Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 10/01/2019

Present: Lesley Berry (Chair), Mavis Boatwright, Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Derek Weller, Terry Weller and Sheila Taylor (minutes).
Apologies: Dave Boatwright, Rosemary Englander, John Orr and Kathy Higgins

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 13/12/2018
These were accepted by those present.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda
9.2) Lesley has written to MKC about the 20 mph speed limit and the height restrictions at the Bleak Hall tip but has not yet had a reply. Sheila will chase this up. **Action Sheila**

3) Financial report
Mavis presented her report. The outstanding balance as at 31st December was£3,489.06. The Christmas Day meal did not go ahead because of a poor response. Ron has confirmed with Unite that the grant can all be used for its other stated purpose, support to homeless people at Christmas. Dave L will provide Ron with something to show Unite this was done. Mavis will change the heading "Christmas Party" to "Christmas Events" in the accounts. **Action Dave L and Mavis**

4) Grants and future activities update
Sheila said that the main activity now is giving feedback to funders about last year's grants.
4.1) There has been discussion about the size of the gazebo to be bought from the remains of the MKC August grant. Dave will send Cliff details and Cliff will but the gazebo. He will give the receipt to Sheila to scan for feedback to MKC and it will then go to Mavis so that Cliff can be reimbursed. **Action Dave L, Cliff, Sheila and Mavis**
4.2) After discussion, it was agreed not to use the remainder of the MKC August grant (approx. £80) for arts and crafts materials but instead for the Welcome Pack (see item 8 below).
4.3) Sheila needs receipts from John for the November MKC grant. Ron will chase John. **Action Ron**
4.4) The feedback form for the WCC grant for the pantomime has been submitted. Sheila thanked Terry and Derek for distributing and returning the feedback forms from participants.
4.5) Cliff will give Sheila his record of printing for the feedback to the Community Foundation. **Action Cliff**
4.6) it was agreed to discuss future activities at the next TBRA meeting on 31st January, stressing that we need help to organise them.

5) The Bridge
The following items were put forward for the January edition:
Reports with photos (not of children) on the Christmas party and Pantomime. It was thought John has some. Ron will ask him. **Action Ron**

A list of all regular activities and information about Hedgerows and other useful items
Terry will try to produce some more children's activities
A recipe – Rosemary has done one for this month and next.
Environment – Ron feels Kathy and Sarah already have this.
Nature column
The Big Conversation after next week's meeting (see below) **Action Dave**
Some information about the work on gas pipes that is going on at present. Lesley will give Sheila a letter she has received about the work on Hatton. **Action Lesley and Sheila**
Dates for the January edition are:
Jan 23rd all copy to Sarah via Kathy if appropriate
Jan 26th to Cliff for printing
Jan 28th to Ron for distribution
Action Sarah, Kathy, Cliff and Ron

6) RORE
6.1) The Big Conversation
The Big Conversation is an initiative by Milton Keynes Council to find out what the residents of the regeneration estates want. They plan to start by talking to Residents' Associations. There will be a meeting to start this process on Wednesday 16th January at 6.30 pm. Representatives from TBRA will be John, Ron, Terry and Derek. John will be asked by Ron to make notes and to write something about the Big Conversation for the Bridge. **Action Ron, John, Terry and Derek.**
RORE itself has not been invited to this meeting but has prepared some thoughts about what should be included. We need to find out what MKC plans to include in the Big Conversation. Should it be just about housing or about the wider issues of "People, Place, Prosperity" as originally proposed by MKC?
The word "stakeholder" is regularly used without clarity about its meaning. This should be explored at the meeting.
6.2) The next Regeneration Sub-committee meeting will be on Thursday 17th January at 6.15 pm. The sub-committee will be responding to the report by the Housing and Community Scrutiny Committee on regeneration.
6.3) It is believed that Duncan Sharkey is leaving MKC.

7) Agreement with Woughton Community Council
Steve McNay has responded to our comments made at the last TBRA meeting. He confirmed the WCC would provide insurance against one RA's property being lost or damaged by another. He did not agree that the number of "free" hours of use of the meeting place should be 30 rather than 40 a year. He commented that this was simply recording in the agreement a small increase onwhat already happened, which he thought was one meeting of 2 hours per month for an RA meeting. Our response is that in fact we currently have more than 30 hours because the meeting place is made available for two full days for the Christmas party and Christmas lunch. Sheila will pass this response on to Steve. **Action Sheila**

8) Welcome Pack

8.1) Rosemary was unable to attend but sent some message via Sheila. She thanked Dave L for the work he has done on a contents table for the Pack.

8.2) Sian Lewis has agreed to design the Welcome Pack. She will need us to decide on the format, number and type of illustrations, preferably photographs, and any special features such as text boxes. Sian will be away in February but hopes to be able to do the work in February/March.

8.3) Rosemary also asked for decisions about how was to receive the pack and how it will be paid for. It was agreed the pack would initially be for new Council tenants. We should ask MKC if they would be willing to give the pack to new tenants. It should also be publicised in the Bridge, as people might then look out for new neighbours and make sure they receive a pack. Initial funding will come from the MKC August grant (see item 4 above).

8.4) Rosemary suggested buying three or four different binders so that a small group could look at them. This was agreed, and Rosemary, Sheila and Dave L were nominated. **Action Rosemary, Sheila and Dave L**

Rosemary had sent the latest version of the pack, including comments from Kathy. Other comments were made at the meeting and written on this draft. Lesley then took the copy away so that she, Terry and Derek could look at it together. It will then be returned to Rosemary. **Action Lesley, Terry and Derek**

9) Child Protection Policy

Sheila said she had revised the policy and sent it to Steve McNay, who had offered to ask the WCC Safeguarding Officer to look at it. Sheila felt that more was needed on DBS checks and also that consideration should be given to extending the policy to vulnerable adults. The policy will be presented to the TBRA AGM in February.

10) Any Other Business

There was a brief discussion about the need for a new Parish Councillor for Tinkers Bridge at the election in May.

Forthcoming Dates

Dave L had already circulated the following dates in January and February:
Weds 16th January 18.30 “Big Conversation” workshop
Thurs 17th 18.15Regeneration sub-committee
Mon 21st Residents’ Network meeting (Ron and John to attend)
Weds 23rd 18.30 Full Council
Fri 25th 19.00 RORE
Weds 30th 19.00 Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 31st 19.30 TBRA
Tues 5th February 18.30 Cabinet
Thurs 14th 19.00 Working Group
Fri 15th 19.00 RORE AGM
Weds 20th 18.30 Full Council – budget approval