

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Thursday 19 January, 2017

PRESENT:- Jimmy Chestnutt [Chairman], Sheila Still [Treasurer], Chris Balchin [Secretary/Web Editor], Mike & Sue Mullane, Julie Kemp, Michael Stubbs, Ian Jeffery, Ted Still, Richard & Rosie Groves, Meryl Balchin, Geoff Daniell, Carole & Steve Renvoize, David & Viv Robinson, Richard Brazier, John & Angela Bevan, Mike Prince, Mike Horton, Graham Bennett, Tony Lowe, Ian Puffett, Ian Knight.

APOLOGIES:- Alison Chestnutt, Wendy Jeffery, Malcolm Ayres, Jill Briggs, Diana Brazier, Hazel Prince, Betty Horton, Jean Lowe,

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF AGM 2016

The minutes of the last AGM, having been available on the website, were confirmed. Proposed by David Robinson, seconded by Viv Robinson

MATTERS ARISING

There were three objectives for 2016

- 1) Provide all candidates for the Parish Council elections an opportunity to set out their personal manifestos in the magazine. Achieved – all candidates submitted a resume to the BVN
- 2) Establish a village wide email based network to provide a mechanism to enable us to brief and consult. Achieved – Approximately 2 network emails per week in 2016. Also Braishfield Residents Forum on Facebook has been established
- 3) Work towards a single web site for the village and all its organisations and societies. See Chairman's report

Actions from AOB:

- 1) The Network and Forum have been used to provide villagers with guidance on planning applications that concern the village.
- 2) The village was informed on the road repair discussions. In 2016 the road from the roundabout to the Common Hill road had a surface dressing applied. It is expected that in 2017 the road until the Manor will be re-surfaced.
- 3) Village Hall car park bike rack still ongoing
- 4) Parish Council planning aspects liaison with the BVA Richard Brazier is established

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jimmy Chestnutt gave the following report:

This is my second report as Chairman of the BVA

By any standard 2016 was a turbulent and exciting year.

Brexit with all its yet unknown outcomes, Donald Trump elected to be the President of the United States and more importantly the final committee meeting attended by Graham Bennett.

Graham was a long standing and much valued member of the committee. We held a small farewell party for him, attended by two past Chairman, an indication of the esteem in which he is held and on your behalf, we gave him a small farewell present, a poor return for the years of service to the association and so it was fitting justice that he won the Christmas sing along raffle. Graham of course has not faded away and is still an active member of the Bums, the Parish Church and continues to run the village fuel contract

Meetings: We held six committee meetings, the last of which was last week. At that meeting we reviewed our 2016 objectives and activities, and identified possible objectives for 2017, which if accepted here tonight will be adopted.

2016 Objectives: Our main 2016 objective and what was to be the highlight of our social calendar was the Picnic in the Park event to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

I am very grateful to the members of the ad hoc HM90 committee who gave up their time to help plan the event. I contrived to miss the hard work involved on the day but Sheila and the team did what was required; set it up and ran it. The weather was kind, the music was terrific and by all accounts everyone enjoyed the day.

As always it would not have happened without the efforts of so many people. The PC for its financial support and Carole Renvoize who on behalf of the PC co-chaired the meetings with me. The Social Club for running the bar and for providing the bad weather location option.

I can't mention everyone but special thanks must go to Williams Shipping or to more precise to Jonathan Williams for the provision of the stage.

On the day, we took the opportunity to formally open the Pantry and Mrs Scoggins did the honours and cut the tape.

Our second objective was to work towards the creation of a single website for the village. Chris took on the task and the BVA site is now the site for many of the village organisations and a one click gateway to all other village sites. It is not yet the only site but I hope you all agree that it is very professional and a great step forward.

Our third objective last year was traffic focused. Our aim was to support the Parish Council in its efforts to have the road through the village repaired, potholes fixed and traffic levels and speeds reduced. The PC have achieved already two out of the three but the developments at Abbotswood and proposed development at Badgers Farm and Abbotsford will all generate through traffic; through traffic that will use the country lanes leading out the village. The verges and hedgerows are being damaged and the character of the lanes are being destroyed.

We now know that there are plans to place width restrictions on the lanes leading out of the village and we will continue support the PC in its efforts to press and lobby for further restrictions to be placed on those lanes. This remains an ongoing objective.

The Parish Council: In May Mike Prince stood down as Chairman of the Parish Council. Mike served 11 years as Chairman of the PC, and despite retirement still continues to serve the village well and we thank him for all that he has done on our behalf.

It is easy to forget that our councillors are all unpaid volunteers who give up their time to represent us but also have statutory responsibilities. To acknowledge the work done by our councillors, past and present, at the December meeting on behalf of the association, I presented Councillor John Bevan with a gavel and block which he can use to maintain good order and discipline.

It was assembled and mounted by David Jeffery and is an excellent example of good local traditional craftsmanship.

The presentation was also made in recognition of the relationship between the BVA and the Parish Council and to acknowledge the new consultative arrangements put in place by John Bevan. Ian Knights and I now meet regularly with John to brief each other on the issues as we see them. This has greatly improved our ability to work together and get things done. Our meetings have the added benefit in that they will also have provided a small but I hope welcome input to the Dog and Crook finances.

Magazine: David Robinson, in his time as BVA Chairman achieved a great deal for the village and our association but, being selfish, -the one for which I am most grateful, was to persuade Mike and Sue Mullane to take on the editorship, production and distribution of the magazine. I, for one had no idea, of just how much work and skill was required to produce one magazine. I do now and one of my principle tasks is to ensure that they remain the driving force behind the Braishfield magazine.

Between us we have produced six magazines. This years have been bigger and better than ever and, thanks to an increase in donations, we have been able to include in some editions, a few pages in colour and to do justice to some of the village events.

The magazine is delivered to your door by another team of volunteers, without whom we would be faced with a large postal bill. We are very grateful for their continued support.

Peter Sidebotham, one of the elders of this village, was one of those volunteers, and he will hate me for saying it but he is not in the best of health. We wish him well as he undergoes treatment and a speedy recovery.

Events: I attended on your behalf the induction of Revd. Mike Perrott as the new minister at the URC and I laid a wreath on remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Association and in remembrance of all those that lost their lives in the service of our country. On Remembrance Day itself George Elliot laid a wreath on our behalf in memory of the soldier's sailors and airmen who lost their lives while serving in the two great wars.

Ian Jeffery took charge of our efforts to enter a tree in the Christmas tree festival themed on the life of her Majesty. A great entry but sadly not the winner.

We have continued to support the senior citizens annual lunch and now donate £200 per year to this excellent village event.

Finally, we held our Christmas sing along. Targeted unashamedly at the children with Santa and his elves in attendance. Sustenance was provided for those too big to sit on Santa's knee and music was provided by the Bums. It went well and I think everyone that attended enjoyed the event and we certainly learnt some lessons.

We intend to repeat next year and have provisionally chosen the Wednesday the 20th as the night that Santa will visit.

The 2017 programme started with our new year's walk organised by Mike Stubbs with refreshments provided by Mike and Sue. It was very well attended and the de-brief was held in the Wheatsheaf.

Some thanks: Your committee work hard on your behalf and much of their efforts go unnoticed or perhaps more precisely go unrecorded.

Following Graham's departure, Sheila volunteered, I'm reasonably sure that she volunteered, to take over the role of vice-chairman. I could not have been more fortunate. Sheila effortlessly fills the role and like all women she remembers those things that we men forget. In my case a challenging task.

When I had my little setback in June, it was Sheila who stepped into the breach and with Carole and the HM90 committee put into action our plan for HM 90 event.

She is of course also our treasurer and it is thanks to her oversight and tight control that we are financially well regulated and stable.

Chris Balchin as I said last year is everywhere. He runs the village network, maintains our website, is a member of the village hall committee, and our Mr Fixit. We would be lost without him.

Julie Kemp represents us on the shop committee, and continues to organise and run the monthly lunches. She is also one of our event managers. It was Julie who sourced and bought the presents for the Christmas sing along, recruited the elves and then on the night with Jill and Angela manned the kitchen.

Mike Stubbs maintains a very active watching brief on planning matters and makes sure that the committee and villagers are made aware of significant planning applications that will have an impact on our village. That in turn enables us to support the Parish Council in putting forward their views.

Ian Jeffery's supported by Wendy runs our raffles and competitions and Ian is also an event manager.

Jill Briggs has just joined the committee we are grateful for her support.

2017 objectives: Looking forward one of our tasks later this year will be to reissue the residents guide and we will be asking every organisation that wants an entry in the guide to check the entry for which they are responsible for accuracy and content.

However, our principle target this year is to work with the Parish Council to improve broadband and mobile coverage. Those of you who live in the heart of the village will recently and thanks to work done by Open Reach, have seen an improvement in broadband. Those of us who live on the outskirts continue to suffer and have to put up with data rates that even snail mail can better. We will explore all possible solutions in an attempt to find a one that will work for the whole village.

Mobile phone coverage is also poor throughout the village, and in parts non-existent. We are exploring the possibility of installing one perhaps two masts. To make our case will need information and the extent of the problems we face. We will be using the network to ask villagers for that data.

The other major issue facing us is how to deal with the seemingly endless proposals for developments on all sides of our village. We will continue to lobby against those developments which will have a damaging effect on our village, and increase traffic using the country lanes as short cuts to works. We will continue to support our village organisations providing funding when we can and who knows see the installation of the bike racks!

Finally, please remember that the association is your association. We are elected to do what you want done. If you have an objective that want us to achieve let us know, and importantly if you know of someone in the village that needs help/ has had a setback please tell us. I have the pleasure of presenting my report for 2016 and I respectfully ask you to accept it.

Report adoption: Proposed by Meryl Balchin, seconded by Mike Prince, unanimously agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer, Sheila Still, had circulated the finalised accounts for year ending 31st December 2016 to all present. Her report was as follows:

Starting with the expenditure side and you will see that printing costs are 17% higher than last year. This is primarily due to the 12 colour pages in the August edition but also that all of the editions this year have been 48 pages of what we hope make interesting and informative reading. In comparison to last year BVA expenses this year, are made up of presentation and farewell costs, and welfare costs include cards and flowers to those villagers who were ill or suffered unexpected disasters.

The two big functions organised by the BVA this year both resulted in losses and these losses were forecast before the events. We hope that those who took part enjoyed them.

The resulting excess expenditure overall was £838.50.

Regarding the income items, advertising was a tad down this year but still holding up well. We have been very grateful for the donations received which were up by 60% this year and the number of villagers who have donated has risen by a third. Without these donations, the BVA would struggle to try and adhere to the aims and objectives of its constitution.

The income from the two functions is self-explanatory but we were very grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution of £300 towards the picnic in the park.

The short-term loan to the Village Pantry was repaid in full on 31st March 2016.

We have two outstanding invoices at the end of the year both of which have now been paid and the assets include a cheque as yet uncashed cheque for £47.05.

We try very hard to spend our income wisely and on behalf of the village and to this end I have brought with me some standing order forms should anyone wish to donate by this method.

Last but not least my grateful thanks go to Gill John for examining the books and vouchers relating to the accounts and finding them all in order.

Report adoption: Proposed by John Bevan, seconded by Richard Groves, unanimously agreed.

Jimmy Chestnutt made two remarks:

The recreation ground social events are difficult to achieve financial success as they cannot be ticketed.

It is proposed to hold the Sing-a-long again this year and that lessons had been learnt from last years. The date: Wed 20 Dec 2017.

NEWS AND RESIDENTS GUIDE

The News Editor Mike Mullane gave the following report:

We've managed another year of 6 magazines, out on time without fail! It is worth noting that we are now more or less steady at 48 pages an issue – a combination obviously of financially supporting adverts, but more importantly your support in providing a great deal of input on local news and issues - all of you and many others not here tonight. Thank you all for that unstinting support.

I must of course also make mention of Sue who, frankly, is Mrs Magazine – on her powerful Apple she collates, designs and places the articles, whilst I simply 'dot the Is, cross the Ts' and fiddle idly with the odd bit of syntax! And of course, with her band of local friends, carries out the distribution. Worth mentioning of course that the distribution mechanism serves as a broader service in that the magazine often carries flyers on behalf of many of our clubs/organisations – Church, Flower schedules, Pantry initiatives to name a few.

Anyway, that's enough from me. I'll sign off by thanking you very much for all your support, psychological/written/physical, and simply say please keep it coming!

From the floor:

David Robinson was ambivalent about colour but if the cost is much higher reduce the number of magazines produced each year. Not much support for that view

Richard Brazier asked if more copies could be placed in the shop. Sue Mullane would look into it.

Tony Lowe suggested to keep cost down the villagers could be surveyed to view an electronic version only from the web. The committee will take up this point.

Front cover only in colour

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Jill Briggs was co-opted onto the committee during the year. The chairman requested that Jill is elected onto the committee. Proposed by Graham Bennett, seconded by Julie Kemp, unanimously agreed.

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Michael Stubbs outlined the planning applications from outside the village which were brought to the attention of the villagers via the Network/Forum.
Closure of Bunny Lane waste Recycling Site – Hants CC withdraw the proposal but now charge for 'builders' rubbish
Outline plan for 46 houses at Abbotsford – rejected by TVBC
Outline plans for 60 houses at Eldon Lane Kings Somborne – still to be determined
Full plans for 46 houses at Abbotsford – still to be determined – good villager objections
Michael warned that the villagers could become weary of objecting if Abbotsford gets approval as did Abbotswood, Ganger Farm houses after many local objections
2. The Parish Council is questioning the value of the Village Design Statement following the recent planning approval by TVBC. This is expected to be on the agenda for the Annual Parish meeting in May when it is hoped that a TVBC planning officer will present.
3. TVBC are proposing a vehicle width restriction on all the minor roads out of Braishfield to through traffic. This width restriction might well reduce the speed on SatNavs and reduce through traffic. Councillor Bevan note that it would not be legally possible to get a general speed restriction placed on our country roads.
4. The BVA will continue to support the Parish Council with Richard Brazier as their nominated councillor.
5. Mobile phone coverage. The Parish Council are looking at getting a mobile phone mast erected in the village – location and supplier tbd. The PC will lead on the main site – the recreation ground and the BVA will try for a site in the upper village to improve the broadband for that area and report back.
6. The date of the next AGM was set for Thursday 19 January 2018.