

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2016 AT DORSET ROAD SCHOOL.

PRESENT

Richard Mainwaring-Burton- in the Chair (RM-B)

Robert Blanks (RB) Margaret Henderson (MH)

Lesley Robins Rebecca Young (RY)

IN ATTENDANCE

PCSO Sue Kennedy Mr Patel (for the first item only)

Mrs Patel(for the first item only) Cllr Charles Rideout

Cllr C Smith (for the first item only)

APOLOGIES

Sally Babi Edmund Cavendish (EC)
Astrid Chklar (AC) Jane CornishChris Field
Cllr J Hills Liz Keable (LK)

The Chairman welcomed Lesley Robins to her first meeting as a co-opted member of the Committee.

The chairman also welcomed Mrs and Mrs Patel, proprietors of Jarman and Dixon Chemists and Cllr Colin Smith.

MRA 16-227 Proposed Parking Charges for Mottingham Village

In view of Cllr Smith's other commitments it was agreed to take this item first. RM-B outlined the MRA's objection to the proposal and his concern about the lack of consultation and the fact that work had already started on installing the Meter.

Cllr Smith began by apologising for the early start to the installation. After hearing of our objections to the proposal he had given instructions to defer any work commencement but this had clearly not been followed. He had however immediately stopped the work and advised that, should the proposal not proceed, what has been done would be reversed.

Cllr Smith then explained that this was part of a borough wide move founded on experience in other parts of the borough where it had worked well. It was intended to boost rather than damage business (Bromley will soon be retaining business rates in lieu of government funding). He also gave permission to circulate a copy of his recent email which outlined the whole situation and a copy of that email is attached to theses minutes for the record.

It was explained to Cllr Smith that Mottingham is not like other shopping parades in that there are only two successful shops, 'Rooms' and the Chemists, should anything happen to threaten the latter the whole parade will die. We do not rely on passing trade as it is a major road through and that charging for parking here will only drive business to other areas such as William Barefoot Drive (Greenwich) and Kimmeridge Road (Bromley) where no such restrictions apply. On questioning Cllr Smith confirmed that, despite this being a Borough wide initiative no plans were in place to introduce charging in Kimmeridge Rd area.

Mr Patel gave an eloquent defence of the status quo pointing out that he estimated it would halve his takings making the business unviable.

The major reason for the plan is to deter people parking there all day blocking the bays for shoppers however we pointed out that there was rarely a problem finding a place and only one or two drivers took liberties with the current system. It was also pointed out that introducing charging would enable such 'offenders' to part there all day legitimately by feeding the meter thus aggravating the problem.

Cllr Smith mentioned that the current system where parking attendants had to stay on site for 30 minutes to catch people overstaying was untenable and metered parking would enable it to be monitored with one short visit per day however, this was questioned as being a completely false argument.

With regard to the suggestion that the proposal would drive more vehicles into already crowded road such as Dorset Rd Cllr Smith suggested residents might consider 'residents only' parking however he admitted that this would be at a cost.

Cllr Smith advised that he had listened carefully to our arguments and would take them away for careful consideration.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith and Mr & Mrs Patel for taking the time to attend the meeting. They then left the meeting.

MRA 16-228 MINUTES OF MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of 15th June, 2016 were, subject to a minor correction to the proposed date of the September 2017 meeting, approved as a correct record of proceedings.

MRA 16-229 MATTERS ARISING (not covered elsewhere)

229-1Action Point 218-1 Road Closures for Remembrance Sunday: In LB's absence RM-B notified the meeting of a proposal by Bromley to charge for closing the roads however due to the short notice and the loud objections by the MRA and others the proposal would not be applied this year.

229-2 Action Point 218-2 JC to approach known resident of Evans Court as Potential Road Steward. No contact to date, JC will pursue. In the absence of JC this item remains open.

229-3 Action Point 218-3 RM-B to submit a formal request for village improvements. RM-B advised that he had not completed this task although it was noted that one of the suggestions, a path around Foxes Field does appear to have been started. RB advised that he had actually submitted an emailed request to all three Councillors on 3rd Feb a copy of which was tabled. No reply had been received although, at the AGM, John Hills had confirmed receipt.

MRA 16-230 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

230-1 Bromley Police

PCSO Sue Kennedy apologised for having missed so many meetings but they had all been when she was off duty. She explained that the on-site team now consisted of just two one PC and herself and that her shift finished at 9pm. There also had to be a risk assessment as to whether it was safe for her to be out on her own as some parts of the area were not always considered safe. It was also noted that she has to get a bus back to Bromley in order to sign off. When the lease runs out (shortly) on the mini station in Chislehurst she and her colleague will probably have to spend about three hours a day out of her working time travelling to or from her beat.

The prime source of crime in our area of Mottingham centred around the BP Petrol station where shoplifting was rife. Despite requests from the Police BP Retails refused to take action and did not allow staff to pursue offenders because of the risk to themselves. Other than that there had been one attempted burglary and one successful burglary on the area recently.

RY drew attention to the groups of youths on cycles racing around the area often deliberately challenging car drivers. It was she felt a disaster in the making. SK concurred but said there was little they could do as, on foot they could not pursue cyclists and the offenders knew that..

RM-B thanked SK for attending and for her efforts in Policing Mottingham. SK then left the meeting.

230-2 Greenwich Police

In the absence of Cllr Hills and any representative from Greenwich Police there was no report on this item

230-3 Bromley Residents' Federation

No report had been received from Ross Howie in time for the meeting.

230-4 Planning – Bromley

CR advised that there were no significant planning applications in for the Bromley part of the Village however RB pointed out that the Mottingham Hall Nursery had appealed the refusal for additional car parking on site which still seemed to be controversial.

It was also noted that Eltham College had made some changes to their planning application although it was not entirely clear what those changes involved.

230-5 Planning Greenwich

RB reported that the previous rumours that Palmer's Autos might be proposing to sell their land for housing had proved correct. LR, living opposite the site advised that, apart from having to cope with the noise etc. during construction local residents were largely in favour of the proposal.

RB reported that despite opposition from the MRA and others the application to build an outbuilding in the garden of 35 Hartsmead had been approved. The MRA had also objected to a proposed development at 38 Chapel Farm Rd.

230-6 The Festive Lights Committee

RB advised that this year's appeal for funds was running late but would be included in or with the newsletter due out shortly. Funds currently held approximated £2500 and a further £500 is due from the MRA so he was not too concerned about funding this year's Christmas lights. That said extra effort would be paid to getting traders to contribute as in recent years only Rooms and the Chemist had participated. RY confirmed that she will follow up with NISA and RM-B advised that he had the contact details for the owners of Warr's.

MRA 16-231 PORCUPINE PUB

RB advised that the PDC was now meeting fortnightly and pursuing as many avenues as possible in an attempt to save the Pub.

MRA 16-232 CHAIR'S REPORT

RM-B advised that most items of interest were covered elsewhere but his current focus had been on the web-site, which should be going live soon, and writing articles for the Newsletter.

MRA 16-233 TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no Treasurer's Report

MRA 16-234 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

RM-B advised that he had been fine-tuning the changes to the road areas and would be distributing the sheets shortly. Lesley Robins would be understudying him with a view to taking over as Membership Secretary.

MRA-16-235 LOCAL ISSUES AND MEMBER'S CONCERNS

No major concerns were raised

MRA-16-236 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a remark from RB, CR advised that there were now no plans to close the library.

It was noted that the Noticeboard seemed to be in need of some attention. It was confirmed that this was the property of the MRA and had been erected by Ross Howie and Jim Heath.

RB asked that his disgust at the increase in charges for the hiring of the school hut for these meeting from £20 to almost £100. It was agreed that we would seek to move the meetings to the Chris Mumbray Hall, St Andrews Church subject to its availability. RM-B would pursue.

Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday 24th November

The dates for 2017 were, subject to the availability of the venue, agreed as

Thursday 26 January 2017

Thursday 16 March 2017

Thursday 22nd June 2017

Thursday 21st September 2017

Thursday 23rd November 2017

2017 AGM

Wednesday 26th April

ACTION POINTS	When by	By Whom
229-2 Approach prospective Road Steward for Evans Court	ASAP	JC
229-3 Formal request for village improvements	ASAP	RM-B
236 Follow-up re venue for future meetings	ASAP	RM-B

Robert Blanks

From: Smith, Colin. Cllr < Colin.Smith@bromley.gov.uk>

 Sent:
 22 September 2016 14:10

 To:
 Righard Mainwaring-Burton

Ce: Cartwright, David, CLLR: Liz Keable: Robert Blanks; Laurie: Rideout, Charles, Cllr.

Subject: RE: Proposed Pay and Display Mottingham Village

Dear Mr Mainwaring-Burton

Further to our telephone conversation of Tuesday lunch-time.

Regarding the pre-emptive works I can only offer a corporate apology; I expressly requested that absolutely nothing took place ahead of me visiting you to discuss, but for whatever reason that instruction was missed.

I can only offer you my assurance that it was a complete error rather than a conspiracy. Also that I fully grasp just how rude and disrespectful it looks too.

I immediately had the works suspended as you will have seen and actually considered ordering what had been installed to be reversed, but on reflection thought that somewhat of an excessive and patronising gesture given the likely way forward and the abortive cost to public purse.

I felt it right to reconfirm what we covered on Tuesday ahead of this evening, which to be candid, is all I can really advise you in any event.

The Council is moving to convert all 'limited time' and indeed some 'free' parking adjacent to shops across the Borough and the Mottingham scheme is part of that wider policy.

One problem we have with limited time parking, particularly on the outer reaches of the Borough which is logistically

difficult to enforce as effectively as everyone would prefer, is that these nature of parking bays are regularly abused by long term parkers, not all of whom contribute to turnover at local shops.

With P&D, the system is far more self-policing, only requires one visit from a traffic Warden and as we've seen in multiple other locations around the Borough, actually assists local traders by increasing turnover and parking opportunities for would be passing trade that might otherwise be lost to them.

These schemes over the years have included places such Station Approach, Hayes, Locksbottom, Burnt Ash Lane and Chatterton Road, all of whom sounded the same concerns from traders at their times of implementation; the health of each of the parades attests those (understandable) fears were misplaced

Other schemes are currently being installed at The Crescent (GreenStGreen), Westmoreland Road, Petts Wood, Farnborough High Street as part of this programme too.

Of concerns that those scheme might damage businesses; that is emphatically not the case from any previous scheme

1

that I have witnessed, furthermore, with the Government's policy moving towards the ending of Council Tax Support and making Council's far more heavily reliant on Business Rate retention, it would be utterly illogical and financially illiterate for the Council to act in such a manner.

There is absolutely no question or dissent from anyone that vibrant high streets and shopping parades are in everybody's best interests.

That said, whilst I am extremely confident the scheme in Mottingham will be a success, I am obviously not in a position

to offer guarantees, which is why each of these scheme are reviewed after 6 months to assess whether any further

changes might be needed or helpful.

One concern I have heard raised via one of your Councillors has been the sharp rise in the cost of P&D outside of the shops in Chislehurst several years ago; I can advise you that rise was part of an agreement reached with the Chislehurst

Society who actually agreed a slightly higher on street fee would be appropriate, in an attempt to dislodge some of the excessive demand being experienced on street into a nearby and less than fully used car park (where the planed rise was reduced in offset).

I would offer the view that the fact that those self-same bays continue to be heavily used to this day in any event

possibly makes my point that moderate parking fees (Bromley's are amongst the very lowest in London by design,

intent and policy to support local business) simply do not deter would be customers.

In closing, I am double booked tonight as I mentioned when we spoke as I had previously agreed to support one

of the Mayor's Charity events which my shared office Assistant, overlooked to place in my diary when I made the

arrangement to meet with you; so I place myself in your hands.

If possible I would therefore prefer to rearrange a time and date to meet with you and the RAs officers over the course of coming days, but if you would prefer I attended this evening instead I shall.

I have though covered all of the salient points above as best I can for now.

Cllr Colin Smith