

## Braishfield Village Association

### Annual General Meeting 2025

Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

### Braishfield Village Hall

#### Present

Committee Members: Julie Kemp (Chair) Kate Marshall (Treasurer) Wendy Dolby-Stevens (Vice Chair and BVN Editor), Ian Jeffery, Chris Wyers, Carolyn Ward, Margaret O'Keeffe. 11 Residents as per sign in sheet.

#### Apologies

Jill Briggs (Committee), Sally Yalden, Geoff Briggs, Meri and Ian Knights, Diane Wyers and Wendy Jeffery.

#### Chair's Opening Remarks

Good Evening and welcome to the AGM 2025 of the Braishfield Village Association.

I'll kick off the meeting with any apologies. I have Jill Briggs from the Committee and Sally Yalden. Do we have any others? (See above)

I would like to thank Lorna Dolby-Stevens for maintaining and running the Braishfield Village Network for another year. Given that she no longer lives in the Village, Lorna feels that the time has come to step back from this role. We thank Lorna for her hard work and input over the last few years and are very appreciative of her carrying out this role whilst living some distance away. It now makes more sense to keep the job local and to this end, Wendy has taken over the reins. Thank you Wendy.

I am sorry to report that Margaret O'Keeffe has decided to step down this year and the Committee would like to thank her for all her efforts over the years, especially her invaluable work on the Welfare side.

For the coming year, the rest of the Committee remains the same. My thanks go to you all for your hard work and support. Without your team effort, we would be unable to run the events that we do so successfully.

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 Hazel Prince and seconded by Carol Renvoize. All in favour.

## Chairs Report

The BVA have had two fundraising events this year.

In the spring, we held a joint venture with BMADS hosting our murder mystery evening .Demand for tickets was high and we were fully sold out within two days. There was a lot of organising to be done, as there is with any large scale event. It really does take a lot of effort to put on an event such as this, BMADS were left to their own devices to source and rehearse a suitable play, whilst the BVA organised the catering , bar and raffle along with any other errands that needed doing during the evening.

My special thanks must go to Sharon Fielding and her wonderful team of helpers who spent days in the run up, preparing enough quiches to feed 120, followed by a full shift at the village hall on the day, cooking, preparing salads and strawberries, in what can only be described as challenging conditions given the number that she was catering for.

I would also like to give thanks to Lucas and Max Marshall, Joe Kemp and Olly Farrell for their help in organising and running the bar. I only hope if we can get them involved at a young age, they will go on to be worthy committee members in years to come!

Thanks to BMADS and the BVA committee for all of your hard work.

On the 11th of November, I laid a wreath at the War Memorial at a small but very important service to honour the fallen of Braishfield.

In December, we held a family bingo afternoon. Despite the terrible weather and low numbers, all those that came threw themselves wholeheartedly into the spirit of things. Ian Jeffery, our bingo caller, did great job at injecting a Christmas theme into the whole event. The Church Rooms were beautifully decorated, the afternoon started with a couple of games as icebreakers and then the main event was under way. We stopped for refreshments and to judge the Christmas Jumper competition, and then it was eyes down for the second half until someone got a full house and identified themselves with a cry of 'snowballs '. Fortunately, the power cut held off until we had just finished the last game so the timing couldn't have been better.

Unfortunately this year, we had to take the decision to cancel the New Year's Day walk due to the terrible weather that was forecast. On the day itself , the weather wasn't as bad as had been expected, but at least we prevented any slips, falls or broken bones on the very wet and muddy conditions underfoot. Hopefully it will be business as usual in 2026.

We continue to try and support other village organisations if we can. We aim to have at least one committee member at every Parish Council meeting.

We have also recently put forward a Committee member to become part of the Village Hall (VH) Committee. As a regular user of the VH , it made sense to have some say and input in what goes on as well as boosting their numbers.

Members are also involved in the Emergency plan, the Beans environmental group, Ukrainian support, Social contact, Brownies , Guides and the Pantry.

### 2024 Objectives

Without listing them all individually, I can say that all objectives for 2024 were either met or are still ongoing. I am pleased to report that in the Spring of 2024, we finally updated the residents guide and delivered it to all households in the village. This had been an objective for a few years so it felt good to finally get it done!

As part of our ongoing project to recruit further members of the BVA, we are taking part in a Volunteers Fayre on the 9th February organised in collaboration with the Parish Council. We look forward to a good attendance and hopefully we will be able to boost our numbers and that of other village groups who are so desperately in need of new blood.

### Our objectives for 2025 are:

To recruit further members for the BVA Committee through the Volunteers Fayre.

To organise a Spring /Summer event which is likely to be an evening talk and social about Norman Thelwell, once a resident of Braishfield.

To organise an Autumn social event, quite possibly a quiz, but this is a work in progress so watch this space.

Weather permitting to hold another New Year's Day walk .

On that note I conclude my report.

Report acceptance proposed by Sheila Still, seconded by Carolyn Ward.

### Treasurers Report

The BVA to continued to make a profit overall – of £128.92 - although this is down on the profit of £854.27 that we made in 2023. There are three main reasons for this decrease – firstly profit from fundraising was down by around £284. Although income from fundraising was up on 2023, the costs of putting on those events was also higher than 2023. Secondly, advertising revenue for the year was down by £210. Thirdly, we organised a well-deserved leaving do and presentation for Sheila

Still who left the BVA after 23 years where we celebrated in the church room with villagers who had served with her over the years.

Cash in the bank at 31 December stood at £6,048.82 – up around £190 on 2023.

At £2,782.50, total income from the Village News was slightly down on 2023. This income is made up of advertising revenue, donations, and also this year a Councillor Community Grant from TVBC. We actually applied for this grant to cover the publication of the new Residents Guide, and the £112 surplus over the actual cost of publishing the Guide was put towards the costs of publishing the BVN. We'd like to extend our thanks again to Councillor Sally Yalden and TVBC for suggesting and supporting this grant application. At £820, donations were up by £63, but advertising income was down by £210. We lost several advertisers towards the end of 2023 and during 2024, but I am pleased to say that 3 new advertisers came on board at the tail end of 2024, and for the December 2024 edition, our advertising revenue saw an increase back to levels we last had a couple of years ago, which is very welcome news. We hope that these new advertisers will stick with us. If you look at the profit summary box, you can see that the profit from the BVN was £148.51 this year. However, you can also see that advertising revenue does not cover the production costs with a shortfall of £878 in 2024 - and without the donations of £914 or the TVBC grant, we would have needed to have covered this shortfall to meet the cost of producing the News. We are fortunate to have a healthy bank balance, but this could quickly be eroded by the cost of producing the News without donations and fund-raising efforts. We are looking to increase our advertising pricing from 2026 to help cover this shortfall.

Fund raising events in 2024 included the murder mystery evening with BMADS in May and our Christmas Bingo in December. These took £2,652, but the cost of putting on the murder mystery in particular meant that profits from fundraising were down on last year. We do aim to put on enjoyable and affordable fund-raising events for the benefit of the whole village and maximising profits is rarely our main objective, but we do need to keep putting on events that people will enjoy and support in order to keep the coffers topped up. We would welcome any suggestions about what you might like to see.

There are some notable exceptions between other expenditure in 2023 and 2024 – seen towards the bottom of the expenditure column – which you will notice has increased by £842. Other expenditure is things we spent on things other than fund raising and the BVN. We paid for the printing of the new Residents Guide - although as already mentioned this was covered by a TVBC Councillor Community Grant. We also organised a leaving do for a retiring long-standing committee member. Welfare costs (mostly flowers and pot plants given to villagers who we hear about who are ill or bereaved) of £93.62 in 2024 included costs from 2023 which the welfare officer forgot to claim in 2023. Other costs of £72.34 was mostly made up of purchasing fabric to make table cloths.

Turning briefly to the balance sheet on the other side of the sheet, you can see the cash of £6,048.82. We have received £820 of payments in advance for adverts which are due to appear in 2025 editions of the News, and this will appear as income in the 2025 accounts. You will notice that this figure is higher than the figure of £784 for 2023, and this is largely because of the new advertisers who came on board towards the end of 2024 and there are therefore more adverts paid for into 2025.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mike Prince and seconded by Graham Bennett.

### Braishfield Village News.

This year has continued the shift to using village scenes and wildlife / nature photographs on the front cover. I am trying to encourage people to submit photos for potential use on the front cover – they are always accredited on the inside page and it is interesting to see other people's photographs and scenes from around the village. I always like to try to use ones that are identifiably of Braishfield rather than stock pictures. February's cover photo is one of Natasha Weyers-Gehring's – she is a well-known local photographer who is now living in the village and you may see more of her work over the year.

Another thing I would like to try to achieve this year is to recruit a reporter! There are several events in the village that go unreported and unnoticed every month as no-one has thought to do a write up for the magazine. Ideally a young person with ambitions to write or perhaps to go into journalism? I am going to put a piece into the April BVN to highlight this opportunity – anyone you know who might be interested? Please encourage them to contact me.

We were pleased to welcome Hilliers on board with their advertising on the back inside cover – Julie and I visited Clare Goddard, the Director of Hilliers, in September and subsequently the marketing team placed a regular full page advert with us. We are delighted to link with them as they are of course a large local employer and most important recreational facility on the outskirts of our village.

That just about wraps up what I have to report.

### Election of Committee

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

Acceptance of this was proposed by Jane Bennett and seconded by Margaret O'Keeffe.

AOB

Jane Bennett gave thanks to the BVA on behalf of the Parish Council and All Saints Church.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm.

Signed.....(chairperson)

Signed.....(Secretary)