



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 March 2016

Attendees: Judith Barratt (Chair), Phil Bagge, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Kay Perry, Margaret Skinner, Margaret Ormonde (EGRA)

Apologies for absence: Jean Newbery, Councillor Isobel Ballsdon. Chris Burden

1. Minutes of 23 February 2016 Approved - matters arising as follows:

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

2a) Planters on Church Street – looking OK for Spring, no work planned this month.

2b) Hill's Meadow: Still no progress about concerns re the very slow or not flowing Danall. Thames21 are awaiting replies from RBC and Environment Agency about removing the accumulated silt under the bridge at the end of Wolsey Road that is thought to be impeding flow. **Review next meeting.**

2c) Christchurch Meadows Thames21 event was held on 13 March during which volunteers cleared fallen logs, other natural debris and some litter from the Danall. There is one more length to be done.

c1. Ground reinstatement not completed, with some grassed areas waterlogged near the new bridge as well as near George Street entrance; also by the Gosbrook Road entrance where heavy machinery churned up the grass edge next to path. Action by RBC unlikely until late spring when ground has dried out. **Keep in view**

c2. RBC has confirmed it is aware that 2 gates from private property have been erected in fencing from Cardinal Close and boundary hedge reduced. **Keep in view**

c3. Suggestion made at November 2015 meeting that Christchurch Meadows needs wild flower areas - this would need **somebody in GLOBE other than usual activists** to take the lead and work to bring ideas to fruition. Richard wrote to the Parks Supervisor suggesting the planting but we have been told that because past plantings elsewhere in Reading have resulted in vandalism, dog fouling and litter, RBC will not allow wild flower planting areas in Christchurch Meadows. It seems that the dog foulers and litter louts have won the day! **Chris Burden is contacting J C Decaux** about the triangle of grass on corner of George Street and whether GLOBE could plant wild flowers there. **Review at April meeting.**

2d) Balmore Walk – It has been noted that on 4 March work was carried out in Balmore Walk by RBC to trim shrubbery and edges where overgrown. It was considered that this work had been done in random fashion and left in a very unsightly state in places. More seriously, the National Cycle Route milepost millennium sign had been badly damaged by machinery used during this work. (Photo available). Richard has written to Councillor Hopper about this. **Await response – review April meeting.**

2f) Caversham old cemetery Hemdean Road – Previous meetings had heard from Chris Webster how this local wildlife site has had excessive work done to the mature trees and vegetation, causing much disturbance to habitats and ruining some areas. Also of concern is that over 50 gravestones have been laid horizontally because they were considered unsafe. No public notices were displayed to give advance warning that this work had been intended. Chris has written to the local press and is contacting RBC to pursue these matters **and a site meeting has been arranged.** Other local residents have also contacted RBC about this damage.

Kay Perry has written to four local primary schools to ascertain what use is made of this old cemetery or elsewhere locally for any wildlife or social history studies; also to encourage them to include eco-friendly activities in their educational projects with young people. Awaiting responses **Review at next meeting**

2g) 2 horse chestnuts in Church Road were removed and the question arises as to replacement, maybe in 2016/2017 or earlier if a species resistant to fungus is used. **Vicki & Dave pursuing with RBC.**

2h) Mapledurham Playing Fields – School site proposed. Discussion by attendees on the effects of these outline plans and concerns about loss of approximately 5% of the available space, which is mostly amenity grassland, also light pollution, noise, increased traffic and general urban disturbance. Noted that no loss of trees is likely and that the proposed development is near to the most developed part of the playing fields rather than near the woods and main wildlife habitats; also that there may be significant improvements in facilities to benefit park users. Agreed to await formal application for planning permission and review/comment/object then. **Keep in view**

3. Planning matters

a) Application number 151715 The installation of two Archimedean Screw Turbines with a hut covering the generators, gearboxes and the control system (hydropower infrastructure); also the construction of a fish pass on View Island. **Keep in view**

b) Application number 152277 Former Arthur Clark site Albert Road – Malcolm and Dave have submitted GLOBE objections and comments on our concerns about the building height and tree loss. **Keep in view**

c) RBC revised Local Plan GLOBE's response now submitted by Dave, with input from others. CADRA has submitted their comments too. **CLOSE until publication of next stage by RBC in 2017**

d) 90 Oakley Road 160461 Noted that yet another mature front garden has suffered a loss of many mature trees as a result of development by house holder after change of ownership.

e) Clearwater Court 160295 Attention was drawn to the recent removal of 13 trees on the Thames Water riverside building and the intention to have many big signs and flagpoles instead. Dave stated that the trees were part of the landscaping at the time planning permission was given and that the changes proposed would spoil the river side views. **Resolved to object to this planning application. Review next meeting**

f) Cooper /BMW site on Kings Meadow Road 160326. Noted that demolition is due to take place with removal of trees, to be replaced by a temporary car park with no soft landscaping proposed. **Keep in view**

4. Finance Matters

Dave confirmed that GLOBE has been granted £500 by RBC to cover our PL insurance, meetings and some miscellaneous expenses.

5. Environmental Issues

a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs). EVAs for our areas continue to be attended by Dave, Jim and others, accompanying the RBC Neighbourhood Officers to spot issues needing attention. **Ongoing**

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> or www.fixmystreet.co.uk Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 **HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – please use these - encourage others to do it to**

6. RESCUE. aka “Clean for the Queen” March litter clean up had taken place in central Caversham and some riverside sites, including Hill's Meadow, Thameside Promenade car park and road margins and parts of Christchurch Meadow on the George Street embankment. 13 people gave their time (37 hours) and energy to rid Caversham of a lot of litter and fly tipped debris; a big "thank you" to all of them. It gets tedious picking up other people's rubbish year after year but we keep doing it because we care about our locality. The details are below and there are some photos on this link

<https://www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe/photos/pcb.884483378327889/884482748327952/?type=3&theater>

Friday 4 March 9 sacks recycling and 16 general waste. We also collected at least 62 glass bottles, a supermarket trolley, a large yellow road sign "Woodcote Road closed seek alternative route", some scrap metal, a drugs needles case with contents and a car wheel cover. Saturday 5 March 10 sacks recyclables 20 sacks of General Waste . Other items included: 3 traffic cones, 4 road signs, 2 pallets, 2 large vehicle tyres, 2 drugs needles cases, 14 9v batteries, 121 glass bottles

7 Street lamps and light levels. We discussed some information received about LED street lighting and the resultant light levels. This issue has been raised by a concerned campaigner who had contacted GLOBE about a growing national campaign against the potentially harmful effects of cool-white/blue-rich LED lighting. It was agreed that more information is needed and that LED lighting was an improvement on the sodium street lamp yellow lights that had caused so much light pollution in the past. **Discuss next meeting**

8. AOB. Agreed to find alternative date/time for April Meeting due to CADRA AGM on Tuesday April 26 at 7.30 pm In Thameside School Hall, Harley Road, Caversham

Next meeting Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 6 pm in Church House, Caversham
(the hall is available to us at 6pm and the meeting will start promptly at 6.10 pm)

NB change to an earlier start time to allow people to go to the CADRA AGM at 7.30 pm