



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 MAY 2015

Attendees.

Malcolm Moye (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Vickie Abel, Dean Ezra, Chris Burden.
Cllr Claire McDonald (Caversham Ward), Cllr Isobel Ballsdon (Mapledurham Ward)

Apologies for absence: Jean Newbery, Jim McMaster, Judith Barrett, Richard Denney

1. Minutes of 28 April 2015 - Approved for publication – matters arising discussed as follows

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street – Summer bedding has now been planted - mainly mixed petunias around the edges of the shrubs. Regular watering is needed, volunteers to help with this please contact Dave. Work to repaint the peeling Ronseal or recoat with hardwood oil still to be arranged. **Ongoing action**

b) Hill's Meadow: Cutting of conservation grass areas and tree work remains outstanding. **Pursue with RBC Parks officers**

c) Christchurch Meadows

c1, The construction of the new footbridge Richard has written to PBA (Elizabeth Orchard) to express our concerns over: the widening of paths, the use of metal edging which is a safety hazard; the non-permeable surfaced material being laid. It remains unclear as to whether these works were fully detailed in the original planning application and whether they have EA approval in terms of flood impact. **Review at each GLOBE meeting until construction site vacated and full reinstatement of the meadows is achieved.**

c2. A group of trees consisting of several poplars, a willow and two sycamores were felled by RBC last week on the field behind the laundry building after one of the poplars had blown onto the laundry roof causing some damage. Although the reasons for removing the poplars and willow were understood, concerns were expressed over what appeared to be the unnecessary felling of two sycamores which appeared to be sound trees, with no decay or lean compared to the others. **Cllr McDonald to raise with RBC.**

d) Balmore Walk – Most of the prunings which had been left in random spaces in the hedges are now covered by undergrowth. **CLOSED**

e) New street trees - The two oaks planted by RBC on Peppard Road which had been causing concern are now being watered by nearby residents and have come into leaf. All of the other new trees in Newlands Ave, Berrylands Rd and The Ridgeway appear to be thriving. **Keep in view to continue monitoring watering.**

3. Planning matters.

a) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997. No start date known - keep in view

b) Proposed Reading Sustainability Centre and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir, also a proposed natural "fish pass" on View Island. Dean and Chris had attended recent meetings of the Sustainability Centre; funding is being sought for the project but there are not yet any specific plans or proposals. **keep in view.**

d) Housing proposals for number 1 Albert Road, the former Arthur Clark Care Home site. Formal planning application is awaited. Malcolm has submitted serious concerns over the scale and height, the small amount of parking spaces and the fact that the proposed footprint of buildings would require many of the mature trees to be removed from the plot. **Keep in view.**

e) **150883 355-357 Gosbrook Rd (corner Caldicot St).** Application to convert the Piedmont kitchen showroom to 4x1 bed flats. Queries raised over lack of any soft landscaping, excessive hardstanding for car parking and flooding issues. It was also queried why this was being put through as “prior approval”

f) **150679 58 Prospect St (corner Oxford St).** Demolition of garage and building of a 4 bedroom house for multiple occupancy, with hardstanding for several cars in the garden area. Lack of soft landscaping at frontage noted.

4. Finance Matters – Dave has submitted details of the requested six monthly Grant review to RBC. Our annual accounts have also been prepared ready for auditing in time for our AGM in June.

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Regular audits by RBC Neighbourhood Officers (formerly Streetcare) with GLOBE supporters and others attending. **Please ask if you want details of dates for your area as you are welcome to take part.** Caversham & Peppard Ward officer is Julia Naughton who has offered to attend a future Globe meeting. Thames & Mapledurham ward is covered by Bill Robertson.

b) **Please report to RBC all litter, fly tipping and similar problems** via smart phone app or web link at <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 **HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – please use these - encourage others to do it too.**

c) **Broken chain link fence Lower Henley Road on RBC Housing Land? Richard has sent a reminder email to RBC housing.**

d) **Pavement & highway weeds.** Margaret reported that these had not yet been sprayed and were setting seed, which would compound the problem **Update: Spraying has now taken place in many areas.**

7. Threat to Bugs Bottom as one of the possible locations under consideration for the new Heights primary school. See save.bugs.bottom@gmail.com or see www.facebook.com/savebugsbottom The consultation on the school site ended on 1 May and results are expected to be released imminently. Update at June meeting.

8. Any Other Business.

a) **GLOBE website and Facebook page.** Dean has now installed a link between the Globe Facebook page and web site, so that all Facebook postings including pictures can be seen on the web site. **CLOSED**

b) Messy hoardings on Wolsey Road corner site of the former Arthur Legge centre. **Bob Busby will speak to his contact at Elegant Homes about this.**

c) **Caversham Court.** Vickie reported that the new meeting room planned in the stable block can't be completed or made available to community groups until a tenant is found for the main building.

d) **Flood Risk Management Strategy.** Phil reported that he was going to research this and would keep us posted.

e) **Pigeon mess under Vastern Rd railway bridge.** Chris will report this through the Love Clean Reading app.

f) **Caversham Globe AGM confirmed for the next meeting on Tuesday 23 June** followed by a short June meeting.

Next meeting Tuesday 23 June 2015 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)