

Minutes of Steering Committee No 36, Thursday 2nd August 2023,

Part 1; 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Present: Mike Kelly (Chair), Terry Barnett, Alan Sloan, Rob Buick, Fred West, Melanie Frobisher, Debi Hallett

Apologies for Absence; None

Guest: David Longland

- 1) Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 35;** Approved
- 2) Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none
- 3) Financial Report:** All expenditure for 2022/2023 period ending 31st March 2023 has been accounted for and approved by Locality/ Groundworks.
Government funding for Neighbourhood Planning for the 2023/2024 period has only just been approved, and therefore we have only just submitted our application for this years funding. We await approval. Luckily there is no expenditure at present.
- 4) Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan**
The Neighbourhood Plan and ancillary documents are with the Independent Examiner. A number of questions raised by the Examiner delayed matters but have now been answered to his satisfaction and he has stated that he will be issuing his Report to Runnymede Borough Council between the 18th and 25th August 2023.
- 5) AGM 2023**
It was noted that we had not had an AGM this year. One was due by the end of June 2023. It was agreed that this year we would again hold it by video. Rob will revive and update the documentation. Mike will immediately issue a notice of meeting to members giving 24 days notice, Mike, Rob, Fred will produce the Chairmans, Members, and Financial reports to be issued as soon as possible with the usual instructions as to how to vote.
- 6) Planning**
Fairmont; meetings have been held with the owner, who has made various proposals to compensate for the considerable unauthorised building works that have been discovered on and around his Hotel. Mike has written to the RBC Planners, and Rob will be in touch with our Planning experts to seek advise on the proposals.
It was agreed by all that the RBC Planning Department need to be kept aware that we are watching this one closely.
16/17 Victoria Street; this is a proposed conversion from Shop to a 1 bed flat. It is a permissible development application. Mike said that RBC could only refuse on the following grounds; a) Transport and Highways, b) Contamination and Flood, c) External Appearance, d) Impact on Shopping Facilities. Mike will write objecting on the basis of a), c) and d).
- 7) The Future of the Forum Steering Committee**
The following three options were put before the committee for consideration, as well as an invitation to suggest further alternatives if they could be thought of;

- a) Just monitoring planning applications for conformance to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) Actively promote the aspirations in the Plan, the Placemaking document and other ideas to do with changing or adding to the village infrastructure
- c) Support all of the above and also get involved in the 'non structural' activities (eg social gatherings)

It was unanimously agreed that we should pursue option (b). The reasons given were a) that the Placemaking document and similar projects were part of the Neighbourhood Plan and therefore something that needed pursuing and for which the Steering Committee were responsible, and (b) that attempts to let other groups action them had at best met with a tepid response.

Whilst we may not succeed in some or any of the projects, it was worth having a go for the benefit of the Village and surrounds.

A meeting to discuss actions on the Projects will be called shortly.

8) AOB

None

9) Next Monthly Meeting; TBA

Part 2; 8.30pm to 9.15pm

AOB was interrupted by the closing of the Video call by the provider, and therefore a new video call was stated. Melanie and Debbi and David did not attend.

Mike raised the AOB that Genevieve had made a suggestion at the EGVRA meeting that a charity shop be stated in the village, profits from which would go to benefit good causes and projects in the village. she has identified the shop next to Stopps the bakers a being vacant, knows the landlord, who is keen to help the village and offer good terms for its rental.

It was agreed that we should progress this.

Mike will get Marisa Heath involved and meet up with her and Genevieve to see if we can get funding from Surrey CC, and investigate any other structure (eg not for profit company) that might be an acceptable vehicle.

Fred will investigate whether we could set up a CIO to run it. It was noted that this might restrict the causes to which donations could be given.

Alan and Terry will see if they can get a handle on the potential income we could expect.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm