



## MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Virtual Executive Committee Meeting at 8.00pm on

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, over ZOOM

### MINUTES

**Apologies:** Cllr Will Rowland

**In attendance:** Laurie Bell (LB) (in the chair)  
Sally Babi Robert Blanks (RB)  
Carole Borhani (CB) Astrid Chklar (AC)  
Jane Cornish (JC) James Martin (JM)  
Richard Mainwaring-Burton (LB)

**Cllrs David Cartwright (DC), John Hills (JH) and Roger Tester (RT)**

**MRA 21-442-Minutes** of the Meeting held on 26 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**MRA 21-443 -Matters arising.**

**443-1 Village Sign** (431-2) Both the base of the broken sign and the second sign were taken down by Festive Decorations when removing the Festive Lights. They are now with the Chairman who is in contact with the Foundry regarding the best way to return them for inspection.

**443-2 Remembrance Day Service** (431-3) With regard to the November Minutes LB pointed out that the Police were given notice prior to the service being cancelled. It was also noted that the previous year Bromley had issued a 5yr authority for the roads to be closed for the Remembrance Day service.

**443-4 Christmas Tree.** (432-3) Thanks were extended to RMB for arranging for the Christmas tree to be provided, erected and decorated during the Chairman's absence.

**443-5 Greenwich Ward Boundaries.** (440-2) A copy of the comments submitted by RB (Copy attached as Appendix A) were circulated in November 2020. RT confirmed that the local Councillors were already considering their alternative responses depending on the draft proposals that will emerge.

**MRA 21-444- Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer reported very little change in the finances. Main items of expenditure were the £500 contribution to the Festive Lights, the cost of the Remembrance Day Wreath and the annual insurance. The current account balance was £746.64 and the Building Society balance remains unchanged at £15k.

**MRA 21-445 - Chair's Report.** There was nothing to add not already covered on the Agenda

**MRA 21-446- Membership Secretaries Report.** Given the pandemic it is expected that more Section leaders and road reps will be needed in the future. RMB and LB will undertake a review of the current situation.

**MRA 21-447 -Committee Membership/workload.** RMB and LB will include this in their review under item 446 above.

#### **MRA 21-448- Representative Reports –**

**448-1 Bromley Planning.** DC advised that the application by Eltham College for a new Hockey Pitch will be considered at a meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. As previously noted, DC does not want to oppose the application but will be asking for conditions to be applied to any approval, particularly as regards lighting, noise levels and parking. JM confirmed that timers had been installed on all the floodlights to ensure they were not left on after 10.15pm.

LB will converse with Liz Keable regarding ongoing monitoring of Bromley Planning

**448-2 Greenwich Planning.** RB advised that there was nothing of significance to report.

**448-3 Festive Lights.** An update (copy attached as Appendix B for reference) from Liz Keable was circulated prior to the meeting. RB confirmed that Spirals had been put up on Greenwich Columns. Festive Decorations (FD) had erected Motifs through the village although two columns remain without power, attempts will be made to correct this for next year. RB also confirmed that donations had totalled £4,628 and that FD had given credit to compensate for the cost of Bromley Council removing the spirals last year. As a result, some £6,128 will be carried forward for next year.

**448-4 Bromley Police** With no police representative present there was nothing to report.

**448-5 Greenwich Police** With no Police representative attending RT confirmed that the incident causing the Flying Ambulance to land in the Eltham College Grounds recently was a stabbing in West Park, It was an unfortunate incident where a young man with Mental issues stabbed his grandfather who died at the scene.

It was also noted that there had been some thefts of vehicles in the West Park/West Hallows/Court Road area.

**MRA -21-449- DRIS.** LB advised that DC had confirmed that the amalgamation of Dorset Road and Castlecombe has now been approved and is underway. It was subject to the conditions that the proceeds of the sale of the DRIS site would be used by LBB to give to the Spring Partnership Trust towards the expansion of Castlecombe Primary and that no additional funding from the DfE would be available for the project. There was little or no control over who might buy the site or what they would plan to do with it but the Committee were asked to consider what we and local residents would like to see the site used for. DC noted that was a strong need for Social Housing both permanent and temporary, Bromley's homeless were currently having to be relocated to Dover as the nearest available temporary housing. It was suggested that we consider a survey of at least those residents in close proximity to the site. Initial thoughts were that any development should be in keeping with the Victorian cottages adjacent to the site and no high-rise development should be allowed and overcrowding should be avoided. DC noted that the Mayor of London had decreed that no additional parking should be provided thus, with additional housing, there is likely to be increased pressure on roadside parking.

**MRA-21-450 Insurance Renewal.** RB confirmed that the limit for employer's liability (cost £28) is £10m which is now standard. It was agreed that this should be added to the policy

The cost of increasing the Public Liability cover from the current £5m to £10m would be £641.78. It was felt that this was too costly and that the existing level of cover should be sufficient.

The decision to add £150,000 of Trustee Liability cover (which is subject to a £250 excess) at a cost of £113.85 was confirmed. RB will notify the insurers accordingly.

**MRA-21-451 Constitution review** A paper outlining the Secretaries concerns (copy attached as Appendix C was circulated prior to the meeting. Committee members were asked to give thought to the matter for discussion at the next meeting. Particular concern was expressed over how we should clarify the membership as regards who can or cannot vote at General Meetings and how it can be managed.

#### **MRA-21-452-Any Other Business**

**452-1** DC advised that Councillor Will Rowlands had contracted Covid and was currently self-isolating. The Committee wished him a speedy recovery

**452-2** DC advised that the area on the corner of West Park and Mottingham Road had flooded again. There continues to be a dispute over whether this is the Council's or Thames Water's responsibility. He has called a meeting on site for next week where all parties will be able to consider the matter and agree on how to resolve it.

**MRA 21-453-Date Next Executive Meeting(s),**

The dates of next year's meetings should continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. The dates for 2021 meetings will therefore be:

21<sup>st</sup> January (Zoom)    25<sup>th</sup> March (Zoom)    27<sup>th</sup> May

22<sup>nd</sup> July                      23<sup>rd</sup> September              25<sup>th</sup> November

It was agreed a provisional date of 28<sup>th</sup> April should be set for the 2021 AGM.

Minute ref.	Action	By Whom	When
<b>21-443-1</b>	Village Sign repairs	LB	ASAP
<b>21-446/7</b>	Review of Section leader/Road Rep situation and Executive workload	LB/RMB	For March mtg
<b>21-448-1</b>	Bromley Planning-liaise with LK	LB	ASAP
<b>21-450</b>	Changes to Insurance – notify insurers	RB	Done
<b>21-451</b>	Constitution Review	ALL	For March mtg

## **Appendix A 443-5 submission re Greenwich Boundary Changes**

“Sir. I am making this submission on behalf of the Mottingham Residents Association, the oldest RA in London and the largest with some 2000 members. We cover a significant section of the south of Greenwich borough including Mottingham Station. We strongly object to the changes proposed by Greenwich Council to the Coldharbour / New Eltham ward. Mottingham covers almost 1/3rd of this current ward, and we strongly object to being completely ignored by Greenwich Council's proposal.

We believe the new ward should properly reflect Mottingham as a community and the needs of Mottingham residents, and we believe the ward should include 'Mottingham' in its name. The ward should also be expanded to include Tarnwood Park and particularly The Tarn which is a key green space in Mottingham and frequently used by our Residents/Members. This area is currently split off into a separate ward, and we believe it should be united with the rest of Mottingham.

The current situation with three Councillors has worked reasonably well for many years however we note that the changes proposed by Greenwich Council will cut our representation to just 2 Councillors which will lessen our representation and make it easier for Greenwich to ignore Mottingham as they have for as long as I can remember.



## Mottingham Festive Lights Committee

### Report on the Village Festive Lighting, Christmas, 2020. (Draft)

**Membership of the MFLC.** All current members agreed to remain in situ. They were joined by Carol Borhani as a new member and Astrid Chklar agreed to join fully. Bob Blanks agreed to re-join as Acting Treasurer. The committee met on Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. I am very grateful to all members of the committee for their work and support.

#### Fund Raising.

**Residents' Contributions, 2020.** There was concern that financial consequences of the pandemic might restrict residents' ability to contribute to the Lights. Fears proved unfounded and contributions exceeded our expectations. Fundraising activities were constrained by concern that many of our collectors are elderly, vulnerable or shielding others. We are grateful to MRA Section Leaders who distributed the vast majority of residents' flyers. Special thanks are due to Richard Mainwaring-Burton for organising the printing, counting and distribution.

**Traders' Contributions, 2020.** The committee debated whether contributions should be sought from traders in the light of enforced closures of some businesses and low footfall in the village. It was decided to approach Traders. The November Lockdown was announced between the initial distribution of flyers and follow up, reminder, visits. Face to face reminders were not well received. Comments included "We are lucky to be here", "Not this year". One trader hid at the back of the shop & it was reported that another was also working elsewhere to keep their shop open. Total contributions amounted to £4628.00 which included one Trader's and the MRA's contribution.

#### Execution.

The Contractor let us down in 2019/20 by failing to remove the Spirals on time, despite reminders. Bromley removed them & charged the MFLC. Thanks to Bob's persistence, the Contractor agreed to set the cost against the 2020 bill. The Lights were erected & removed on time. The Spirals in LBR Greenwich remain. Despite 2 years of efforts, the lampposts outside BP & the coffee shop remain unlit.

The tree was erected but access, to both the Methodist Church & lights/decorations, was unavailable due to illness. Enormous thanks are due to Richard & Brenda Mainwaring-Burton for organising & decorating the tree.

#### Outstanding Matters.

Connections on Lampposts, no. W78-1 (LBB) & no. 59A0359 (LBRG) require repair/replacement. Liz Keable will pursue.

**Next Meeting:** Bob Blanks has suggested that we have a Zoom meeting once the accounts are finalised and to share thoughts for next year. Date T.B.C.

Liz Keable,  
Secretary. 18.01.21.

## Appendix C 451- MRA Constitution:

A paper for consideration at the January 2021 Executive Committee Meeting.

I have been thinking about the constitution and the problems that have arisen during the pandemic, particularly the inability to hold the AGM during 2020.

The 'rules' are very basic but they are quite simple in themselves and I would not want to introduce too much complication but I do think we have to consider updating them.

Last year we were all set to call the AGM, where we normally get close to 100 attending, in April but lockdown /Covid led us to cancel that and we were unable to hold such a meeting subsequently. There is no provision in the Constitution for holding the AGM virtually such as over Zoom.

The Constitution calls for an AGM every April '*or on a convenient date to be decided on...by the executive committee*' (rule 12). Oddly there are no provisions about postponement or adjournment but that does give the Exec Cttee the power to decide that it be held say the following March on which basis we could consider holding the AGM in March this year if possible, although that seems unlikely. As we are talking about the **Annual** General Meeting, I am not sure of the implications of delaying it beyond March although I doubt we will have much choice. Interestingly in rule 21, which for some obscure reason is included under the heading 'Alteration of Rules', it states that '*Any matter or question not here-in or otherwise sufficiently provided for may be dealt with and determined by the Executive Committee*'. This could actually be interpreted to allow the Exec to cancel the AGM given the extraordinary circumstances we faced last year. Luckily there is little chance of anyone questioning the missing AGM but I propose that we include an explanation on the agenda for the next one and ask the meeting to approve the action in retrospect just to be on the safe side.

Everything at the AGM is dealt with on a show of hands (rule 16) unless one third of the members present call for a ballot, which I take to mean a simple majority takes the decision. There is no quorum stated but the rules cannot be changed at a meeting attended by less than 50 members and any such alteration must be carried by a two thirds majority of members present. There are no provisions for proxy voting.

Also luckily, the only things of any substance or criticality (is that even a word?) to be decided at the AGM is the membership of the Executive Committee and the annual subscription. The Executive committee has the power to fix (sic) casual vacancies and to co-opt as may be necessary but the issue of subscriptions is the one that sets all this off. Although Rule 5 states that '*The Annual subscription shall be determined by the members at each Annual General Meeting...*' in practice the Executive Committee (Treasurer) normally recommends the subscription and the meeting approves it, but not having an AGM sets a quandary. Does the previous year's rate continue to apply until changed by the members or does the fact that the members have not approved a subscription for this year mean we can't levy one? I tend to favour the former as in 2019 we recommended that subscriptions continue at the current level of £2.50. i.e. it was not restricted to that year. The fact that we decided not to level a subscription for 2020-21 therefore also gives us a problem but again I suggest an explanation to the next AGM and a request for retrospective approval.

Going forward however I feel we should seek some changes to the rules (which, to be successful, will mean ensuring that we have at least 50 members attending):

- a) To cover emergency situations such as the pandemic;
- b) To allow proxy voting although this raises issues about who is entitled to vote (see below);
- c) To allow for virtual General Meetings.

If the executive agrees I will try to draft a new constitution (set of rules) to be considered at the next meeting.

*Note re voting. The membership is open to all residents of the Parish of Mottingham and to owners of property in the said Parish and, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, to affiliated members.*

*We collect one subscription from each household and do not keep a record of the number or individual names of the occupants thus we do not have a record of the individual Members of the Association.*

*In practice we note the names and addresses of all those attending the AGM and use the address to authenticate the right to vote. If two or more individuals put the same address, we have no method of validating their entitlement.*

**Money** Provides cover for any cash or cheques that is lost or stolen.

(comments as above for Fidelity insurance)

**Cyber Liability** Provides a highly tailored cover in respect of both your online presence and trading;

(we do not have an on-line trading presence and I do not personally see that the website gives us any exposure as long as we stick to facts)

**Trustees Indemnity** Protects trustees against claims of errors or omissions of the board those of their fellow trustees, employees or agents.

(Not sure we need this but the cost would be:

£50,000 Limit of Indemnity - £75.49 including insurance premium tax

£100,000 Limit of Indemnity - £95.87 including insurance premium tax

£150,000 Limit of Indemnity - £113.85 including insurance premium tax)