



Minutes of the Eton Community Association Sub-Meeting held between Wednesday 19th February 2020 and 22nd April

Contributors: Various combination of - Ros Rivaz (chair), Leonie Bryant, Malcolm Leach, George Fussey, Barbara Hunt, Russell Lloyd, Katherine Blightman, Michael Blightman, Marion Mackenzie, David Treder, La Stacey, Stephen Gosnell, Christine Barber, Sylvia Ellis, Samantha Rayner, Derek Bishop, Ron Lewandowski, Katie Leach, Peter Eaton, Simon Weston.

Other contributions have been noted from community members.

1. Welcome

In light of the pandemic context, there have been various virtual meetings that have taken place with smaller numbers, which can be deemed to be committee activities.

2. Coronavirus Support

ECA and EWVA responded to a request from the Mayor of Eton Town Council on 16th March to meet with those who responded to a meeting request scheduled at short notice. Subsequently the volunteer activity has been led by ECA members and ETC, developing a separate governance as far as is reasonable, for example through the use of a dedicated email address system. Regular updates have been sent to the Committee (many of whom are involved) on 17th, 18th March and 4th, 10th April. All documents that have been developed together are posted on the www.etoncommunity.co.uk website.

ECA has been used as the body requesting funds to repay costs associated with this activity (as have EWVA for Eton Wick). Funds for repayment of expenses incurred have been applied for.

We have established that businesses that have been open during this lockdown have permission to do so by RBWM, Trading Standards and TVP. They have been strongly encouraged to take accountability for the proximity of their premises to encourage social distancing as per the statutory guidelines.

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes

- I. Considering removing or relocating the dropped kerb between the bridge and the High Street – consideration was given and various option reviewed but no alternative arrangement could be found. The statutory width for dropped kerbs for disabled mobility scooters has prevented a revised layout.
- II. Empty shops in the High Street – an update will be provided at the next physical ECA meeting. Add to agenda.

LB

4. RBWM Councillor Matters

Thank you to Eton for responding to the call for a volunteer group looking after residents in Eton. I have been moved at the care and support everyone has given to their neighbours and it's given much needed hope and thankfulness in these difficult times.

- I. RBWM have co-ordinated with almost 50 groups across the Borough and set up a hub where residents and volunteers can go to find information. This was initially open Monday to Friday but is now 7 days a week.
- II. The council have completely changed all their services to focus on the COVID-19 response. Libraries and all council offices have closed. Most staff are now working from home. Many staff are also volunteering beyond their work hours to help in the crisis.
- III. The council are committed to doing everything it can to help residents and businesses face the COVID19. 1,800 business in RBWM have received £13.1 million of grants which the Government has promised. There are still businesses that need to apply so we are hoping that by the end of April, we should have completed all the eligible applications.
- IV. I have been working with our volunteer group in Eton to help wherever I can and pass on information as well as applying for grants. I have also been communicating with businesses where they need help. It's important that as many businesses survive this as possible so when the recovery comes, Eton is ready.
- V. I have also been involved in case work as it comes in the normal manner and the teams the council have been very swift at responding to issues as they arise.
- VI. Across the Borough, I have been supporting all my teams as they change the operations to cope with this new demand. The library team are now manning the RBWM hub and doing a lot on social media to help keep people involved and entertained. The digital media take up of resources increased by 670% in March - the highest in the country. The museum team are also daily publishing on social media. The other teams are incredibly busy with their normal functions but facing huge increased workloads as a consequence. Luckily, we had implemented a phase 1 of 2 modern workplace to renew all computers and screens across the council. This has meant every employee who needs to, is able to work effectively and efficiently from home. We are beginning phase 2.
- VII. I have also been involved in a charity project with the council to make over 2,000 sets of scrubs. I would like to thank everyone in Eton who has donated or helped. This has been amazing to see how many people are delighted to do this for the NHS.
- VIII. The council is looking at virtual meetings and hopeful the first one can be next week for cabinet. With this the plan is to then look at a virtual planning meeting.
- IX. Signs to discourage thefts were available and have been erected in Meadow Lane carpark.

5. Chairman's Report

Whilst Coronavirus Support has taken precedence over most other activities, the following items have been progressed:

- I. Working with RBWM to ensure businesses achieve the rates rebates they are entitled to.
- II. Eton Action List (see www.etoncommunity.co.uk for up to date position).
- III. Signs on the bridge discouraging begging (to be pursued shortly). RR/DT
- IV. Cockpit - unfortunately the owner is involved in a court case and no progress is expected until it is resolved. RBWM is aware.
- V. Net curtains at 53 High Street – these have now been installed thanks to three members of the community who were concerned about the look of the High Street. It is hoped that the building works will commence soon.
- VI. Green Matters - EWVA proposed the installation of a planter situated underneath the sign into Eton from Eton Wick on the Eton Wick Road. Consideration was given by the Committee who concluded that monies would be better utilised on other projects. The proposal was to request funds from ETC, the Committee also felt that regular sustained maintenance wouldn't be forthcoming. Decision passed on 12th March.

6. AGM

AGM – as a Community Association, there is more flexibility regarding the arrangements.

The following is proposed; the 2019/20 Accounts are completed and now require to be audited. ML

After which:

- Notice is given via the website in the usual way, with notices also physically posted for longer than the statutory 2 weeks explaining the revised format of the AGM and inviting all inputs electronically to Secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk
- The Chairman's report is included in Shout Out as a video RR
- The Treasurer's Report is included in Shout Out as a video ML
- The Audited minutes are made available.
- The voting of the various officers and members is submitted on the website.

7. Eton matters

An issue of Eton Matters can potentially be progressed according to the normal timetable.

8. Events

Members of the committee met and the following decisions were proposed and agreed that the events as follows are to be postponed or cancelled:

- I. Erection of the Union flags scheduled for 5th April
UPDATE – now scheduled for installation by contractor before 8th May (VE Day)
- II. Committee meeting scheduled for 8th April

III. Combermere Barracks visit scheduled for 24th April

IV. David Bullock talk Scheduled for 7th May

Refund sums received for III. and IV.

ML

9. Eton and Eton Wick Information Centre

The Information Centre will reopen as and when appropriate.

10. AOB

- i. That the proposed constitution change, made at the committee meeting on 19th February and circulated in the minutes and put on the website has now had the second reading on 4th April with an email approval from 14 committee members. It is therefore again attached to these minutes for the required second circulation. If no comments are received by 1st May, this amendment will be made to the constitution and revised version will be signed as per the requirement.
- ii. Proposed constitution change Section 5d from:
“The Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the Association stays within the budget.”
to
“...that the Association maintains a positive balance after allowance for the Reserve (see 5 (e)) and any funds that are ring-fenced for specific agreed projects.”
This reflects what is currently because the ECA does not set a formal budget.

11. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on a future date to be agreed, usual timings and location of 6.30pm (Wednesday) in the Eton Town Council offices, 102 High Street are expected to apply.

Please e-mail any input to secretary@etoncommunity.co.uk