

Committee members

PRESENT: Chair: Lyn Anthony-Higgins (LA)
Committee: Carole Kingston (CK: Treasurer),
Sue Feather (SF: Secretary – attended via Zoom),
Jon Lloyd (JL), Adam Osman (AO)

(When referencing the above, first and second name abbreviations will be used throughout)

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Welcome

LA welcomed everyone. She noted that due to his other work commitments, Adnan Choudhry had withdrawn from the Committee. The committee acknowledged the significant demands of his senior role at Southern Housing and expressed their appreciation for his contribution, time and the commitment he has given.

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Apologies for absence

None.

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Draft minutes of Committee meeting held on 4th September 2025

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4th September 2025 were approved by all.

Action points updates:

Contributions reminder letter: This had been sent out as agreed.

Road Safety Audit: This had been sidelined due to the streetlamps safety issue. LA said she was minded to continue with it because it involved a large consultation, which required everybody to participate or decide not to participate.

JL raised concerns about spending money on a report that might be disregarded completely by a future Committee if its recommendations did not tally with their own personal opinions.

Although attendees at the 2024 AGM had voted in favour of the Committee exploring this option, as that was now some time ago, SF suggested that full members could be asked again if they still wanted the Committee to continue with this work or not. If it was agreed to go ahead and an expert was appointed to carry out a review and explore lawful options, all residents and businesses would be consulted, but, as ever, only full DRFA members could participate in any votes. Members will recall that throughout this project and at the AGM we are keen to emphasise the point that it would be a “consultation”.

It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to this effect and sent out in due course.

Action:

Letter asking for consent from full members to continue with the process. Clarity on who could vote must be in all letters.

Gullies: LA said that although the annual drains/gullies sweep had not yet been done, Reading Borough Council had already been paid for this year’s work to avoid an upcoming rise in cost for the service and to ensure the expenditure fell into this financial year, which had not always happened in past years.

A date for the work had yet to be set, but LA said she would aim for end of February as in previous years. An email notification to residents/businesses who had given the DRFA consent to use their email addresses would be sent out beforehand and, as in previous years, flyers

would be put on the windscreens of cars parked on the road in the days before the work asking them to move these off the road on the date on question.

Leaf sweep: Despite the recent wet weather, this had now largely been completed. LA thanked JL for his efforts on this front.

GDPR: The current legal claim (see item 5) had meant a change in requirements regarding retention of data by the DRFA. As such, it was agreed that this policy should be put on hold until the legal claim was resolved.

4 **Treasurer's Financial Report 2025–26**

CK had previously circulated the report of recent expenditure and contributions. The gullies payment had already been discussed.

JL said that given the current legal claim (see item 5), the wording re the DRFA's work might need to be checked. It was agreed that a final contributions reminder letter should be sent before the end of February. Also, although the contribution cut-off date of 31 March to enable voting rights at the next AGM had been stated clearly in last year's letter, it was agreed that this needed to be emphasised again this time. AO said he would update the letter and assist CK with delivery.

5 **HM Courts & Tribunals Service: Cease and Desist claim from 10 households on Derby Road**

The latest developments regarding the legal claim were discussed. LA noted that a Case Management Conference had been set for 23 March.

Although it seemed that a few residents who were not involved in the legal claim already knew about it, it was felt that all residents and businesses needed to be informed of what was happening. It was agreed that a letter on this would be sent out shortly.

Action: Send letter to residents about the claim

Meeting ended at 7.15pm