



## MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT 8pm on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 AT THE CHRIS MUMBRA Y HALL.

#### PRESENT

Laurie Bell (LB) - in the Chair      Sally Babi (SB)      Robert Blanks (RB)  
Carol Borhani (CB)      Edmund Cavendish (EC)  
Ian Conway (IC)      Jane Cornish (JC)      Liz Keable (LK)  
Richard Mainwaring-Burton (RM-B)

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr David Cartwright (DC)      Cllr John Hills (JH)      Cllr Roger Tester (RT)  
Jayne Whyman (JWh)      Joanna Wright (JWr)

#### APOLOGIES

PCSO Sue Kennedy (SK)

**The Chairman welcomed Jayne Whyman and Joanna Wright, two of the parents of Dorset Rd Schoolchildren**

**The Chairman referred to the sad death of Rebecca Young the meeting stood for a Minute's silence in her memory.**

#### MRA 19- 389 MINUTES OF MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

#### MRA 19- 390 MATTERS ARISING & ACTION POINTS (not covered elsewhere)

**390-1**      380-1. **Additional plaques for War Memorial.** Deferred

**390-2**      384      Use of Paypal or Banking apps for subscriptions. Deferred to the January meeting.

**MRA 19-391 DRIS** JWh and JWr gave a brief summary of the current situation regarding the present closure of DRIS. The school hall was closed during the summer of 2018 and the school itself closed without notice by the Spring Partnership Trust (SPT) for safety reasons in Oct 2019; all children are now being taught at Castlecombe School. LK gave some background information pointing out that when built in 1966 the window frames had been a major part of the support structure. When the windows were later replaced the structure started to move, repairs were made and these survived until 2008 when a surveyor thought the roof was out of line. Further repairs were undertaken and Acrow-props (boxed in to avoid being dislodged) were installed along the window line to provide further support. These held good until 2018 when problems arose with the school hall and the hall was closed. Children have had to use the Methodist Hall for activities since. Subsequently the

building has now been declared unsafe. Monitoring equipment has been installed but no movement detected as yet. The Acrow-props are now going to be removed to see whether this changes anything. The School is not now expected to re-open before summer 2020 at the earliest.

The parents have had significant difficulty in getting information from the (SPT). The Trust have advised that repairs to the school would cost in the region of £500,000 but there is no substantiation or breakdown of this cost which is thought to be grossly excessive. An application for funding was made to the DfE but refused on the basis that the Trust had sufficient funds of its own. This would however have meant utilizing the Trust's contingency fund for all of its 5 schools and this was deemed unfair to the other schools in the Trust. The parents have now been given approval to have their own survey done although it is not clear whether they will be allowed access.

Castlecombe had previously been rated as needing improvement but that has changed and the school is now rated as good. The 2019 intake was adversely affected by the closure of the school hall and a number of pupils were withdrawn. When DRIS pupils were initially relocated it was a very unsatisfactory situation as suitable accommodation was not available. The reception class ended up on matting situated between two classrooms. As a result about half of the pupils in that class were withdrawn by the parents and moved to other schools. This has seriously affected the viability of the school although the parents are unable to get a definitive answer from the SPT as to when or whether DRIS will ever re-open.

Concern was raised that SPT had in fact taken advantage of the situation and almost manufactured the situation having had no intention to keep DRIS open as a separate unit. Despite earlier giving an assurance/undertaking that DRIS would continue. Parents now feel disempowered and believe the community disenfranchised. They are however determined to fight on and are looking for the support of the community. A Christmas Fayre is being held at the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

What happens to the asset of DRIS if it is permanently closed?? LBB to be asked.

## **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**392-1 Bromley Police** In the absence of Bromley Police DC advised that a new PC (our 2<sup>nd</sup>) was expected to start in January and that he was trying to get the next CAP mtg to be held in Mottingham. The area is not seen as a crime hotspot although there is some concern that this may be partly due to the lack of reporting.

**392-2 Greenwich Police** With no Police representative present JH advised that crime levels were low except for thefts from vehicles which seemed to be rising. It was noted that the platinum of Catalytic converters was of particular value. Coldharbour Police are now working with Eltham South under one sergeant.

**381-3 Bromley Residents' Federation** SB advised attended the last BRF meeting which had considered the proposed consultation on Ward Boundaries but taken the view that it would not affect Resident Associations. Concern had been raised about the proposal to build on Green Belt Land which would set a dangerous precedent. A need for additional youth activities was identified but there were no funds available. It was noted that income from parking fines etc currently pays for the Freedom Pass.

**392-4 Bromley Planning** LK advised that the Lidl application still seemed to be open for comment. DC advised that the hearing was currently being scheduled for either Dec 19<sup>th</sup> or January 9<sup>th</sup>. A recent decision by Kingston to reject a similar application on environmental grounds was noted and LK proposed to submit an additional objection to Lidl's application for Mottingham along the same lines. It was noted that Lidl's own application accepts the fact that their proposals may have a detrimental affect on the local environment. DC would ask that the hearing be deferred until January to allow us further time to make our submission.

It was noted that Eltham College's application for new Hockey pitches had received about 100 letters of support although none were from the local community. EC advised that the Hockey pitches at Eltham College were not used every day and that when used in the evening the lights were turned off when games finished about 9.30-10pm. He also noted that the new lighting would be LED which were considered to be much more directional. LK agreed to monitor the current lighting to see whether it was left on unnecessarily. DC recommended that we ask for conditions to be applied to any approval as regard the number of evenings they could be used and the deadline by which the lights should be extinguished. LB-LK will follow up.

The application to increase capacity at Mottingham Hall Nursery to 80 pupils was turned down.

**392-5 Greenwich Planning** The only application of any concern was the proposal to erect two semi-detached houses in the garden of 509 Sidcup Rd. Concern was expressed as to the very restricted access that would be provided, JH proposed to visit the site.

RT advised that there had been no movement regarding the proposed development of the garage block in Porcupine Close nor the area between the shops and Sycamore Close.

It was noted that the speed humps were being installed in West Park, West Hallows and Luxfield although it was noted these would have no impact on Motorcycles which, as regards West Hallows were the bigger nuisance waking residents early mornings. RB also advised that he had passed on to RT reports of two occasions recently when motorcyclists had mounted the pavements to circumvent traffic blocking the road, in one case a pedestrian having been knocked over. Residents have also asked the cost of installing the road humps which they consider a total waste of money. RT is obtaining the information.

RT advised that the Crown Estates, freeholders of the Royal Public House had been granted a new license but with restrictions not allowing any outside activities such as the car wash. The EI Group had also applied for a license but a new restaurateur is now interested.

**392-6 Festive Lights** It was noted that the lights had been erected although two columns were still causing a problem power wise. The cost of resolving the issue would amount to £350 per column. The remaining tree lights had finally failed but we do not have the funds to replace them. The current appeal had produced a very good response with £3,844 having been received to date. DC asked that an application for financial assistance be made to Bromley in the new year as sometimes small amounts become available then.

*(Post meeting note – it is unlikely that Bromley will provide funding for tree lights as the trees concerned are in Greenwich.)*

**MRA 19- 393 CHAIR'S REPORT**



## Appendix 1 – Financial statement

### Mottingham Residents Association P&L 2019/20

<b>Opening balances @ 1/4/19</b>	Barclays	1723.14		
	Nationwide	14020.50		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15743.64</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	St Andrews Church Mtg hire x 2	60.00		
	Summer Newsletter printing			
	Membership Cards	75.00		
	Keegan & Pennykid, Insurance	191.37		
	Remembrance Wreath			
	Festival Lights	500.00		
	Bromley Residents Federation	10.00		
	Gift - Flowers R Young	34.95		
	AGM Speaker & Donation	75.00		
	AGM Equip cost	22.65		
	AGM notice Printing	120.00		
	AGM Raffle costs	30.00		
	AGM Hall Hire	60.00		
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1178.97</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>				
	AGM Raffle (net)	80.00		
	Nationwide Interest	7.11		
	AGM Refreshments	22.30		
	Subscriptions 2019/20	1692.50		
	Donations	12.50		
	adv subs	2.50		
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1816.91</b>		
<b>Closing balances @ 30/11/19</b>	Barclays			
	Nationwide			
	<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>15743.64</b>	<b>14564.67</b>	<b>16381.58</b>