

The Blackheath Village Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Winter Meadow on Thursday 3rd October 2007

Present:

Steve Brockwell	Paul Brodie
Jeannie Davies	Nick Harrison
Peter Herbert	Nick Morris
David Seys	Alistair Taylor
Sheila Webster	Hamish Whiteman
Richard Williams	

1. **Apologies:** Dave Grisley, Paul Cope

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 31st May 2007 were approved.

Matters Arising

(a) **Village Jubilee and “This Way/That Way” signs**

A working party needs to be arranged to carry out the necessary work

Action: Paul Cope, Hamish Whiteman and Alistair Taylor

(b) **Traffic Calming**

Nick Morris has had difficulty in arranging a dinner for all members of the Traffic Calming Joint Committee but there has already been one dinner for 3 members and another will be arranged for the other 3 members.

Action: Nick Morris

(c) **Fair Standing Donations**

There has been some confusion in relation to the payment of the “usual” payments/donations (e.g. Friary, Scouts etc) but these have now been paid. In future years these payments (once quantum has been agreed by the committee) should be made by the Chairman in conjunction with the fair organiser with copies to the Secretary

(d) **Database**

This is now progressing well and it has proved very useful in passing information around the village.

3. Banking Arrangements

Enquiries revealed that attractive rates might be obtained by way of a bond from the Allied Irish Bank on 3 months or 30 days call. It was agreed in principle (subject to any future contingencies and after discussion with the Chairman as to the appropriate amount at the time) that the Treasurer was authorised to place the sum of £15,000 on deposit with either the Allied Irish Bank or the HSBC Bank on the best terms available. The Treasurer reported that the opening of an account with Allied Irish would require a certified copy of the constitution to be produced. Nick Morris reported that this had been requested from the Charity Commissioners and was expected shortly. It was agreed that as soon as this was received, the new account would be opened

Action: David Seys

4. Applications for Funding

2 applications were received by the sub-committee before the 31st August:

(a) A request from the Village hall Committee for funding in the sum of £2,000 to enable them to apply to SITA for funding up to the sum of £50,000 to carry out the necessary up-grading of the hall and in particular the toilets. The application to SITA required co-funding in the sum of £2,000 from another local organisation and the sub-committee had concluded that it was appropriate to accede to this request but on terms that the donation was conditional on receipt of the larger sum from SITA. This was approved by the committee.

(b) A request was for an unspecified amount from a local resident who was planning to set up a charity to provide care for disabled children both in the area and further afield. The sub-committee has not yet finalised their consideration but the full committee expressed concern that this request might not fall within the objects of the BVS

Action: Richard Williams to remit to sub-committee for further consideration

It was also reported that applications would be made in due course by the church and the cricket club for substantial sums which could not yet be quantified in respect of major repair/refurbishment projects. These applications would probably span more than one year.

Although it was noted that these were prime examples of objects to which the funds of the BVS should be applied it was considered inappropriate to ring-fence sums for future periods and that applications should be considered in the light of the sums currently available for distribution. Therefore, it was agreed that any further applications for sums in excess of £2,000 should be made in writing with supporting detail wherever possible before 31st December for consideration by the full committee as soon as possible thereafter.

5. Newsletter

The new format newsletter was considered to be a success and it was planned to circulate a further newsletter in December following the next committee meeting on 5th December.

6. Flooding and Ditches

Steve Brockwell reported on the action taken so far in connection with Sarah Henderson and the residents of Lynes Farm. However, this had achieved only temporary results and this was an on-going problem. A particular problem is the fact that one of the primary causes of the flooding is the debris which is washed down the lane leading to the cricket club after heavy rain. However, that lane is not a Surrey Highways responsibility and they are reluctant to get involved in that regard. Further meetings are planned with Sarah Henderson to discuss what further steps can be taken.

Action: Steve Brockwell

It is hoped that funding may be obtained for any future work from various local authorities but it is possible that the BVS may be asked to make a contribution in due course.

It was agreed that it would be worth writing to Michael Goodrich and Ann Milton to ensure their support

Action: Nick Harrison

8. Society Trustees

Nick Morris has already written to the Trust Commission for various documents which should be received in the near future. If the Trust document is not included then a further enquiry will be made.

Action: Richard Williams

9. BVS Aims/Constitution.

A working party is already considering these issues and will report further at the next committee meeting in December, with a view to agreeing at that meeting any proposed amendments to the constitution and/or any statement of aims of the society. It is intended that these can then be put to the AGM in January for approval.

Action: Alistair Taylor Paul Brodie, Nick Harrison and Steve Brockwell

10 Village Events

Hamish Whiteman was thanked for organising a successful Village Bar BQ which was enjoyed by all.

Future Events

13th October: Unfortunately the Retro Night has had to be cancelled due to insufficient interest.

24th November: French evening in the Village hall

15th December. Village Children and Adults Christmas parties and carol singing

Action: Alistair Taylor and Sheila Webster

It was debated whether the village should have some sort of Open Day for visitors possibly on the theme of Charles Harrison-Townsend but the matter was adjourned for further deliberation in due course.

11 Heath Matters

The Northumberland Estate has written to inform the village that further forest thinning and clearing work will be conducted between 15th October and Christmas. Logs will be moved (probably in Nov/Dec) along the right of way and out through the village. It was thought prudent to send a response making a request that care should be taken to avoid damage to the verges and in particular to the new posts that have been installed at the crossroads.

Action: Richard Williams

Difficulties had been experienced on one occasion over the summer when an ambulance had been unable to proceed promptly through the top car park gate to attend to a member of the public who needed attention on the Heath. They had finally been obliged to cut the chain since they could not unlock the padlock. It was agreed that Sarah Henderson should be notified of this and that she should be requested to install a Universal lock system to which public services such as the ambulance service carried master keys.

Action: Peter Herbert

12 AOB

There was none

13. Dates for the Diary

The next committee meeting will be on **Wednesday 5th December**

The BVS AGM will be on **Friday 18th January (Note: this has subsequently been refixed for Thursday 17th January due to the unavailability of the Village Hall)**

Richard Williams

Secretary
5th October 2007