

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Thursday 18 January, 2018

PRESENT:- Jimmy Chestnutt [Chairman], Sheila Still [Treasurer], Chris Balchin [Secretary/Web Editor], Mike & Sue Mullane, Julie Kemp, Ian Jeffery, Meryl Balchin, Geoff Daniell, Carole & Steve Renvoize, David & Viv Robinson, Richard Brazier, Angela Bevan, Mike Prince, Graham & Jane Bennett, Ian & Meri Knights, Alan Thomson, George Elliott, Tim Howkin, Mark Swinstead

APOLOGIES:- Michael Stubbs, Jill Briggs, Alison Chestnutt, Ted Still, John Bevan, Wendy Jeffery, Hazel Prince,

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF AGM 2017

The minutes of the last AGM, having been available on the website, were confirmed. Proposed by Ian Knights, seconded by Ian Jeffery

MATTERS ARISING

In the Chairman's report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jimmy Chestnutt gave the following report:

Introduction

An interesting year. Brexit lumbers on providing hours of entertainment for all, Trump continues to impress with his ability to bring nations together and Jeremy Corbyn now looks longingly and perhaps hopefully at No 10.

Locally our MP Caroline Nokes has been promoted and is now the Minister for Immigration. I shall talk to her about the lack of border control on the Kings Somborne road.

Here in Braishfield, in the real world, the BVA committee continues to work hard on your behalf.

Meetings

We held six committee meetings, the last of which was last week. At that meeting we reviewed our 2017 objectives and activities, and identified possible objectives for 2018, which if accepted here tonight will be adopted.

Objectives

Last year I reported that in addition to carrying out the normal range of activities we had given ourselves 4 objectives for the year, which the meeting approved.

Residents guide

The first is to issue the next version of the resident's guide. The work has been done and it will be published and distributed immediately after the parish council AGM

Second and third objective was to do what we could to improve mobile phone and broadband coverage in the village

Mobile phone

I, and Mike Edwards on behalf of the PC, wrote to all the agents for the mobile phone providers offering a number of sites in the village, which Chris Balchin helped identify, all of which would give effectively 100% coverage. You may not be surprised to hear that not one of the agents had the courtesy to reply.

However, we eventually learnt that Vodafone intended to improve coverage from an existing mast to the south of the village. That work is now complete there has undoubtedly been an improvement for much of the village for those on Vodafone and O2 networks.

For those of us who have chosen another provider the position remains as it was -unsatisfactory. I suspect that that is the best we are going to get for the foreseeable future, but we will continue to nag.

Broadband

I have had another meeting with Hampshire County Council community network provider and BT to see what options are available to those of us on the outskirts of the village who currently get broadband by post.

There is good news and there's bad news. I lie. There is no good news just bad news and slightly less bad news.

The less bad news is that the government has a target to provide every house in United Kingdom with a minimum of 10 MBs. There is however no timeline, no indication as to how those rates will be provided and as far as I can ascertain no real plan! I have asked BT/Openreach for their view and they have made it clear that they have no plans to provide fibre to every house as the solution.

I have written to the Minister for digital and asked for an update on the policy and delivery options. Sadly, no response to date. I will chase the new Minister.

The bad news is that those of us who currently have poor rates will either have to rely on the hope that the Universal obligation will benefit them, or purchase good coverage from the existing network. It is not cheap, involves laying new cables but will give very high rates. We are investigating costs and feasibility.

Development

We have continued to support the Parish Council in their efforts to protect the village from the damaging impacts of development on the north side of Romsey.

Parish council

We have had another good year working with the PC to achieve joint objectives. I continue to have regular meetings with John Bevan and Richard Brazier to agree how to help each other achieve our joint objectives; the Dog and Crook providing the necessary high-quality conference facilities.

I also continue to meet with Ian Knights on a regular basis and with the shop now an operating success, Ian has turned his attention to repairing and upgrading our village hall. As always, the challenge will be raising/finding the money, and helping them achieve that objective is one the BVA should and will support. We anticipate continued and ever- increasing pressure on our village by the demand from housing development, and the PCs decision to create a planning committee (which can enlist the support /participation of non- council members) is welcomed. We congratulate John on his dogged determination to create the committee and to Richard Brazier on his election as the first Chairman.

Our constitution requires us

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.

We look forward to working with the new planning committee and Richard.

Events

On Remembrance Day, George Elliot laid a wreath on our behalf in memory of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who lost their lives while serving in the two great wars 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. Yet again the short service was interrupted by a few motorists either incapable or not prepared to plan their route to avoid the war memorial or timing their journey to avoid interrupting the ceremony.

Trafalgar

On October 21 we celebrated Nelsons victory at the battle of Trafalgar with a semi-formal dinner in the village Hall. By all accounts it was a good evening, thanks of course to the efforts of many. From Cook Romsey for giving us a generous discount on the meal, Tim for running the bar, BMADS for providing educational entertainment, to the provision of a bank of 6 slow cookers from Mike and Hazel. Without them we would not have been able to provide a hot meal. However, 6 slow cookers - I have had visions ever since of mealtimes at Yew Tree Cottage with everyone having their own slow cooker. Finally, of course to those who helped set up and then stayed behind to help us clear up.

The Christmas singalong this year session year which was organised by Ian and Wendy Jeffery and Julie Kemp, was in my view even better than the first- we had onions with the hot dogs. 38 children saw Santa while the rest of us happily passed a few hours singing some well-known carols and songs aided by the odd glass of mulled wine.

and finally

The new year's walk was again organised by Mike Stubbs with the start and stop at the Wheatsheaf with a midway mulled wine refuelling stop. Some 34 brave souls took part.

There was no Christmas tree festival this year. Instead village organisations were invited to put a display in the church depicting a saint. For understandably good reason the committee chose "St James". The one they had in mind however was James the Disciple and fisherman. Julie, Jill and Sheila did an arrangement with sand, a boat, fishing nets and fish and dried flowers.

The BVA have donated £100 to the Senior Citizens Party which will be held on January 28th, 2018.

We now look forward to this year's programme. 2018 is the hundred-year anniversary of the WW2 armistice. It is also hundred-year centenary of the creation of the RAF and we are looking to find a way to celebrate both events later in the year.

We will hold our third singalong in December and would appreciate any guidance, criticisms or advice residents may wish to give to help make the event even more enjoyable.

Finally, of course we have the forthcoming marriage of Prince Harry - that has to be an excuse for a party!

The Magazine

We have produced the usual six magazines, which continue to get good reviews thanks to the contributions we get from groups and individuals in the village and the skill and dedication of our editorial team. I said last year that one of my main tasks was to ensure that Mike and Sue remained the driving force behind its production.

I have failed; They have decided sadly that the time has come to move into town, a decision that many of us will eventually have to take or consider. They will be hard to replace.

We now have to find a way to continue to produce a village magazine. Quite a challenge. We are looking at a number of solutions including out sourcing much of the task, but it still will need someone on the committee to help coordinate and take responsibility for the task. We will be asking -am asking now-for volunteers.

As always, the magazine is delivered to your door by another team of volunteers and we are very grateful for their continued support.

The committee

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their time, efforts and commitment.

Sheila as the vice chairman, treasurer and conscience. I couldn't ask for better support.

Ian, Julie and Jill for their key roles in running events. Mike Stubbs for leading on planning and Chris Balchin for his work as secretary and for managing the network and the village website.

Finally, Sue and Mike Mullane.

They have been very active and hardworking members of the committee and between them they have produced and overseen the distribution of our magazine and the residents guide. They will be very hard to replace. I thank them on your behalf for everything they have done to support the BVA and the village.

Objectives for 2018

- 1. To recruit new committee members.** If we are to continue to deliver for the village the committee needs support. With the departure of Mike and Sue we need new members. The workload is not onerous -just 6 meetings a year all made bearable by the generosity of

the host with the provision of a glass of wine. The other requirement is a desire to improve life in the village.

2. **To find a way to continue to publish a magazine.** We need to find a way to replace Sue and Mike as Editors and publishers or ensure that we can continue to publish the magazine.
3. **To continue to press for better Broadband and mobile phone coverage**
4. **To support the BPC planning committee**
5. **To hold a Christmas carol/sing along**
6. **To host an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of the RAF.**
7. **To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the armistice.**
8. **To organise the 2019 New Year's walk.**

I have the pleasure of presenting my report for 2017 and I respectfully ask you to agree the objectives and accept the report

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer, Sheila Still, had circulated the finalised accounts for year ending 31st December 2017 to all present. Her report was as follows:

My first task is to thank Gill John for taking the time to audit the accounts and thankfully agree them. I will commence with the expenditure side of the accounts and as you will see the cost of printing has reduced by 17%. This is primarily due to the number of issues of the BVN last year which included colour. BVA expenses have also reduced as we have had no committee farewells or resignations this year. The donation to the School Association was a percentage of the profit made during the school fete in which we operated a Nerf Gun stall. The costs to produce the highly successful Trafalgar night were £1047 but we were pleased to be able to show a profit from which £200 was donated to BMADS for their excellent input into the evening. Distribution costs include a presentation to one of our long serving distributors. A new expenditure is the TVBC licence which was obtained to enable us to sell draw or raffle tickets outside of the actual event. Lastly, we made a donation to the forthcoming final Senior Citizens Entertainment Party of £100.

On the income scene advertising revenue was down on the previous year as some advertisers have withdrawn. However more have joined but on an irregular basis. Donations are 33% up on last year so at this point I must say a huge thank you to all those who have contributed. Please keep the contributions coming for 2018. Postal subscriptions remain almost static but with rising costs the committee agreed at the last meeting to raise the charge from £7 to £10 – the first rise in 5 years.

You will see from the lower section of the sheet that your Village Association is in a healthy state and fully able to meet any budgeted future costs and remains a viable Association.

Any questions?

Then Mr Chairman I would like to present the accounts for adoption.

Report adoption: Proposed by David Robinson, seconded by Mike Prince, unanimously agreed.

NEWS AND RESIDENTS GUIDE

The News Editor Mike Mullane gave the following report:

Another year of 6 magazines (in all 49 during our tenure!), all on time and steady at 48 pages – almost metronomic, you might say but, like the swan, Sue's unseen but energetic pedalling keeps it all on track! Meanwhile the Residents' Guide is delayed until after the Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly in May in order to incorporate both any changes to the BVA Committee structure, and the new arrangements for Parish Council meetings that may emerge from that meeting.

You may be aware that Sue and I have our house on the market. No bids yet, but once we've achieved the sale, we will move into Romsey – not entirely sure where, but naturally we have our feelers out. Because the whole process of selling and moving is pretty distracting, and of course we will no longer be in the Village, we are resigning from the Editorial task of the BVN on completion of this Issue (227): meanwhile Sue will continue to look after the Residents Guide until its issue in May.

Our role in the production cycle has been extremely educational, very enjoyable and, in particular, we would like to thank you all for your unstinting support and willing contributions throughout – without all that input the magazine would simply have been a clothes-horse for advertisements!

Finally we will only be round the corner, and will remain ready to provide any advice to the 'New Management'

The chairman then indicated that the role of a BVN editor will be advertised in the next BVN and the committee is looking at a number of alternative ways forward if an editor cannot be found.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

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

As there were no nominations from the floor the committee is two members short of its maximum and obviously without a BVN Editor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The following planning report was read out on behalf of Michael Stubbs
Romsey development continues and creeps ever nearer to Braishfield. Earlier this year the BVA decided to comment in its own right as a village organisation on developments that we feel have negative direct consequences for our village.
The threats to Braishfield are currently from outside rather than inside the village. Construction at Ganger Farm has started and there are numerous applications to build along Cupernham Lane. While you can't see them from the village these developments will impact Braishfield hard – mainly in the form of excess traffic.
The will to build by central government is well documented. However, Test Valley has played its part on behalf of its residents and has a Local Plan with designated areas to build which comprise more years' land supply than they need.
But, with the knowledge that those areas are available to them at any time, developers are spending a lot of time and money chasing sites outside of the plan because they know in the current climate they stand a good chance of obtaining permission to build.
The main example near Braishfield is Ganger Farm where 275 houses are being built on a site that was originally only mooted as sports pitches and is outside TVBC Local Plan.
Once one site is given there are then all the in fills and they mount up – 30 here 50 there – all putting pressure on local infrastructure and facilities, none of which are being expanded to cope with increased numbers.
We will continue to flag up developments that affect Braishfield on the network and on Facebook. We may not in the end, stop developments – but if lots of us make our views known to the local authorities then at least we may persuade them to create genuine planning gain that benefits us all and quality mitigation for the negative aspects that will surely follow high levels of development
We would welcome ideas and input on how we, as a village association can become more effective in presenting our concerns, and at the same time provide real support to the Parish Council.
Comments from the floor:
David Robinson – the centre of Romsey is over-crowded and the quality of life is being reduced by the continual developments around Romsey. What is the future of Romsey?
Richard Brazier as the chairman of the PC Planning Committee indicated that apart from the role of reviewing planning applications the committee would also review the VDS. This was the preferred option currently as a Parish Plan would amongst other aspects require to identify sites for future housing development. He will co-opt villagers onto the committee.


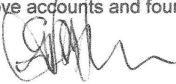
Ian Knights spoke of the need to maintain the present infrastructure of the village and also the need to report potholes.

Mike Prince spoke of the need to carry out another traffic survey (the last was in 2015) as most feeling was that Abbotswood was causing most of the perceived traffic through the village. The industrial sites at Pucknall, Hawkes Farm and Slackstead could account for a lot of the traffic (apart from the white and delivery vans)

Proper passing places should be built on the road to Kings Somborne which might prevent drivers destroying the banks and verges.

2. The date of the next AGM was set for Thursday 17 January 2019.

Braishfield Village Association
Accounts for year ending 31st December 2017

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	£	£		£	£
Braishfield News Printing	1475.80	1782.00	Advertising	1793.00	2024.00
BVA Expenses	24.35	253.32	Advance Advertising	-473.00	-550.00
Remembrance Wreaths	40.00	42.00	Donations	801.82	603.00
AGM Expenses	9.00	78.14	Postal Subscriptions	28.00	23.68
B/Field School Association	15.00		B/Field School Fete	51.60	
Trafalgar Night Costs	1046.80		Trafalgar Night	1907.00	
Xmas Event Costs	418.26	612.64	Xmas Event	651.50	310.70
Welfare	58.29	73.22	Interest		1.40
Webhosting	35.93	35.93			
Distribution costs	103.00	24.30			
TVBC Licence	40.00				
BNV Expenses	35.00				
Picnic in the Park		1561.96	Picnic in the Park Income		937.23
Network set up costs		25.00	PC Contribution to Picnic		300.00
Donation to Senior Citizens	100.00				
Donation to BMADS	200.00				
Excess Income				-1158.49	
(Excess Expenditure)		-838.50			
Total	£ 3601.43	3650.01	Total	£ 3601.43	3650.01
<u>Accumulated Balance & Liabilities</u>			<u>Assets</u>		
Balances B/Fwd 1/1/17	4514.26	4802.76	Community Account	6068.75	4536.63
			Unpresented cheque		-47.05
Excess Income	1158.49				
Excess Expenditure		-838.50			
Bal c/fwd 31/12/17	5672.75	3964.26	Debtor 2016		24.68
Advertising in Advance	473.00	550.00	Debtors 2017	77.00	
			Petty Cash		
Total	£ 6145.75	4514.26	Total	£ 6145.75	4514.26
<p>S. Still Hon. Treasurer </p> <p>I have examined the above accounts and found them to be correct according to the information provided</p> <p>G. John  Date 7/1/18</p>					