

# The Blackheath Village Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Winter Meadow on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008

Present:

Steve Brockwell	Paul Brodie
Jeannie Davies	Nick Harrison
Peter Herbert	Nick Morris
Alistair Taylor	Patrick Venning
Sheila Webster	Richard Williams

**1. Apologies:** Dave Grisley

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were approved.

**3. Matters Arising**

Village Audit, Flooding and Ditches and Trust Deed and Trustees. See 6-8 below.

**4. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer had distributed two pre-audit reports prior to the meeting i.e. a Statement of Funds and Assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 (the end of the BVS financial year) and a 3 year comparison (2005-08) of BVS Finances. Copies of these reports are attached.

The first report indicates that after reserving the funds previously agreed for next year's Fair, the running costs of the BVS and for contingencies, a sum of £11,000 is available after the 2008 Fair for charitable distributions.

The second report indicates that despite a slight reduction in income in 2006-07 caused by inclement weather the annual Fair continues to generate a consistent and healthy income.

**5. Distribution of available funds**

The donations sub-committee met on the 24<sup>th</sup> September to consider the applications for funding received by the agreed date of the 1<sup>st</sup> September and submitted a detailed report to the BVS committee (copy attached).

The committee accepted that each of the applications fell within the Constitution and agreed Aims of the BVS and that, consistent with the policy of the BVS, the full sum of £11,000 should be distributed. However, it was clear that this sum was insufficient to satisfy all applications in full.

The committee commended the initiative taken by Brian Monk and recognised that his proposal for the repair and fronting of the grass verges at different points in the village could have important benefits for the village but considered that the proposal required further consideration in conjunction with other village initiatives such as traffic calming and the village audit and should

be reviewed in due course when further information was available, in particular as to whether Waverley Borough Council might be willing to carry out a similar scheme as a result of the village audit.

The committee also agreed that it was inappropriate at this stage to allocate full funding for the village Well Project since the sponsors of that project still needed to obtain planning approvals and other clearances. Furthermore, since it has recently been established that the original well structure had been designed by Harrison Townsend it was considered that it would be worthwhile to investigate whether there are other sources of funding which might be available for this project. However, the committee noted from the responses received by the sponsors from villagers to their request for comments on the acceptability and nature of the proposed structure that there is continuing support in the village for the project. It was further clarified that the sponsors envisaged that if the project proceeded, the BVS would itself undertake responsibility for any necessary maintenance and insurance of the structure when erected. On this basis, the committee agreed that, subject to obtaining the necessary approvals and clearances, the project would in principle be supported by the BVS. The full extent to which the BVS would fund the project would be considered in due course in the light of available funds, and once the possibility of obtaining additional money from other sources had been investigated. In the meantime, the committee agreed that a further donation of £1,000 should be made at this stage to enable the sponsors to proceed with their plans.

After full debate, the committee agreed that for the reasons outlined in their report, the recommendations of the sub-committee represented a fair and reasonable allocation of the available funds and such recommendations were accepted. The relevant details are as follows:

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>AMOUNT CLAIMED</b>	<b>AMOUNT DONATED</b>	<b>BRIEF DETAILS</b>
Brian Monk	£8,800	NIL at this stage	The cost of "Stage 1" of a proposed plan to front the grass verges at different points throughout the village with stone similar to that which is currently in place near St Martin's Corner.
Chilworth COE Infant School	£600 approx	£600	The cost of work needed to render an outdoor play area safe for the children.
St Martin's Church	£4,000	£2,900	A further contribution to the Murals Restoration Appeal
Cricket Club	£2,115	£1,500	Towards the cost of repairing the septic tank at the rear of the pavilion and constructing a new soakaway.
Joint Working Party on Traffic	£3,500	£3,500	The cost of extending the agreed traffic calming measures to Littleford Lane provided other external funds are sought and are not available.

Calming			
Village Hall	£1,000 approx	£1,000	A contribution towards the cost of redecoration and the cost of acquiring round tables, table cloths etc.
The Village Pump/Well Project	£6,000	£1,000 at this stage	Towards the further preliminary costs of the project
Alistair Taylor	£870	£500	Towards the cost of scrub clearance and sowing wild flowers in prominent areas of common land at various locations in the village.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,885</b>	<b>£11,000</b>	

**Action**

**Nick Harrison to inform each applicant and circulate emails throughout the village.**

**Patrick Venning to distribute cheques and covering letters as and when appropriate.**

**6. Village Audit**

The various village working parties will shortly have completed their surveys of the village and a meeting will be arranged with Sarah Henderson to discuss the results and formulate recommendations for work to be carried out by Waverley Borough Council, which would be circulated to residents for comment. Sarah will then discuss the recommendations with Waverley Borough Council and a response will be given by them in due course.

**7. Trust Deed and trustees**

Richard Williams has corresponded with the Charity Commissioners who firstly confirm that they do not hold a copy of any trust deed for the BVS. The law relating to trustees was overhauled in 2006 by a new Trustee Act and trusts now need to comply with the provisions of that act. The Commission was not able/not prepared to supply a draft trust suitable for BVS purposes and much of the guidance provided by the Charity Commission seems to relate to large trusts. Accordingly, it was agreed that a simple and uncomplicated trust deed should be produced which would then be put to the Commission for comment/approval with a view to finalising this issue before the AGM in January.

**Action**

**Nick Harrison and Richard Williams**

**8. Flooding and ditches**

Steve Brockwell reported that Surrey Highways have agreed to install a soakway but only at Lynes Farm and that the occupants of Lynes Farm are also installing their own soakways which may improve the situation in that location.

The flooding problem through the main part of the village seems to have improved as a result of the action taken to date but further action will be considered after conclusion of the Village Audit. There is some concern whether the plans suggested by Waverley to replace the pipes in front of Mitchell's Cottages with open ditches are acceptable in safety terms.

#### **9. Newsletter**

It was agreed that a further newsletter would be distributed during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> December.

##### **Action**

**Jeannie Davies and Sheila Webster**

#### **13. Any Other Business**

Complaints have been received by Waverley Borough Council from various sources about the addition to the main signpost at the crossroads of a sign for the Villagers Pub. It was reported that Waverley Borough Council had referred the matter to Surrey Highways, who took the position that the advertisement of any commercial business on a signpost was unlawful and proposed to remove it. However, Surrey Highways have confirmed that they have no objection to the "This Way/ That Way" sign post.

#### **14. Dates for the Diary**

1) Village Christmas Party – **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

##### **Action**

**Alistair Taylor**

2) Next BVS committee meeting - **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

3) Annual General Meeting – **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

4) Organ Recital in St Martin's Church by Carlo Curli – **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Richard Williams  
Secretary

