

# WARREN & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

**Date :** 28 May 2025 **Start:** 19.30 hrs

**Venue :** Larks Mead

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

**Apologies:** John Heaps JH ( due to late change of date)

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**1585 Matters arising from the last meeting not elsewhere on agenda-**

**1586 Logo** – no further action since last meeting.

**1587 Quiz night** This would be considered as one of events planned for autumn/ winter. A special committee meeting to plan social events will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. **Action All**

**1588 WhatsApp group.** The information flow should be one way as a means of alerting people to current issues rather than as a discussion group. **Action** BG to explore whether it is possible to have more than one coordinator. Members will be invited to sign up. BG reported some non-recipients re the Mailchimp list. **Action** BG and EM re Mailchimp.

**1589 PR policy .** It was felt that WADRA needed to project a positive approach to involving members and to problem solving. It was noted that Nick Haskins had assumed the Chair of CADRA and he would be involved in discussions where appropriate, such as the A4074 crossing and for concern about “planning creep”. EM will put together a draft newsletter when she is back from hospital and having down time. A newsletter to include – importance of walkabouts, bike week, WhatsApp group, planting and need for volunteers for Friends of Mapledurham, Planning appeal by Heights school, Festival, campaign for improved A4074 crossing, café closure. AGM **Action EM, SH**  
EM is exploring with SB if he is able to take on management of Reading festival salvaging on the Monday and Tuesday.

**1590 Speaker for AGM** SH reported that Stephen, Communications Director of Altitude Angels had agreed to speak provisionally. She had asked for some pre publicity information.

**1591 Treasurer's report** HB tabled this report. She noted the figures reflected the staggered receipt of invoices from RBC.

| 13th March - 27th May |            |         |         |                             |         |                  |         |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
|                       | Balance    | IN      | OUT     | Details IN =                |         | Details OUT =    |         |
| Savings Account       | £18,294.97 | £44.93  |         | Interest - March to May '25 |         |                  |         |
| WADRA current         | £1,362.81  | £239.89 | £390.15 | Café                        | £239.89 | Café cakes       | £43.00  |
|                       |            |         |         |                             |         | Pavilion Hire    | £297.15 |
| Petty Cash            | £45.00     |         |         |                             |         | Heights School * | £50.00  |
| HB =                  | £22.24     |         |         |                             |         |                  |         |
| Grand total           | £19,702.78 | £284.82 | £390.15 |                             | £239.89 |                  | £390.15 |

\* Walk to school initiative

### **1592 Planning Report**

AM tabled his summary

| 2025   |                    |                     |   |   | 2025       |               |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------|---|---|------------|---------------|
| 241705 | Lomorna            | Upper Warren Avenue | Pt Gnd Floor Pt 1st Floor Ext'n & new garage  | D | 20/01/2025 | P: 14/02/2025 |
| 241701 | Cherry Croft       | Upper Warren Avenue | 2 Storey Front,side & rear Ext'ns .           | D | 03/02/2025 |               |
| 250132 | 74                 | St Peters Avenue    | Change to 1st Floor Dormer & new window       | D | 03/02/2025 |               |
| 241525 | 25                 | Chazey Road         | Erection of Outbuilding                       | D | 07/02/2025 | P; 31/01/2025 |
| 250574 | 1 Gravel Hill Cot. | Blagrave Lane       | 2 storey /single storey rear & side Ext'ns    | C | 21/04/2025 |               |
| 250340 | Kalewa             | The Warren          | Raising floor & roof height to existing house | D | 28/04/2025 |               |
| 250681 | 163                | Upper Woodcote Road | Front Porch & New Pitched Roof                | C | 12/05/2025 |               |
| 250244 | 7                  | Kelmscott Close     | 2 storey rear ext.n 1st Floor side ext'n      | C |            | P: 09/05/2025 |
| 250499 | 6                  | Kelmscott Close     | Non Material Amendment to permission 24083    | D |            | P: 09/05/2025 |
| 250521 | 4                  | Scholars Close      | Discharge of Conditions for permission :2414  | D |            | P: 09/05/2025 |
|        |                    |                     |   |   |            |               |

There had been no objections lodged so far to the six applications since the last meeting. However, the Heights School had lodged an appeal against RBC's decision to refuse their application to increase the school capacity to 420 pupils. The planning inspector would consider all previous representations and any further comment or amendments which residents may wish to submit by June 25<sup>th</sup>. AM would draft a response to which all should comment asap. RBC planning committee had felt that there was no need for more school places and the schools with spare places could be in unviable if they lost further pupils. The school asserts that it offers outstanding education and that there is a shortage of primary places in the north of Caversham and a surplus in the south. They cite financial need and imply that the level of education could be maintained without increasing resources.

**1593 Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion Management Committee** The question of an improved crossing over the A4074 near the entrance to Mapledurham Pavilion and Playing Fields would be pursued through discussions with local councillors on 6<sup>th</sup> June. A separate meeting would be held with the school.

**1594 Planting near the school.** BG reported that Friends of Mapledurham was part of Econet and could draw on their resources to plant two trees and a low level hedge between the school and the pavilion. The low hedge could be tended by the school eco club and it was hoped the trees would provide dappled shade. Less maintenance would be required than for a hedge. The sand near the pavilion needed to be removed.

AM noted that the wall existed because the levels had been miscalculated so there should be a duty on the developers to fund the improvements. **Action** EM to propose that BG joins the MPFPMC as a Friends of Mapledurham representative. EM to put the proposals to the Trustees. **Action** EM

#### **1595 Financial management of the Trust**

Nothing further to report since last meeting.

**1596 Deed of Dedication.** Ongoing **Action** EM and Mark Corbett

#### **1597 Liaison with school-**

**Result of walk to school initiative.** The event was held over a week of good weather in spring term. It acknowledged children who had walked to school from door to door. 500 tickets had been given out averaging 100 per day. This led to the conclusion that the vast majority had not walked all the way. The establishment has "walk to school" recognition so there was considerable room for improvement to justify this. Walking from school to home had not been assessed and it was hoped that it would be included in a further event in the autumn. Parents/ carers were more likely to wait for pick up than drop off. Those in vehicles were more likely to block the parking for users of the park. It was noted that breakfast clubs and after school activities staggered arrival and departure times somewhat.

**1598 Anti-Social Behaviour and neighbourhood safety.** Members noted that a North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum had taken place on May 15<sup>th</sup>. JH would prepare a rota for walkabouts on critical dates. Members had noticed unruly behaviour at the start of half term with an aftermath of empty alcohol bottles and a wrecked memorial bench. Walkers should not approach criminals but request help. **Action JH**

**1599** The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**Dates of further meetings in 2025**

August 28<sup>th</sup> (events special), September 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup> (AGM), November 12<sup>th</sup>