert.Smalley@reading.gov.uk (via Jacque Tomson of CADRA). He is the enforcement officer for the Licensing Department at RBC. He wanted to confirm who to contact at WADRA concerning the Reading Festival. I have emailed him. His reply has been copied to the Committee. This is an information sharing relationship between Residents Associations and RBC Licensing - on a range of topics, noise, litter, parking, road closures, lighting, pollution. WADRA may want to add something about criminal activity along the River and how will that be handled this year. Site visits happen at the start of August'21 and then closer to the time of the Festival. In December, WADRA will attend a de-brief meeting with other RA's to discuss what went well and what didn't. We will need to find someone with a boat to help with the promenade light adjustment. Elisa did this with Robin last time and knows how it works. Someone with a boat is needed. Bob O'Neill has volunteered.

We will also need to organise/ manage the distribution of passes for the Warren as it is closed during the Festival. Elisa has been in touch with Noel Painting (the new Nicky - although he has been there for a couple of decades). We are set to engage on leafletting (Elisa already has two people to do this), connection to the sustainability manager/Green Messenger for tickets for work scheme and the reclaiming/recycling after the festival.

Action: Elisa & Bob

1256. Mapledurham Playing Field

Elisa contacted Ben Stanesby to ask if there could be parking deterrents on the corner of Hewett Ave adjacent to Footpath 43. Ben has forwarded Elisa's email to Simon Beasley and Andy Gillespie. Isobel was also copied into this email. This request will be put on the list of things we have asked Isobel to deal with. Many emails have been written by WADRA Committee Members and residents to RBC officers, John Hempton (Kier), Isobel Ballsdon, friendly exchanges with residents and CTFC. The following list covers the issues:

- Dangerous and inconsiderate parking on all roads near to MPF

- Inconsiderate behaviour by Kier employees, vendors, and contractors
- Garbage and dog fouling
- Parking restrictions
- Anti-social behaviour

WADRA are working with CTFC on a “Keep MPF Clean” campaign

Action: Martin to pursue actions with Cllr Ballsdon & CTFC

1257. Proposal to name pavilion

Little movement on this initiative. Elisa has emailed Ben Stanesby several times. Ben’s latest reply said “The suggested way forward was for a form of consultation to illicit suggestions for suggested names and a consultation to guide the naming process”. Ben is not sure that a petition covers the proposal to ask for suggestions. The worry Ben has is that if a decision is made that is not to name the pavilion after Robin or A N Other, the impact of this is likely to be the opposite of what we are all trying to achieve. Ben finds it difficult to predict how a consultation will unfold and has offered to chat this through. He is genuinely trying to work out how to identify a way forward without inadvertently causing negativity.” Ben has not responded to further requests to speak. David Stevens, current Mayor of Reading and Caversham Councillor, contacted Elisa recently to ask if there was anything he could help with. Elisa suggested that he may be able to get things moving for the naming of the Pavilion. He contacted Ben, but Ben has still not replied. The most up to date information is that Ben needs to write to all of the MPFMC member to ask for their opinions and suggestions on who the Pavilion should be named after. This feedback will then be provided to Deb Edwards as chair of the Trustee sub-committee for approval. In light of this ‘process’ that has taken over 3 months to figure out, Elisa believes we should begin to lobby the other members of the MPFMC now to ensure that we get enough support to the naming for Robin.

- **Action: Elisa/Martin to lobby MPFMC members**

1258. MPF Kitchen

Still can’t get into the kitchen because there is no access to the Pavilion due to the work on the car park and Covid restrictions. Elisa has agreed to re-engage on the 28th with Luke to organise when needed kitchen equipment can be delivered but can’t do anything without access to building. Some of the items that are not suitable will be given away. Elisa will take care of this.

- CTFC will be providing £1000 towards the cost of equipment
- Trish Goble is going to provide tables for the centre of the kitchen to prep food on and equipment like saucepans, bins, buckets, utensils and baking trays etc.
- Stewart and Gitta Bartlett have donated some equipment and installation costing about £3000
- MLTC will not be donating any money towards the kitchen.

Action: Elisa co-ordinating with other groups

1259. Community Hub - Thursday Afternoons

We have provided all of the information for getting a Hygiene 2 Certificate (Three are confirmed. E Miles, M Howes, S Hubbard). Elisa is liaising with RBC and it appears we may not need to register as a food business which makes things easier. We will be looking to sell hot and cold drinks, and low risk food that can be kept at room temperature, such as cakes, biscuits, crisps etc. We will look into selling packaged ice creams in the summer. Operations are targeted to start at the end of May subject to Covid restrictions. Kate Angwin has put forward some good ideas for activities that will get people into the pavilion. When we have confirmed dates, we will begin to plan and advertise. WADRA will need to purchase insurance for the next year to run events.

Action: Elisa to check with Luke Lloyd level of public liability insurance

1260. Storage and Deed of Dedication

Both Elisa and Daniel Mander have been chasing this but no reply from Andy Lockwood who is responsible for doing the drawings for the storage compound. Elisa will send another email to Andy today. WADRA will be purchasing (likely) an 8' x 10' container that will be weather proof that will live inside the storage compound. Ben Stanesby to send copy of Deed of Dedication as it is now, so we can review the clause about 5% dedication.

- Question - Can we get something into the d of d that says that we can just apply to RBC for planning permission and get the D of D signed off first? Alistair to contact David Sharman, Fields In Trust, about need to go through planning application process first.

Action: Alistair with FIT

1261. Chazey Wood – Airsoft

Elisa has been in contact with local people, including Paul Brianboys (Richmond Road), Andrew Morris (Sonning common previously Caversham) and Aiden Costello, concerning the new Airsoft business at Chazey Wood and its implications. There are a number of issues with the new business:

- Safety of the public – walkers, cyclists, horses and riders
- Enforcement of the Planning application
- Establishment of foot paths

WADRA's level of involvement to date is just to collect information on Mr Woolley and his business. He is misrepresenting his business to Oxon Planning and Environment. He states that his site is 150 acres, but only has planning permission for approximately 71. He states that the guns only shoot projectiles up to 30 metres, but people who played there this past weekend have told Elisa they used guns that go 100m. All guns were chrono'ed - which means they check the power of the gun, but they were still allowed to use them. Mr. Woolley appears to have a very bad reputation with some AirSoft players according to bulletins boards and comments. He is putting up barriers appropriately 60 to 300 metres from the public spaces. These are tall tennis net type barriers. There is not planning permission for any structures except for storage on site. The Paint Ball people illegally built structures but since they have been there over 4 years there is no recourse. Mr Woolley is planning on an additional building and will be applying for planning permission. Signs indicate CCTV and explosives. These are fake grenades that are used in the Airsoft Games but are dangerous to anyone who may pick up one that is unexploded. What is unclear is whether his 120 days a year he is allowed to run AirSoft will be pro-rata - i.e., only 10 days per month or he will be able to run all 120 days in 9 months. It is also unclear as to whether his intention to run sessions for police and cadaver dogs in the woods is covered by the current planning permission. Rights of Way - there are other residents that are keen to work on this and as this is outside of our catchment it was agreed we should leave it to other interested parties and just support where we can.

Action: None – information only

1262. MLTC Parking in Hewett Avenue

Unlike CTFC, Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club have not set any guidelines to ask their members to park along the MPF grass verge side of Hewett Avenue only. Elisa has offered to write to Phil deSausmarez to ask that he takes a similar course of action.

Action: Elisa to write to Phil Sausmarez

1263. Planning Applications

		WADRA	Current Planning Applications	18/01/2021		
Key: O. Objected: C. Commented: N/A: No action: P. Permitted, R: Refused, W:Withdrawn						
		CD:Conditions Discharged	Con: Start of Consultation Period			
		C: Committee Decision	D: Delegated Decision			
Number	Property	Road	Description	C/D	Dated	Result
2020						
192055	167	Upr Woodcote Road	2- storeyside, rear roof Ext'n	D	08-Jan	P:28/06
200033	19	Westdene Drive	Cert. of Lawfulness	D	09-Jan	P; 4/3
200334	192a	Upr Woodcote Road	Single Storey Side Ext'n	D	02-Mar	P: 17/07
200047	3	Hewett Ave	Cert of Law/ness,Hip Gable Roof Ext'n	D	13-Jan	P:28/09
200057	Aynsley Ho	Upr Warren Ave	Form Integral Granny Annex	D	24-Jan	P;02/07
200102	8	Kelmscott Cl	Demolition/ Replace with new	D	06-Feb	Withdrawn
200117	Spinney	Upr Warren Ave	New Window on east Elev	D	06-Jun	P: 31/03
200166	8	Hewett Close	New Window on East Elevation	D	03-Feb	P; 9/06
200302	7	Woodford Close	Front Balcony infill Ext'n	D	24-Apr	P; 24/4
200613	10	Ridge Hall Close	New Pitched Roof to Garage	D	28-Apr	P: 22/06
200736	2	Hewett Ave	Ext'n loft & Garage conv , new garage	C/D	31-May	P:23/11
200876	9	Hewett Ave	Proposed Large Shed	D	27-Jul	P: 21/09
201284	93	Woodcote Road	Front and Side Extensions	D	21-Sep	P: 13/11
201026	7	Hewett Avenue	Garage Conv, Front & Rear Ext'ns	C	03-Aug	P:14/09
201074		MPF	Drainage Prop: Deep Borehole Disch	D	18-Aug	P:09/11
200718	Pump Stn	Chazey Road	Demolition/ Replace with new House	C	03-Aug	R/01/02/21
201131	3	St Peters Ave	Timber Building : Use as a Gym	D	24-Aug	P: 18/01
201151	21	Chazey Road	Annex to main dwelling for parents	C	08-Sep	Withdrawn
201233	5	Grass Hill	2NO, 3Bed Flats with Garages	C	21-Sep	
201331	High Ridge	Upper Warren Rd	Replacement Dwelling	C	12-Sep	P :15/02/21
201387	54	Chazey Rd	Single side Storey Ext'n	C	12-Oct	P: 23/03/21
201472	MPF	Tennis Club	Extension to Floodlighting Hours- 8-10pm	D	09-Nov	R; 15/02/21
201521	1	River Road	Single Storey Rear Ext'n	D	09-Nov	P:11/01
201714	27a	Hewett Ave	Conv. of Bungalow to 2 Floors	C	14-Dec	
201751	1	Westdene Drive	Single StoreyRear & Side Ext'n	D	21-Dec	P: 24/03/21
201763	31	Chazey Road	Loft Ext'n- 4 Roof Windows	D	21-Dec	P: 15/02/21
2021						
201876	Blewgarth	The Warren	Demolition & replacement of Boathouse	C	18-Jan	
210142	6	Mapledene	Single Storey Side Extension	D	08-Feb	P: 12/04/21
210213		MPF: Heights School	Increase working hours on Saturdays to 4pm	D	28-Jan	P: 11/03/21
210286	132	St Peters Ave	Amendment to existing application	C		P: 23/03/21
210335	141	Upper Woodcote Road	2 storey side and rear ext'n	D	15/03/2021	
210391	21	Chazey Road	Side and Rear Extension (re submission)	D	23/03/2021	
210389		Mapledurham Playing Fields	Changes to Const'n of Access Road	D	29/03/2021	
210467	112	St Peters Ave	Flat and Pitched Roof Extension	D	12/04/2021	

(NB: No action to be taken on planning applications unless a resident/member requests our assistance on one of the current proposals.)

Discussions took place regarding changes made by Kier to planning application 210389 which WADRA and various committee members and residents objected to. It would appear that the local authority have given consent despite the work missing two agreed target dates of 2nd April and subsequently 9th April. Alistair to pursue this with RBC to establish what penalties Kier will incur and why the work cannot be put back to the original schedule of completion in time for a school opening in September'21 instead of the rush to open on 8th June'21.

Action: Alistair to chase RBC planning

1264. Fundraising

A package of events and bookings have been presented to Luke Lloyd, RBC Parks & Leisure, by the chair but are subject to Covid restrictions. These include :

- Movie Night end July/early Aug
- Joint CTFC Awards Ceremony & WADRA Pavilion opening/Camping Gear Sale 4th/5th Sep,
- WADRA AGM 19th Oct'21 from 6.00pm
- Christmas Fayre 18th Dec
- Weekly MPF Community Hubs every Thursday 12.00-17.00hrs.

The Community Hubs will be supported by Ways & Means and will require eight volunteers to support the afternoons.

Action: Elisa ongoing

1265. Local Elections

Elisa asked committee members to provide suggestions regarding the minimum standards WADRA would expect to see in a suitable candidate. John advised that it was unlikely there would be any change to elected members during the May'21 Local Election but that we should have our standards in place and communicated prior to the boundary change elections due 2022.

Action: All committee ongoing

1266. Hewett Avenue Verge Scheme & Tree Planting:

Baby trees and shrubs were planted surrounded with fabric matting and wood chips weekend of 6th March. These will hopefully prevent the council grass cutters from mowing them down and help to discourage turning the area into a school carpark. More trees were planted week commencing weekend 13th March. Trish Marcouse has permission from Carolyn Jenkins at RBC to plant wildflowers on the land opposite footpath 43. She needs someone to fund buying plants.

Action: (Jane) ongoing

1267. WADRA Operational Review

The committee discussed the need for an Operational review of best practices. It was agreed that this would be done during an extraordinary meeting to be held late June'21.

Action: 29th June'21 all committee required

1268. The Heights & School Streets

Martin has spoken to both councilor Isobel Ballsdon and MP Reading East, Matt Rodda, about trying to get these initiated in roads surrounding MPF for safety reasons. Jane attended a climate change meeting chaired by councilor Paul Gittings of RBC, who is a keen advocate of School Streets. Jane will contact Paul to establish his support for this area.

Action: Jane to contact Cllr Paul Gittings

1269. North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum

Martin sent a summary report prior to the committee meeting of the NRSNF meeting held 25th Mar'21. The next NRSNF is scheduled for 20th May'21. Committee members to feed any concerns, including those raised by local residents, relating to crime, ASB's, begging etc to Martin prior to 20th May.

Action: Martin/committee ongoing

1270. Environmental Concerns in Hewett Avenue

Martin has a follow up call with Matt Rodda on 23rd April to establish whether Matt has been successful in getting air quality monitors and traffic census equipment installed prior to the Heights school going live.

Action: Martin follow-up with Matt Rodda

1271. Chazey Barn

Bob O'Neill has offered to take over responsibility, previously sat with Phil Darlow, for keeping an eye on developments at Chazey Barn and taking follow up action as necessary. Bob has also volunteered to investigate the recent fire at Isomer Boat House in the Warren due to its listed status.

Action: Bob O'Neill

1272. Street Signs

Martin proposed WADRA purchasing laminated signs on wooden stakes which could be erected along the verges of Hewett Avenue to deter parents, teachers and visitors to MPF from parking on the verges. 3 Signs proposed to include "Mums For Lungs – Do Not Drive", "Justice For Ella – Do Not Drive", "Walk To School – Don't Drive" and "Show You Care – Park Elsewhere". These to be knocked into the ground on 7th June'21 in readiness for school opening.

Action: Committee to agree principal/costs

1273. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:00hrs.

Future meeting dates for your diary:

To be held at Larksmead, Upper Warren Avenue, RG4 7EB commencing 19.30hrs (Zoom if Covid19 restrictions continue)

- Tuesday 1st June 2021 – committee meeting commencing 19.30hrs
- Tuesday 29th June 2021 – WADRA Operational Review 19.30hrs