

WARREN & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date : 15th January 2025

Start: 19.30 hrs

Venue : Larks Mead

Present: Elisa Miles EM (Chair), Sally Hart SH (Secretary), Stephen Bale SB, Hayley Brommell HB (Treasurer), John Heaps JH, Alistair McLean AM, Bob O'Neill RON, Pam Reynolds PR.

Apologies, Barbara Garden BG,

1552 Matters arising from the last meeting not elsewhere on agenda-

1553 Logo – no further action since last meeting.

1554 Archive RON produced two discs of archived material for EM and SH to scrutinise. He observed that this digitised the papers of Robim Bentham. It was up to EM and others to ensure that their records were in order and retrievable in digital form. It was noted that newsletters since 2022 were not on the website. RON was thanked for his considerable work. Action EM and SH to check accessibility of digitised records.

1555 The end of year newsletter had been circulated by Mailchimp. EM would check whether BG and others were now on the circulation list. SH to hand deliver to the few members without email.

1556 AGM 2025 has been booked for Oct 8th. Action PR would approach a possible speaker on the present and future use of drones in the area.

1556 Formation of WhatsApp group. WADRA walkers WhatsApp group changed to WADRA committee. BG was piloting a members WhatsApp group. Action EM to invite members to opt in.

1557 Quiz night Feb 13th. In BG's absence members discussed costs and possible team and social tables. It was suggested that the various user groups of the pavilion and playing fields would be invited to recruit teams. Social media would also be used. Subject to BG's agreement HB offered to help with the preparation but she would not be present on the night. SB also made himself available to help. IF BG needed a quiz compere, suggestions were discussed.

1557 Treasurer's report Agreed that HB should explore the possibility of placing up to £15K into an interest bearing account.

19th November - 15th January							
	Balance	IN	OUT	Details IN =		Details OUT =	
Savings Account	£18,233.86	£31.73		Interest -Sept -Nov			
WADRA current	£1,513.34	£364.06	£423.53	Café	£364.06	Café cakes	£180.40
						Pavilion hire	£155.65
Petty Cash	£45.00					Accounts Audit	£14.75
HB =	£22.24					Web Services	£72.73
Grand total	£19,792.20	£395.79	£423.53		£364.06		£423.53

1558 Planning Report

AM tabled his summary (below). In addition to those in the table an application had been lodged for a major extension to Lamorna Upper Warren Avenue. The application by The Heights School to expand the school roll had been refused by the Reading Borough Council Planning Committee against officer advice. Committee members had stressed the need to protect the primary schools in the area which currently had vacancies. AM had commented on the Reading Local Plan on behalf of WADRA.

1559 Two further consultations had recently emerged re the Town Centre and re charging for car parking based on vehicle emissions. **Action** EM to alert members.

1560 Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

Financial management of the Trust

1561 Members expressed continuing concern that it was not possible to identify the Charitable Trust monies and expenditure in the Reading Borough Council accounts. A WADRA member had drafted a series of questions for RBC in order to clarify the matter. If the reply was unhelpful he would approach the Charity Commissioners. EM reported that the Council's legal representative had told her that the Trust was not her concern. She observed that all WADRA members are beneficiaries of the Trust and very much concerned with its protection. The Council needed to demonstrate that it had not breached its charitable duty to the Trust by imposing conditions it applied to Council funds. For example, why should Trust funds be subject to using preferred suppliers with service agreements if small jobs could be undertaken at a lower cost. Mapledurham parish should also be concerned about its investment. **Action** Mark Corbett

1562 Deed of Dedication Two members were pursuing the matter of a deed of dedication with the council. The Local MP, Matt Rodda, had expressed an interest in preserving green space in the summer but had ignored subsequent approaches to support this position. If necessary, these issues would be raised with the Charity Commission. **Action** John Holland

1563 Management committee future. In the absence of RBC interest the management committee work was being conducted by EM on a case by case basis. Members stressed the need to demonstrate that the failure to conduct business via the committee was not through lack of trying and all users should be kept aware.

1564 Liaison with school- parking, lights, acoustics, use of pitches etc. It had emerged that the Borough had not checked that the light installation met the agreed plans. Subsequently four rather than six lights had been installed resulting in a wider spill of each. Members felt that the cost of putting this right should fall to the Department of Education. An acoustic wall had been mentioned in the proposal to expand the school so it was felt that this was an admission of need going forward. **Action** EM and other members of the management committee.

1565 Anti-Social Behaviour and neighbourhood safety

Traffic management meeting with Cllr McGrother. The planned meeting with Cllr McGrother did not take place as she was injured. EM agreed to write expressing concerns about the blocked line of sight by the phone mast near Regency Heights, the lack of a downward nightlight to show pedestrians waiting to cross the zebra crossing near the playing fields, the need to restrict parking at the junction of St Peters Avenue and Chazey Road, identification of private roads, and speeds in Blagrove Lane.

1566 Future of observation walks. JH agreed to select dates for observation walks in 2025

1567 North Reading Report. Members expressed disappointment about the decline of the North Reading Safety Forum.

1568 Community leaders meeting PR would be attending but felt that little had been achieved at the first one.

Dates of further meetings in 2025

March 12th, May 21st, September 3rd, October 8th (AGM), November 12th.

240705	Warren Creek	The Warren	Extension to existing House	D	11/06/2024	Refused: 30/07/2024
240653	12	Ridge Hall Close	Removal of large Ash Tree	D	17/06/2024	P: 17/06/2024
240808	28	Chazey Road	Proposed Front Porch	D	01/07/2024	P: 19/08/2024
240489	7	Maple Dene	Part Garage Conv & Side Ext,n	D	24/06/2024	P: 06/08/2024
240766	Tonilla	Magnolia House UWA	Large 3 storey Extension	D	01/07/2024	P: 02/12/2024
240839	6	Kelmscott Close	Garage Conv. And first floor Ext'n	D	08/07/2024	P; 02/09/2024
240824	The Shanty	The Warren	Extensions to existing buildings	D	15/07/2024	Refused: 07/11/2024
241108	Warren Creek	The Warren	Approval of Conditions	D	26/08/2024	Withdrawn: 30/09/2024
241276	197	Upper Woodcote Road	Garage conversion & infill below rear balcony	D	07/10/2024	P: 25/11/2024
241328	130	St Peters Ave	Single storey ext'n on ground floor Change to external materials & siting of	D	14/10/2024	P: 02/12/2024
241360	5	Grass Hill	houses	D	21/10/2024	P:25/11/2024
241281	Springwood	The Warren	2 Storey Rear Ext.n & 1st Floor Balcony etc	D	04/11/2024	
241448	4	Scholars Close	Front, Side & Rear Ext'ns & solar panels	D	04/11/2024	
241461	Warren Creek	The Warren	Single storey ground floor Ext'n & new dormer	D	04/11/2024	P: 20/11/2024
241586	96	St . Peters Avenue	Single storey ext'n and Dormer window	D	02/12/2024	
241646	Magnolia House Heights	Upper Warren Avenue	Approval of details to Condition 3 pf P P	D	07/12/2024	P: 07/12/2024
231023	School	Upper Woodcote Road	Increase class sizes up to max of 420	C	16/12/2024	Refused: 16/12/2024