**BELL TOWER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING: MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2023**

**Attendees.** Jonathan Dart (Chairman), Jake Marin-Hanson (Treasurer), Pat Short, Mark Ralph, Richard Chandler and Sandie Gill.

**Apologies:** Barbara Kendall, Liz Hobbs and David Neale.

**Minutes:** Sandie agreed to take the minutes in the absence of David. Minutes of Last Meeting (26 July 2023) were agreed.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising not already on the Agenda.

**Ceilidh Preparation:**

Date confirmed as 14 October. Venue booked and confirmed. David has agreed to produce small flyer and Mark, Jake, Pat, Jonathan and Richard all agreed to do some deliveries. Jonathan is happy to do Front of House again. It was noted that last year we said it would be good to keep a tally of numbers.

**Copyright Claim:**

Jonathan reported this had now been settled fully with a payment of £100.

**Finance Report:**

Jake reported that we had approximately £215 in the bank account with a similar amount held in cash. Jonathan reported that David had taken cash for an advert in Neighbourhood news.

**Parking:**

The extra parking spaces between Meadow Road and Addison Road are currently going through the system but this may take some time.

The work on the double yellowed lines around the printworks has caused issues as it was left half done and some residents are getting tickets where there aren’t any lines. Jake to take some pictures and pass through to Jonathan.

Mark reported no real progress with the lack of visitor permits if you have a car parking space as part of your property. One carer got a ticket when dealing with a terminally ill patient. It has now been added to RBC website but is difficult to find. Jonathan suggested looking into other areas of Reading where this is a problem.

**Other Council Matters:**

Jake reported that the bin collections in Cardiff Road have been particularly bad recently. No-one else had any complaints.

**Reading Festival Feedback**

There was a discussion around the festival and the feedback from the group was:

* Less public urination this year
Taxis seemed to dropping off at the Moderation, unfair on the kids and a nuisance coming through our area
The stewards that were stopping people getting dropped off could have been more useful, particularly at directing people to cross the road on our side of Caversham Bridge by going under the bridge rather than trying to cross four lanes of traffic.
Big queues to get on the buses on Thursday.
More bins at Aldi which was good
Much louder this year
Businesses did not seem to get as much trade as normal.

**Proposed Survey:**

Barbara suggested an extra question: Do you think we should improve the environment in which we live/work (a gardening competition might be an example activity)?

Mark, Liz, David and Jonathan have agreed to go round with the survey. Mark suggested we have a script re getting membership so we are all saying the same thing.

**River Academy:**

Jonathan has made contact with the Headteacher and they are keen to have a meeting with the local community. Jonathan will report back next meeting.

**Relations with EP Collier:**

Sandie has spoken briefly to Justine but as it was the end of the academic year and they were really busy more discussions would be held in September. Sandie will mention the community meeting re River Academy.

**Future Events:**

Jonathan raised the idea on behalf of Barbara of some local businesses giving away hanging baskets etc. in advance of a gardening competition. The florist and hardware store in Caversham were muted as suggestions.

Quiz – November
Richard was sure Paprika would be happy to do the catering. There was a discussion on cost and £7.50 seemed a sensible price if we advertise that a substantial meal rather than a snack will be included. New Hope will be the venue.

**Relationships with Local Businesses:**

Paprika seem keen to get involved. It was noted there aren’t many other businesses around to approach. San Sicario has now closed after being sold. It may re-open but not certain.

**Neighbourhood News:**

Latest edition is out and should be delivered shortly. Jake reported his had just arrived for him to deliver.

**AOB:**

There was none.

**Future dates of Committee meetings:**

Wednesday 27 September 2023 7.30pm