



# EMSWORTHFORUM

EMSWORTH EMPOWERED

## Schedule F

### Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting No 3 held at 7.00 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the Crown Hotel, Emsworth

**Present:** Stephanie Elsy (Chair)

Jo Dyer

Chris Hooper

Lesley DiFonzo

Lorraine Clode

Chris Clode

Steve Leniston

Mike Bateman

Martin Shelley

Charles Ashe

Giles Babb

Jo Bell

Ian Baker

Steve Chesney

Clive Yeomans

Alastair Gibson

**Apologies:** Guy Elgood

David Gillespie

Sally Outram



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- 1 Clive Yeomans (ECA) and Alastair Gibson (EBA) were welcomed to their first meeting of the Steering Group
  
- 2 **Minutes**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
  
- 3 **Matters arising**  
**Min 6** It was noted that the revised electronic version of the questions and answers had been circulated.  
**Min 7** Registration of the membership data with the Information Commissioner remained a task in hand.
  
- 4 **Election of Treasurer**  
David Gillespie, a retired quantity surveyor and a resident of Emsworth, was elected as Treasurer.
  
- 5 **Chair's report**
  - 5.1 It was agreed to lend support to Emsworth Museum in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to make a film on the Emsworth oyster-fishing industry.
  - 5.2 It was agreed that the bank account for the Forum should be opened with Lloyds Bank, given its good track record with handling the business of other local community organisations.
  - 5.3 An invitation to local councillors to become members of the Forum had resulted in an affirmative reply from Cllr Brendan Gibbs-Gray. Cllrs Mackey and Galloway have already expressed their support for the Forum and it is hoped that HCC Cllr Bolton will also be supportive. It was anticipated that they too would become members.
  - 5.4 A meeting is being arranged with David Willetts MP to brief him on the work of the Forum and ask for his support.
  - 5.5 A planning meeting of the Westbourne Forum was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January and there was an open invitation to members of the steering group to attend. Steve Leniston had attended the previous meeting of the Westbourne Forum and reported positively on its activities.
  - 5.6 The Chair and Secretary had visited the Emsworth Community Centre to meet with Jean Tier and Karen Fellows from the ECA. It was intended that the Forum should become an



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affiliated organisation to the ECA, enabling it to use facilities of the Centre, including its postal address.

- 5.7 It was noted with approval that Wemsfest had requested that it become a corporate member.

## **6 Membership Forms**

It was agreed that the forms should not give the impression that the primary purpose of the Forum was to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and that other aims of the Forum were secondary in importance. Caution was also expressed on the request for funds which was included in the draft forms. Whilst funds are required, it was important to explain to potential donors why some costs would inevitably be incurred in running the Forum.

It was agreed that Lesley, Lorraine and Stephanie would look again at the forms to ensure that these points were incorporated into the revised text.

## **7 Emsworth Flood Events**

Chris Clode, who leads the Emsworth Flood Action Group, summarised the flooding events which had occurred in Emsworth over the Christmas period. Significant fluvial, surface and coastal flooding had affected parts of the town, which in some cases, such as Selangor Avenue, were repeats of previous events.

Two alleviation schemes had been proposed. The first to be implemented, probably in 2014, would reduce risk in the western part of Emsworth, focussed on Selangor Avenue. Funding was in place for this work. The second project to take surplus flow from the West Brook was more problematic in terms of its funding, since it could not be fully funded from public funds. It was anticipated however, that other parties, including the landowner of a proposed development site to the west of Horndean Road, would be encouraged to make their financial contribution to the scheme to ensure its implementation. It was noted that meetings would be taking place the following week between Havant Borough Council, the Environment Agency and Southern Water to discuss these issues and the way forward.

## **8 Application for designation by Havant Borough Council**



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It was agreed that the name of the neighbourhood forum should be the Emsworth Forum, which was seen as having clear marketing advantages. *Locality* had offered advice on the application process and the draft documentation reflected applications which had been successful elsewhere in the country.

It was anticipated that, in the absence of any substantive comments requiring attention from HBC officers at a meeting to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the application would be submitted to the council as soon as possible thereafter. The timetable for its consideration would then be determined by the Council but it seemed probable that it would be considered by Cabinet prior to a full Council decision.

The Constitution (Version 2) required some textual tidying up but it was agreed that substantively it now reflected what was required by the steering group.

Members were asked to give some consideration to being involved in the proposed working groups, as well as identifying others who could make contributions to their work.

The Steering Group formally approved the application for submission subject to any comments made at the meeting with HBC on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

## **9 Website**

Ian introduced the website design, which was welcomed by members. Individuals would be invited to write text to populate parts of the site over the coming weeks. The links to Twitter and Facebook were emphasised as being very important to the web presence of the Forum.

The steering group agreed that the website should be signed off formally by a sub-group of Lesley, Stephanie, Lorraine and Ian. Ian was thanked for his excellent work in producing the website for the Forum.

## **10 Date of next meeting**

To avoid clashes with the established meeting cycle of the ECA committee, it was agreed to change the regular meeting time of the Steering Group to 7.00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will therefore be at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

MB

16/01/14