

**COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE DERBY ROAD FUND
26 AUGUST 2020 at 7 pm via Skype**

Present:

Simon Scaddan (Chairman)
David Moro (Treasurer)
Paula Benham (Minutes Secretary)
Jamie Harcourt
Sean Mitchell
Gillian Vooght

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. There had been no response from Simon's letter to all residents of 29.07.20.
2. GV had spoken to [REDACTED] of QAS with regard to the AGM. He had said a room could be made available but because of social distancing only 30 residents would be able to attend. As our draft Constitution states that a minimum of 50 people present would be needed in order for a vote to carry, it was decided that the best course of action would be to hold a virtual AGM. It was agreed that a separate meeting needed to be set aside solely for the redrafting of the Constitution.
ACTION SS
3. GV confirmed that she had been in touch with the Crown Solicitor who requested the office address of Berkshire Estates before 1916. The Berkshire Records Office will email GV with this information to forward on to the Crown Solicitor.
4. DM had received a request for information from the owner of [REDACTED] DR who, together with the owner of no. [REDACTED], wished to explore a joint venture to have their trees pollarded at the end of this year. DM had recommended a tree surgeon for them to contact. A discussion took place about general tree maintenance in DR and it was thought Mark at Arum would do the best job at the best price. DM mentioned that late autumn or early spring would be the best time of year to undertake the work. This would now be taken forward by JH.
ACTION DM/JH
5. As there had been no response from residents in connection with the idea of a newsletter, SS would let [REDACTED] know that we would only be producing a news page. This would contain useful information for residents. Committee members were asked to submit suggestions by 16.09.20 so that publication could be by 01.10.20.
ACTION All Committee Members and then SS/SM
6. JH apologized that he had been unable to help DM with the installation of the matting/posts for the footpath around the PP, but luckily [REDACTED] from FV had stepped in. He was also available to finish the work and to be part of any working party. There had been positive reactions from pushchair users passing by. DM confirmed there would be no on-going maintenance required on the footpath once finished. DM/JH would invoice the DRF for their time and materials used. An appropriate thank you would be given to Olivier by JH.

ACTION DM/JH

7. SS requested a face-to-face meeting with DM so that he could be shown the ropes in person with regard to taking over the website administration. They would arrange a date.

ACTION SS/DM

8. Correspondence received from [REDACTED] would be discussed further into the meeting.
9. DM had received a written quotation for the CCTV but it was agreed not to go ahead with the project because of the costs and the need to involve residents with siting. DM would contact the Secom Security representative to inform him. This was an initiative of JH.

ACTION DM

Correspondence:

All correspondence received had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Any Other Business:

AGM:

A general discussion took place in order to arrange the AGM by video conferencing. It was agreed that help from a resident would be needed, ie someone with a commercial Zoom account? It was felt that a trial run would be essential. GV would cancel the arrangement with QAS/[REDACTED]. It was agreed mid to end of October, but avoiding half term, would be best. There was discussion on

ACTION GV

There was discussion on items for the agenda.

1. It was agreed that the vote on the PP at this meeting must be the final one (it is the 4th). SS has written to [REDACTED] re the re-siting of the PP and would write to him about the pavement as well as responding to [REDACTED] who had posted a query on Facebook. SS felt all residents should vote again on the PP.

ACTION SS

2. It was agreed that a plea to those who don't pay their road fund should be made, stressing that the monies collected were to keep the road in good order.
3. It was agreed that a discussion should be held at the AGM with regard to setting up a tree fund to cover the costs of maintenance of the trees and verges. This would mean a general increase, although PB felt that the offshoots should be excluded from this extra charge and it should be levied at DR residents only. SM did not agree.
4. It was hoped that GV would have received all the necessary information with regard to the road ownership to be able to table an item on this for this meeting.
5. It was felt worthwhile raising residents' lack of interest and general lethargy in the Committee's work. A recent request for new members had resulted in zero returns. DM mentioned the Constitution outlining the situation was in draft form and was in need of updating in light of our meeting with the solicitor earlier this year.

6. The item 'Constitution' was left for later discussion at the meeting.
7. SS suggested that a revision of the Constitution with regard to length of service on the Committee was needed. It was thought that a tenure of 2/3 years would be ideal. Plans could be then set up for replacement members. SM felt that by holding the AGM by Zoom might bring 'younger blood' into our orbit. SS said he planned to stand down at the 2022 AGM.

It was agreed that the volume of work covered by this Committee over the past two years or so had been much increased from previous years. Once all the major items ie PP and Constitution had been resolved it was thought the workload would ease.

██████████ had appealed at the 2019 AGM for help in looking into a new, fairer system of fee raising. PB also felt that the level of payment for the offshoots should be different. SM thought there should be a standardisation of fees. SS/SM/DM would meet with FA to talk this through.

ACTION SS/SM/DM

GV had contacted the Council with regard to the general disrepair of Ellesmere and Moss Close and they had made an inspection. The Council should publish their forward plan for road resurfacing on 23.09.20 in the Reading Chronicle and so Moss Close would know when their road was included. The paths at Ellesmere were difficult to use with a pushchair.

Following a Facebook post by ██████████ asking what the new road layout around central Caversham could have on through traffic on DR, it was agreed it would be best to monitor any change. Particularly once schools had returned next month. It was noted that the traffic in Peppard Road was already backing up, even at mid-day. JH suggested that a permanent closure of the PP would resolve all issues.

ACTION SS (to post this on Facebook)

SS would write to ██████████ with reference to ██████████ appeal for a pavement along DR, as well as forwarding a recent letter received by DM from the Council's TPO Officer (distributed to members). Both the cost of installation and maintenance would be prohibitive. GV asked for a Facebook post to be made to this effect. PB would write to ██████████ to apologise for her previous oversight in this connection.

ACTION SS/PB

SS had received an email from ██████████, and had subsequently had a constructive meeting with her. The record of the meeting had been distributed to the Committee. She put forward suggestions for the Constitution and Minutes of Committee Meetings. She had asked for back copies of Minutes from 2018 forwards. It was agreed that the work of redacting would be undertaken by SS and PB, before publication on our website. It could only be done piecemeal, as and when their time allowed with no promise made as to the timescale. In future PB would redact Minutes once they had been approved and would then forward them to SS for publication on the DRF website. JH thought this item should appear on our Facebook page.

ACTION SS

The Constitution was still in draft form, as first prepared by DM and PB in 2018. Despite distribution to all residents no comment or observation had been made until now meaning that it still hadn't been ratified. It was definitely out of date and would be the next project for our Chairman. Meanwhile SS will start revising the Constitution.

ACTION DM/SS

██████████ expressed concern about the GDPR page on the website particularly in relation to sharing information with third parties. It was agreed to review the page and the Committee will take it down for revision.

ACTION DM/SS

JH raised a point about the use of Facebook made in a letter to the Committee by his wife. After discussion it was agreed SS would draw up a note for Committee members on how we should handle Facebook posts and it was agreed mention should be made that response by the Committee would not generally be made over a weekend and not before discussion by the Committee.

ACTION SS

SM had one issue from Matters Arising. It was noted that there had been no objections to the PP closure dates.

The meeting ended at 20.50.

The next meeting would take place via Skype on 16 September 2020 at 7 pm.