

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Thursday 21 January, 2016

PRESENT:- Jimmy Chestnutt [Chairman], Sheila Still [Treasurer], Chris Balchin [Secretary/Web Editor], Julie Kemp, Michael Stubbs, Alison Chestnutt, Richard Groves, Rosie Groves Meryl Balchin, Mary Stubbs, Geoff Daniell, Carole Renvoize, Steve Renvoize, David Robinson, Dorothy Ross, Lawrence Randall, Richard Brazier, Diana Brazier, John Bevan, Mike Horton, Betty Horton, Tim Howkins, Ian Jeffery, Clive John, Melanie Legg, Peter Sidebotham.

APOLOGIES:-Graham & Jane Bennett, Mike & Sue Mullane, Mike & Hazel Prince, Ted Still, Viv Robinson.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF AGM 2015

The minutes of the last AGM, having been circulated at the meeting and available on the website, were confirmed. Proposed by David Robinson, seconded by John Bevan.

MATTERS ARISING

The S106 was raised with the Parish Council and progress has been made to re-allocate S106 monies beyond children's play areas.

Revisit the BVA constitution – later agenda item.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jimmy Chestnutt gave the following report:

You were all kind enough to vote me on to the committee and the committee subsequently in its wisdom, and I use the word in its loosest sense, elected me as Chairman. This is my first report. David had promised a quiet life- just six meetings a year and the odd event.

A word of advice to everyone here. Never buy a used car from David Robinson!

We held six committee meetings and at the first of the six, the post AGM meeting your committee set itself three in year objectives

1. Provide all candidates for the Parish Council elections an opportunity to set out their personal manifestos in the magazine.
For the first time for a long time the election was contested. A very healthy situation and good for the village. Cost should not be a factor and certainly should not be a barrier to individuals putting themselves forward as an alternative to co-opting members.
We invited all candidates to submit their contributions and they all did. Democracy in action! We will continue to try to help our elected Councillors do the best for the Village and its residents.
2. Second was to establish a village wide email based network to provide a mechanism to enable us to brief and consult.
Creating the network was entirely within our control. We advertised our intention to create it in the June magazine, spent the next two months signing up members and went live in the autumn.
Its early releases were used to advise members of police alerts in Braishfield, an important meeting connected with ownership of the affordable houses and more specifically to help Councillor John Bevan gather information and support for his efforts to improve road conditions in and through the village.
We currently have over half the village households on the network. However we would like to increase our coverage and I ask you to do what you can to persuade friends and neighbours who might not currently be members –to join.
Chris Balchin set up the site and compiled the address lists. He acts as editor and is trying hard to strike the right balance between using the network to inform and not simply to advertise events. We want to avoid overloading to the point where residents stop reading

the emails. But tell us if we haven't got the balance right.

3. Finally to work towards a single web site for the village and all its organisations and societies. This has proved to be elusive. It was an objective last year- it is in the minutes of the 2015 AGM. I have told the Parish Council that Chris Balchin and I are the points of contact but to date we have not made any progress.

We will now continue to maintain our BVA village site as a stand-alone site until we see a better way of providing the service.

Last year we have produced six magazines. Bigger and better than ever before. We are lucky in this village to have the services of our brilliant editorial team. Mike as editor in chief and Sue who helps ensure that we all deliver our submissions on time and then ensures that the finished product reaches each and every home.

In September we produced the 16th Village guide. Another task for the editorial team and the committee. It takes a great deal of time and effort to do the research and make the required changes. Chris Balchin also publishes the guide on the BVA site, and regularly updates it. My thanks to all of them.

My thanks to the distribution team. Unsung and unnamed but without them neither publication would see the light of day.

In October, in association with David Robinson, Events Management Ltd, we organised a Call my Bluff wine evening. It was a great success and thanks to the committee, David and his team of experts between us we raised £800. The committee decided to donate that money to the new pantry and give an additional £1000 to help fit out the new shop.

We laid a wreath on remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Association and on Remembrance Day on behalf of the three services Sheila Still laid a wreath.

Finally Sheila took charge of our efforts to enter the association tree in the Christmas tree festival themed Reach for the Sky.

We increased our contribution to the senior citizens annual lunch by £100 to donate £200 this year to support this excellent village service.

Sadly Graham Bennett who cannot be with us tonight has decided to stand down as Vice Chairman and committee member. He is one of the longest serving members and will be sorely missed. I would on your behalf like to thank him for his years of service and contribution to the association. Sheila Still has volunteered to step up to the plate and act as our vice Chairman.

Ian Jeffery has volunteered to join the committee but we still need new members.

Chris Balchin is a member of the Village Hall committee and Pantry committee. He runs the BVA website and the network. He is also our secretary.

The Magazine editorial team of Sue and Mike continue to produce a first class magazine and spearheaded the production of the residents guide.

Mike Stubbs has taken on the mantle of keeping a watching brief on planning applications. There are occasions when the Parish Council feel that they cannot comment on an application which is outside the village boundary even if there is an impact on the village. On those occasions the BVA will seek your views and take whatever action is required.

Julie Kemp continues to run the village lunch club and now also sits on the Village Pantry committee.

Sheila watches over our finances with the same eagle eyed approach normally associated with the tax inspector and treasury.

You are well served. Your committee work hard on your behalf but as so often is the case they are the same group of individuals that contribute in many other areas of village life.

Ian Knights and I would like to find a way to reduce the workload of this relatively small, hard working group by sharing responsibilities and commitments. An objective for our two committees for coming year.

The challenges for this year include organising an event to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. I have written to the Parish Council asking if they wish to lead in the planning of a suitable event. If they do we will help as required. If not then we will ask the council for assistance.

We will support the opening of the new pantry and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the creation of this excellent new village facility. Clive is here tonight and I know that he will be delighted to open up and show any of you around.

We will press for the installation of the bike racks as soon the approach work to the Pantry is completed. Most importantly we will continue to help Councillor Bevan with his efforts to manage

the traffic issues faced by residents along Braishfield road and in and around Braishfield. At last year's AGM, David said that he expected the new committee to look at the constitution. He was quite right and over the course of the year we have thought hard about our role and how we can best serve the village. We came to the conclusion that we should make some changes to the constitution to reflect what we now can do given the introduction to the network and later we will be asking you to consider and hopefully accept the new set of aims and objectives.

That completes my report for the year 2015 and I respectfully ask you to accept it.

Report adoption: Proposed by Richard Groves, seconded by Mary Stubbs, carried by all.

Discussion around progress on one website for the village – conclusion that the BVA will continue to push for one unified site covering all village activities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer, Sheila Still, had circulated the finalised accounts for year ending 31st December 2015 to all present. Her report was as follows:

I should like to apologise for the fact that the accounts are presented to you without having been audited. Due to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to produce the accounts early enough for our Auditor Gill John to do her work. However Gill has checked the balance sheet against print outs and is happy with the result but the vouchers relating the income and expenditure have not yet been checked. This will be done in the very near future.

Looking at the income side you will see that income is on a par with last year. Disappointingly donations are some 25% down and the numbers of villagers contributing is down by a third. As you will see the Call My Bluff Wine tasting produced a goodly sum and after expenses and a small rounding up contribution from the BVA we were able to donate £800 to the Village Pantry.

Moving down we received £200 from Michael Rhodes in sponsorship for printing the residents guide but the cost was much greater this time round due to colour printing.

Now to the expenditure. The printing costs of the BVN are up mainly due to the size of the News having grown in most cases to 48 pages. The expenses of the News relate to 2 years as you will see there was no cost last year. The web-hosting costs vary as to whether the invoice is for domain name only or hosting costs. We have made a donation towards equipment for the Village Pantry and a donation to the Senior Citizens annual luncheon.

This year the BVA set up the Village network and the cost involved was £60. The income from the memorial booklet "The Bugle Sounded" received during the last financial year was paid to the various recipients this year.

These items have resulted in an excess of expenditure of £1837.15 which is reflected in the assets of the Association.

Finally we have made a short term loan of £3500 to the Village Shop to help tied them over with their building project.

Discussion around donations – suggestions as to putting Standing Order form in the shop and putting a tear out page in the BVN.

Report adoption: Proposed by Meryl Balchin, seconded by Richard Groves, unanimously agreed.

NEWS AND RESIDENTS GUIDE

On behalf of the News Editor Mike Mullane the following report was given:

During 2015 the Editorial Staff have successfully produced and distributed 6 Editions of the BVN at the usual 2-monthly intervals; and certainly over this year the magazine has held steady at 48 pages.

This is all in no small measure due to your generous support, both in providing regular and reliable input and of course distributing the magazine in wind, rain and sunshine. Thank you all very much and my only plea would be 'Please keep it up!' – without that the News would without doubt founder.

Meanwhile your Committee has re-opened the debate on the possibility of introducing colour. Costs are being examined, and the options of colour (i.e. full, partial, or perhaps alternate magazines) will be considered.

Once again, my sincere thanks for another successful year.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

One member of the committee would be standing down: Graham Bennett

The Chairman listed those members of the committee who were prepared to be reelected: Sheila Still, Mike Mullane, Sue Mullane, Chris Balchin, Michael Stubbs, Jimmy Chestnutt, Julie Kemp. Ian Jeffery had volunteered to be on the committee. They were proposed by David Robinson, seconded by John Bevan and unanimously (re-)elected.

No nominations were received for the final vacancy on the committee, so it would be advertised in the News.

CONSTITUTION

The proposed three changes to the constitution were described by Jimmy Chestnutt::

Aims replace Objectives and 2.3 & 3.1 modified

Aims of the BVA

1. To provide an information service for residents
2. To support our village committees.
3. To initiate, support and/or contribute to village events.
4. To inform the residents of Braishfield of any proposed development or significant change in or around the village, and provide a forum through which the rate, scale and impact of such development or change may be adequately debated, and then take action or ensure that the views expressed are passed on clearly to the appropriate authorities.
5. Monitor the effectiveness of village services and amenities and bring any shortfalls to the notice of the appropriate authorities, and where appropriate put in place or recommend improvements.

The Information service

The BVA will

1. Publish and distribute the Braishfield Village News (BVN) to all residents currently at 2 monthly intervals
2. Maintain and when required upgrade the BVA website
3. Update and publish the printed Residents Guide at ~2 yearly intervals.
4. Update the web version of the Residents Guide as required
5. Manage the Braishfield Email Network
6. When advised of the arrival of a new resident, the BVA will provide the household with a welcome to Braishfield pack to include: latest copy of the Residents Guide, latest copy of the BVN, request form to join the network and a copy of the Village Design Statement

2.3 New residents of the village will be provided with a Residents Pack and.....

3.1 The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall consist of **a maximum of nine members**.

The constitution changes adoption: Proposed by Rosie Groves, seconded by Tim Howkins, unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Under a discussion on planning activity the following points were raised:
 - Parish Council and/or BVA to provide the villagers with guidance on planning applications that concern the village
 - The BVA would make villagers aware of planning applications in surrounding parishes that could impact the village e.g. Waltet 24 hr operation.
2. John Bevan summarised his activities on behalf of the PC regarding the poor state of the road through the village from Crook Hill to Braishfield House and the damage large lorries/trailers are potentially doing to properties alongside the road. John Bevan urged villagers to complain online to TVBC about building damage. Meetings with HCC had put the issue on the map however no schedule for the complete re-surfacing to be done is known. Width restriction signs on entering the Braishfield road at the roundabout are a suggestion. Richard Brazier and Mike Stubbs will put together a Network message.
3. David Robinson also thanked Graham Bennett for his work on the BVA and it was noted that Graham would continue to run the oil service.

A discussion on the position of the bike racks was unclear however it would seem the site chosen is on the north side of the children's play area.
He was delighted that Jimmy was still in the BVA chair
4. Clive John thanked the BVA for their financial donations and support for the new village shop. The new build cost ~£85k reduced with vat claim of ~£14k return from HMRC. The new facilities are planned to open 1st February. He offered to show the meeting around the new build.
5. Dorothy Ross thanked Michael Stubbs for arranging the 2nd Annual New Years Day Walk attended by 20 villagers.
6. Richard Brazier also registered his thanks to Jimmy Chestnutt and to the BVA and all who have supported the Village Hall and the Braishfield Pantry. As the PC planning representative he expects to continue working closely with the BVA.
7. The date of the next AGM was set for Thursday 19 January 2017.