

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Thursday 17 January, 2019

PRESENT:- Ian Jeffery (Chairman), Sheila Still (Treasurer), Chris Balchin (Secretary for the night/Web Editor), Julie Kemp (Distribution), Michael Stubbs (Planning), Wendy Dolby-Stevens (BVN Editor), Geoff Daniell, Carole & Steve Renvoize, Graham & Jane Bennett, Mike & Anne Edwards, Margaret O’Keeffe, Jan Blizard, Jo Sofaer

APOLOGIES:- Meryl Balchin, Geoff Briggs, Jill Briggs(Secretary), Richard Brazier, Jimmy Chestnutt, Angela Bevan, Ian Knights

CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

BVA Committee introduced themselves.

Jill Briggs – Secretary (could not attend)

Lisa Burdett resigned from the Committee last week due to a change in personal circumstances

I would like to thank Lisa and indeed the whole team for all their efforts during the past year.

MINUTES OF AGM 2018

The minutes of the last AGM, having been available on the website, were confirmed. Proposed by Wendy Dolby-Stevens, seconded by Carole Renvoize.

MATTERS ARISING and CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

During last year’s AGM, Jimmy opened it by saying it’s been 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.

How things have changed!!

For the BVA Committee, it’s also been an interesting year –

- Jimmy stood down as Chairman whilst Sue and Mike Mullane (Distribution and BVN Editor) decided to vacate both their posts and the Village. Our thanks again to them all for the help and support they’ve given over the years.
- There were initial moments when we thought it would be difficult to replace them, but Wendy Dolby-Stevens and Julie Kemp really came forward and took over the roles without any hitches. You know it’s going well when you don’t hear anything from month to month!
- We’ve tried holding the BVA meetings in a more public arena, but in all honesty, attendance has been low and we’re reviewing this decision.
- Introduction of the “Letters” section of the BVN where residents can have their say.
- Membership of the Network is at an all-time high and together with the Facebook updates, keeps us all informed of local events and, unfortunately less-savory occurrences around our village. Thanks to Chris and Michael for keeping on top of those.
- The Residents’ Guide was updated and distributed. Hopefully you all received one!

Meetings

We’ve held six meetings since the last AGM and have reviewed the objectives from last year. Later, I will propose this year’s objectives which, if accepted here tonight, will be adopted.

Objectives for 2018

We set ourselves a number of objectives for the year with mixed success.

1 To recruit new committee members.

We were fortunate that Wendy Dolby-Stevens took the role of BVN Editor.

We recruited Lisa Burdett during the year but as mentioned, her circumstances changed and she has unfortunately had to step down. I'm pleased to confirm that we have received one additional application – more on that later, but still need more to join us.

2 To find a way to continue to publish a magazine.

As I stated earlier, this started as being a very tricky one and we did wonder if the BVN would continue. I'm delighted that it has and feedback from various quarters provides support for the magazine.

3 To continue to press for better Broadband and mobile phone coverage

Jimmy continued to represent the BVA and villagers with this one which must have caused hours of frustration. Our thanks to him for his continuing efforts.

New BT fibre cabinet 7 has been fitted by the school (not without a number of problems!). Cabinet 4 upgraded to fibre so hopefully a number of you will be seeing an improved service.

Regarding those at the top end of the village, there is still much work to be done and the likelihood of a huge expense to those living in that area (Jimmy, etc).

Updates have been put into the BVN's during the past year.

Mobile phone coverage was better, but there have been recent issues with EE. It was reported that Vodafone has improved.

4 To support the BPC planning committee

Both Chris and I have represented the BVA on the Emergency Planning Committee. Under Jane Bennett's leadership, a presentation to villagers was held on 7th November and thank you to those of you who were able to get along to that. Work continues and there is a further progress meeting next week. More details will be announced in due course.

Michael has also joined the Village Design Statement Committee and I hope a great many of you were able to complete and return the questionnaire circulated with the December BVN.

I know a number of us has deep concerns about speeding through the village and during the second half of the year it was decided in a Parish Council meeting, that a sub-committee would be formed to include members of the Council and villagers to explore the options available to address speeding issues. Michael Stubbs is a member of this new subcommittee.

5 To hold a Christmas carol/sing along

This was held on 11th December 2018 and was very well supported by residents. 33 children met Santa and none seemed to run away screaming, so a very successful evening. We also had some very tasty hot dogs and mince pies, all washed down with mulled wine. Our thanks, once again, to BUMS for providing superb entertainment and to all for attending.

6 To host an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of the RAF.

The BVA and the RAF Association combined forces to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force by holding an afternoon tea and exhibition. Some 80 guests including several VIPs were welcomed, including World War Two pilots who had flown Spitfires, Mustangs and Lancaster aircraft.

There were fascinating stories and the village hall was filled with picture boards, RAF uniforms and memorabilia, as well as a vast display of model aircraft, both large and small.

Both the BVA and RAFA were extremely grateful to the exhibitors and visitors who helped to make this event such a success and a fitting tribute to one of the biggest milestones in British aviation history.

I would just like to add here that David Butler got in touch with us when he heard of the event and brought along many books. He thoroughly enjoyed the event and we were saddened to hear of his recent passing.

7 To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the armistice.

It was decided that having held the Trafalgar event and above RAF event, this would be held over.

8 To organise the 2019 New Year's walk.

This hugely popular event goes from strength to strength and again, thank you to Michael and Mary for organising it. Around 40 residents turned up on a beautifully sunny day for a lovely walk with mince pies and mulled wine part way round (there's a theme here!).
A perfect start to the year.

Objectives - 2019

Alongside our usual Aims, we will be adding a few more:

1. It's essential that we add at least one more team member and preferably someone who is able to assist with the website.
2. Continue to publish the BVN with villagers articles with the necessary advertisers support, although there may need to be some minor changes (financial report).
3. We will work with other committees around the village and offer support wherever and whenever we can. You've heard that we are active on the Emergency Planning, Village Design Statement and the new Speeding committee.
4. To hold a Christmas event in December
5. To hold a family based event during this year whilst planning a bigger event for 2020.
6. To organise the 2020 New Year's Day walk.

Other Events

Distributors' thank-you

We held a thank you evening for our wonderful distributors. Without them, you wouldn't receive your copies of the BVN, so thank you again to them all.

Remembrance Day

On Sunday 11th November, in my absence on business, Sheila Still laid a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the BVA at the Remembrance service. There was more respect by passing motorists this year and the presence of a horse and rider at the service was a fitting reminder of all the animals that were sacrificed in the name of freedom. Thank you Sheila.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer, Sheila Still, had circulated the finalised accounts for year ending 31st December 2018 to all present. Her report was as follows:

My apologies that the copies you see are not signed either by me or the auditor but I made the mistake of printing directly from the computer instead of copying. I have the signed copy with me if anyone wishes to see it.

As usual I will commence with the expenditure side of the accounts and you will see that the cost of printing the BVN has increased by 21%. This is primarily due to colour on the front and back of the News. In addition, it includes the cost of the forms relating to the VDS and the Emergency Resilience programme which were included in the December issue. The Parish Council have now reimbursed us with this cost. The BVA expenses include the contribution to retiring gifts for the longstanding organisers of the Senior Citizens Christmas party. Also included is the cost of hiring the community room for the open committee meetings held from July to December in hopes of public participation – of which there was none! A reception was held this year for the volunteer distributors of the News. In addition, a thank you/farewell presentation party was held for the retiring Chairman Jimmy Chestnutt and also for the retiring News editors Mike and Sue Mullane who have moved from the village.

The residents guide was published again this year and the cost to the Association was £290 the balance being very kindly sponsored by Michael Rhodes Estate Agents.

The expenditure incurred on the BVA/RAF100 event of £548.00 was offset by an income of £848.50. The profit of £300 was split equally between the BVA and the RAF 100 charity.

On the income scene, advertising income has increased by 10% mainly due to the same increase being made in the charge to advertisers.

Donations are woefully down by 40% against last year, but a big thank you to all those who have contributed to our costs. We are very mindful that our very existence is by these donations and as such are careful how they are spent.

The Christmas Sing-a-Long event income was lower than# previously but we kept our costs down accordingly.

I believe that the Association is in a healthy state and fully able to meet future commitments.

Finally, I must thank Gill John once again for auditing the accounts and a bigger thank you for finding them correct.

Any questions? None

Then Mr Chairman I would like to put this set of accounts forward for adoption.

Report adoption: Proposed by Steve Renvoize, seconded by Julie Kemp, unanimously agreed.

NEWS AND RESIDENTS GUIDE

I have taken over the editorship from Sue and Mike Mullane early last year, with my first edition of the BVN being April 2018

The first two editions I produced followed the original format, then in August I introduced a colour cover with photograph i.e. Colour on front and back. Seems to have been widely appreciated. Although pushing up the printing costs a bit, it would seem to be keeping the magazine more current and hopes to attract more advertisers.

On the subject of revenue, although donations to the magazine are down this year, the advertising revenue is actually up. Suggested that we try to encourage advertisers from surrounding villages to advertise in our magazine, whilst retaining a good balance between content and advertisers.

Suggestion from the floor was made about publishing our actual donation revenue versus number of copies distributed etc.

Also, a new Letters Page has been introduced with some success.

PLANNING

Michael Stubbs reflected on planning matters. He estimates that ~1,400 properties have been given planning permission in north Romsey. This reflects the minimal dissent to these applications whilst applications in south Romsey have been strongly opposed.

He has joined the VDS review team chaired by Jimmy Chestnutt and will work with the PC Traffic Sub-Committee when it is formed.

He submits that the main issues facing the village are traffic, maintaining the housing gap with Romsey and SHLA.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Lisa Burdett has stepped down

Chris Balchin is not standing. The Committee thanked Chris for all his hard work and support over the past years.

The remaining committee were willing to stand. In addition Carolyn Ward had indicated her willingness to stand. Margaret O'Keeffe put her name forward at the meeting. Therefore there were eight nominations for the committee (maximum nine)

Proposed by Jane Bennett, seconded by Jan Blizard, unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Chris Balchin outlined the job of the Web Editor. The Village Diary, Village Hall & Church Room bookings, Horticultural Society pages, Parish Council, School and Pantry are maintained by their owners. The Village Hall page could also be passed to another owner. Unless the webeditor decides to re-design/re-structure the site the tasks for the Web Editor are:
Work with the Host (123-Reg) to ensure the website is up and running
Upload the BVN, Five Alive and Benefice publications
Update the Residents Guide, Village Association and Contacts pages as appropriate.
- 2) Mike Edwards gave an update to progress on the Crookhill footpath
 - The footpath from The Dog & Crook to the Jermyns Road roundabout is planned for construction in Summer 2019 (June to August time frame)
 - The favoured approach is to build the footpath entirely alongside Braishfield Road – i.e. the route of the permissive path through Hillier's land is not favoured
 - One outstanding item is the ecological survey -> could cause a delay if creatures like great crested newts are discovered along the route! Expect this within a couple of weeks.
 - The surfacing of the footpath is black tarmac throughout
 - Money is not an issue for this project
 - Construction will mean a lane closure and traffic control lights along Braishfield Road
 - There will be no lighting associated with this footpath

HCC plan to hold a public information session in Braishfield to highlight the project before it starts & the plans will be on the HCC website soon.

Sheila Still proposed the footpath be named 'Bevan Way' due to the commitment and perseverance that the late chairman of the Parish Council put into the project.
- 3) On behalf of the PC and PCC Jane Bennett wished to thank the BVA for running the email Network which enabled timely communication to the villagers.
Also thanks to Sue & Mike Mullane and now Wendy for editing Julie for handling the distribution of the BVN.

The date of the next AGM was set for Tuesday 21 January 2020