

The Blackheath Village Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Winter Meadow on Wednesday 7th January 2009

Present:

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| 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 1st October 2008 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Flooding and Ditches

Steve Brockwell confirmed that the flooding that had occurred near Lynes Farm before Christmas was due to the blockage of the escape pipe from the road by leaves and other debris. This is likely to be a recurring problem and Steve will investigate whether it is possible to arrange periodic clearances of the debris by a group of volunteers.

Steve also reported that the regrassing of the verges which has recently taken place at the Wonersh end of the village will mean that that section of the verge will be roped off until the Village Fair.

Action: Steve Brockwell

(b) Village Audit

Nick Harrison reported that Sarah Henderson had prepared a first draft of proposals on the basis of the surveys carried out by the village audit group, and that the group would be commenting on that draft during the course of January 2009. Thereafter, the group would be meeting again with Sarah during the next month or so to finalise the proposals which would then be circulated to the whole village as part of the consultation process.

(c) Trust Deed and Trustees

Richard Williams reported that despite further enquiries the missing Trust Deed had still not been found and that further discussions with the Charity Commission had not produced an obvious solution. In the circumstances, it was necessary either to produce a new Trust Deed and arrange for the retirement and replacement of the existing trustees in a manner acceptable to the Charity Commission or replace the existing Constitution and the need for a Trust Deed by constituting the BVS as a corporate body which retained charitable status (probably as a company limited by guarantee).

This issue is also linked to the need for BVS committee members to have a satisfactory level of protection against claims in relation to BVS activities and it was agreed that any solution should have regard to both of these issues.

Action: Nick Harrison and Richard Williams

(d) Village Well

Paul Brodie reported that the project now had planning approval and he was obtaining the various clearances that were necessary in order to start building. He reported that the connection which had been made with Harrison Townsend (the architect of St Martin's Church) had proved to be very useful in progressing the project.

(e) Village Planting Scheme

Alistair Taylor reported that Waverley had agreed in principle to the planting scheme which would originally be restricted to the area at the south side of the cross-roads. Clearing would start in the Spring with a view to planting in the late Summer.

(f) Murals Restoration Fund

Alistair Taylor reported that the approximately £60,000 had been raised so far which would hopefully enable restoration work to start in the near future. The organising team at St Martin's were congratulated on an outstanding achievement.

(g) Traffic Calming

Nick Morris reported that the joint committee was still trying to raise funds to match those donated by the BVS. If this is successful then the agreed traffic calming scheme will be extended to Littleford Lane and Sampleoak Lane. However, consideration is also being given as to whether anything can be done at the cross-roads itself. Nick will be asking the villagers for their views in this regard at the AGM.

Action: Nick Morris

(h) Village Christmas Parties

It was recognised that the two parties had been an outstanding success and well appreciated by villagers approximately 75% of whom had attended one party or the other. Furthermore, the sum of about £400 had been raised for the Chase Hospice charity which has written to thank the village for its generosity. Alistair Taylor was warmly thanked for all his efforts.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Patrick Venning reported that the BVS continues to be in good financial health and that in particular there are sufficient funds to underwrite the organisation of the 2009 Fair which is effectively the source of the continued income of the Society. Detailed accounts will be made available to villagers at the AGM together with a short written statement from Louise Healey as the independent examiner of accounts. Patrick and Louise were thanked for presenting the accounts in such a readable and understandable fashion.

5. 2009 Fair Arrangements

Paul Brodie reported in Dave Grisley's absence that the Fair would be organised again this year by a group of volunteers who would be contacting villagers for support. Unfortunately Burns & Webber have confirmed that they will not be able in view of the current economic climate to sponsor the Fair this year. However, Paul will continue efforts to obtain sponsorship wherever possible.

6. Star Energy Update

The current position is as stated by Jonty Lord in the December Newsletter. However, in the light of the fact that Star Energy are likely to be contacting villagers in the next month or so requesting permission to store gas under their properties the BVS will consider at that stage what if any guidance to offer villagers as to how to respond to this approach.

Action: Nick Harrison and Nick Morris

7. Barnett Hill Planning Application

Details of the proposed planning application and a form on which villagers could give their views were circulated by Nick Harrison in his email of the 8th December. It was considered that this was an issue for individual villagers and not an issue for consideration by the BVS as a society.

8. AGM arrangements

(a) Reports

The Chairman will prepare a written report and the Treasurer will introduce the accounts briefly and produce a short statement from the independent examiner of the accounts.

Action: Nick Harrison and Patrick Venning

(b) Election of committee members and officers

Under Clause 6 (b) of the BVS Constitution the three longest serving members of the committee (i.e. Paul Brodie, Richard Williams and Dave Grisley) will retire at the AGM and, should they so wish, stand for re-election.

The officers of the committee and any two further co-opted members will be proposed and elected by the new committee.

(c) Practical Arrangements

(i) Details of the AGM need to be circulated by email and by posters at the crossroads and the Village Hall.

Action: Nick Harrison and Nick Morris

(ii) Set-up

The AGM will be advertised as “7.30pm for 8pm” with drinks/nibbles etc at 7.30pm. Tables and chairs etc should be set up at 6.30pm

Action: All available committee members

(iii) Drinks/nibbles etc

Action: Alistair Taylor

9. Any Other Business

(i) Peter Herbert suggested that the BVS should become a member at a minimal annual cost of the Open Spaces Society which is designed to protect the users of common land. This suggestion was accepted by the committee.

Action: Peter Herbert

(ii) Steve Brockwell passed on a request from the Village Hall that any villagers who borrowed tables and chairs from the Hall should return them as soon as possible after use as they were required by users of the Hall on a regular basis.

(iii) Village Web-site

Paul Brodie will liaise with Simon Jones to agree who will be responsible for the future administration of the web-site

Action: Paul Brodie

10. Dates for the Diary

1). Annual General Meeting – **Thursday 22nd January**

2) Organ Recital in St Martin's Church by Carlo Curli – **Saturday 31st January**

3) Next committee meeting – **Wednesday 18th March**

Richard Williams
Secretary