

DRAFT

Braishfield Village Association

Annual General Meeting 2024

Tuesday January 23rd 2024

Braishfield Village Hall

Present

Committee Members: Julie Kemp (Chair) Kate Marshall (Treasurer) Wendy Dolby-Stevens (Vice Chair and BVN Editor) Chris Wyers, Margaret O'Keeffe. 10 Residents as per sign in sheet.

Apologies

Ian Jeffery (Committee) Jill Briggs (Committee) Carolyn Ward (Committee). Wendy Jeffery, Sarah Boothman, Geoff Briggs,

Chair's Opening Remarks

Good evening and welcome to the AGM of the Braishfield Village Association 2024.

I'll kick off the evening with any apologies from the Committee and we have 3:- Jill Briggs, Carolyn Ward and Ian Jeffery.

Thank you to Chris Wyers who has joined our committee during the last year and is a very welcome addition to our team.

I would like to thank Lorna Dolby-Stevens for doing a great job in maintaining and running the Braishfield email network. As she no longer lives locally I am all the more grateful that she is happy to do this. Thank you Lorna.

This year I have to report that whilst the committee is staying largely the same, Sheila has taken the decision to step down after many years. I am told 23 years as Treasurer and 5 of those as Vice Chairman as well. The village has benefitted greatly from her longstanding service and she has brought great knowledge, hard work, fun and enthusiasm to all that the BVA do, whether that be a committee meeting or a social event. Sheila, on a personal note you have been invaluable to me in recent years, showing me the ropes and pointing me in the right direction when needed. We are very sorry to lose you but thank you for all of your hard work. I am sure Poppy will be pleased to have you around more.

The minutes of the previous AGM have been available to read on the website and the email network. If everyone is happy with them may I have a proposer and seconder. Proposed by Diana Wyers and seconded by Angela Bevan. All in favour.

Chairs Report

The BVA have had two fundraising events this year. In June we held a quiz with a slight difference in that it was all about Braishfield. The local knowledge quiz tested those that came, on how much they really know about our village. The round where local landmarks and views had to be identified proved to be a real headscratcher.

I think that everyone who came learnt something that evening. The numbers were a little disappointing, but those who did come were treated at half time to a delicious ploughmans prepared by the committee's own fair hands.

On 11th November I placed a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the BVA, at a small but very important service to honour the fallen of Braishfield.

On 18th November we held our Christmas Market for the third successive year in the Village Hall. We had 28 assorted stalls with a variety of goods on offer. This event is attracting lots of interest amongst local artisans and each year, whilst we have a regular group of stalls, we try and attract new and interesting goods. Of particular note this year was a charity supporting victims of domestic abuse in Africa. The women weave beautiful coloured baskets which are shipped to the UK to be sold, with all the proceeds going back to help the women in their local villages. The stall proved to be exceptionally popular and I am sure that on any given Friday night, there will be at least 2 of the said baskets lurking in the Wheatsheaf.

1st January saw our Annual New Years Day walk, which this year incorporated a quiz to get participants looking around them. This was well attended and it was nice to see some new faces and a few families with children joining in and returning to the Church rooms for refreshments and a chat.

We continue to try and support other village organisations if we can. We aim to have at least one member of the committee at every Parish Council meeting. Members are also involved with the emergency plan, the Beans environmental group, Ukrainian support, Social contact, Brownies, Guides and the Pantry. We also support the Braishfield Garden Club flower show, and I was honoured last summer to be asked to dust off a posh frock in order to present the prizes.

Our objectives for 2023 were:-

To continue to publish the BVN.

To update/decide the future of the residents guide. This is currently being updated and is due to be distributed with the April issue of the BVN.

To support and work with other village organisations .

To organise a spring/summer fundraising event. (This was our local knowledge quiz)

To organise a Christmas event which was the Christmas market.

To give a drinks reception as a thank you to the distributors. This was held on a lovely warm summer's evening in June. Thank you to all distributors, without your regular help we would struggle to get a copy of the BVN to all householders.

To try to recruit more committee members. Obviously Chris was our success story of 2023.

Our objectives for 2024 are :-

To distribute a copy of the new residents guide to every household.

To organise a spring/summer social event (a murder mystery evening May 18th 2024 in conjunction with BMADS)

To organise a Christmas event (yet to be decided).

To try to encourage younger members of our community to support our events, and to try to come up with events that would appeal to them.

Finally we will have an ongoing project to try to recruit further committee members. So if you, or anyone you know is interested in joining our merry band then please speak to one of the current committee members. Hopefully Chris can confirm that our recruiting sales pitch is accurate and that the BVA commitments are really not too arduous and can actually be quite good fun.

On that note I conclude my report.

Report acceptance proposed by Sheila Still, seconded by Angela Bevan.

Treasurers Report

I'd like to start off by thanking Sheila Still, who stepped down as Treasurer after 23 years at the beginning of the year, and handed the very orderly and neat reins over to me!

You should all be able to see a copy of the accounts. It has the income and expenditure for the year January to December on one side, and the balance sheet showing our assets and liabilities on the other. The income and expenditure side also includes a profit summary box which allows you to see how much profit was made by the Village News and through fundraising events in 2023 compared with 2022. I will refer to these numbers later on. You will see the 2023 figures for January to December, alongside the comparative figures for 2022. If you look at the expenditure side of your sheet, the good news for the year has to be that we made a £854 profit in 2023 as compared to a £1,899 loss in 2022. There are three main reasons for this – firstly we had a successful fundraising year in 2023 with our two fund raising events making a total of £1,064 profit. Secondly, we had £807 more income for the Village News through donations and advertising in 2023 than in 2022, with very similar Village News production costs. More on this in a minute. Thirdly, we had the £1000 donation towards the village noticeboards in 2022, which was not repeated in 2023. Cash in the bank at 31 December stood at £5,858 – up around £950 on 2022.

If we look through the income in the left hand column, we can see that at £2,817, income from the Village News in the form of advertising and donations was, as already mentioned, £807 more than was received in 2022. Donations were up by

£363, or 80% and advertising income by £444, or 30% on 2022. I'd like to hugely thank everyone who donates towards the cost of the BVN – each edition costs around £410 or a total of £2,460 per year to produce - a cost which as you can see is not fully covered by advertising revenue, which was £1,966 in 2023. It is only because of the generous donations of £831 in 2023 that the News turned a profit of £246. Without donations, the News would have made a loss of around £1,500 in 2022 and 2023 combined. Based on current advertisers signed up now for 2024 we are looking at around a £120 shortfall per edition in 2024 or a total of £720 for the year. Whilst we do have a comfortable buffer in our bank account, donations and fundraising are crucial to prevent that buffer from being eroded by the cost of publishing the village news.

News. We have our murder mystery fundraising evening in May in conjunction with BMADS and we hope that will be well supported. Fund raising events in 2023 included the Local Knowledge Quiz in May and the Christmas Market which together made just over £1000. We were slightly disappointed in the support from the village for these events, but a huge thank you to all of you who did support them.

There are some notable exceptions between other expenditure in 2022 and 2023. Other expenditure is that we spent on things other than fund raising and the BVN. In 2022, the BVA made a £1000 donation for the noticeboards, £95 for webhosting for 5 years, £87 for the Sum Up machine which allows us to take card payments, and welfare costs of £123 which included a stock of cards and a few flower bouquets. None of these costs were repeated in 2023. There are no welfare costs for 2023, because our welfare office forgot to claim them, so the 2023 costs will appear in the 2024 accounts.

Turning briefly to the balance sheet on the other side of the sheet, you can see the cash of £5,858. We've made a couple of payments which relate to 2024 and these are accounted for in the payments in advance figure of £75.33 and will appear as costs in 2024 expenditure. We have received £784 of payments in advance for adverts which will appear in the 2024 News and this will appear as income in the 2024 accounts.

I'd like to thank Peter and Wendy Quarendon for checking the accounts, and would be happy to answer any questions.

No questions were forthcoming so adoption of the accounts was proposed by Steve Renvoize and seconded by Mike Prince.

Braishfield Village News.

Not much to report really, as the BVN is continuing on with no problems. We have a good base of regular contributors, most of whom get their pieces in on time! Funding is always an issue and we don't quite cover our costs with the advertising. Hazel Prince added how important the BVN is to members of the Social Contact Group. All agreed that it should continue in physical form as well as the digital copy on the Braishfield website.

I am also undertaking the editing of the next Residents Guide and the committee are all taking part in updating the various sections. Due to be published with the April BVN. We need some sponsors to help with the publishing costs.

Election of Committee

With the exception of Sheila your current committee are all willing to stand for re-election.

Acceptance of this was proposed by Wendy Quarendon and seconded by Richard Brazier.

AOB

Jane Bennett gave thanks to Julie from the church and to Wendy for the Braishfield Village News.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed.....(chairperson)

Signed.....(Secretary)

