

# The Blackheath Village Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at “Winter Meadow” on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were approved subject to one clarification in relation to item 7 (b). Nick Morris will not in fact be standing down as Parish Councillor until the Spring of 2011.

**3. Matters Arising**

**(a) Village Audit**

Comments have now been received from villagers in relation to the Audit. Many comments refer to the unsatisfactory state of the kerb stones which were laid to protect verges in the section of roadway near the village hall. A further meeting will shortly be held with Sarah Henderson to discuss this and other issues such as flooding and to flesh out some of the issues which have been raised during the audit process. A further report will be circulated to villagers after this meeting.

**Action: Nick Harrison**

**(b) Trust Deed and Trustees**

The Charity Commission published further Guidance relating to the proposed new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in September and has stated that the new body should be available in the second quarter of 2010. However, there are some issues which will need to be discussed with the Commission before then, preferably after Christmas.

**Action: Nick Harrison/Richard Williams**

**(c) Fair Review**

The Treasurer, Dave Grisley and Alistair Taylor have met to discuss future arrangements for the administration of the Fair and a satisfactory new framework has now been agreed. It was also agreed that the new equipment which was purchased this year will be stored and protected from weather as well as possible in all the circumstances.

#### **4. Traffic Calming**

**Nick Morris** reported that the quotation for the final installation works in Sample Oak and Littleford Lanes has been approved by the Parish Council and that he had been successful in obtaining additional funding from external agencies for the work. Consequently, only £500 is now needed from Blackheath Village Society and this means that £3000 of the original grant is no longer required for Traffic Calming purposes. Nick was warmly congratulated for his efforts.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report.**

Patrick Venning had circulated in advance his report dated 17<sup>th</sup> November (attached hereto).

The report confirms that the BVS continues to be in good financial health. The Treasurer also confirmed that he saw no good reason why the sum of £3,000 which had now been released from the Traffic Calming allocation as a result of Nick Morris' good work could not now be used to increase the sum available for donations.

#### **6. Village Well Report**

Paul Brodie reported that there were still some issues which needed to be resolved before work could commence. In particular, the question of insurance had proved to be problematic and enquiries were continuing in various sources to achieve the best solution. A further report would be made when various options had been costed and evaluated. In the meantime, it was not possible to state with any precision what the final cost of initial construction and subsequent maintenance and insurance would be. It was considered that the sum of £5,000 which had been requested as funding from the BVS was still the best guesstimate available.

**Action: Paul Brodie**

#### **7. Funding Sub-Committee Report**

The recommendations of the sub-committee and the papers supporting each application had been circulated to committee members in advance by email on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The sub-committee were of the view that each application met the required criteria for consideration by the BVS and that if sufficient funds were available to satisfy the applications in full then each application merited being funded in full.

The BVS committee agreed that the sum of £3,000 which could now be released from the Traffic Calming retention should be used to supplement the sum available for distribution to applicants. Consequently, there were sufficient funds now available to satisfy each applicant in full. There was some discussion as to whether some if not all of the further funds which had now become available should be retained for other contingencies. However, it was agreed that each of the applicants who had made applications in this year's "round" should be funded in full (except that in the case of the Well Project, whatever lesser sum that proved to be necessary should be awarded if the further enquiries which were still being conducted indicated that a sum of

less than £5,000 was necessary). The relevant applicants and sums awarded are as follows:

|    | <b>ORGANISATION</b>                                      | <b>AMOUNT</b>  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Chilworth & Blackheath Voluntary Services Care Committee | £514           |
| 2. | Blackheath Village Hall Management Committee             | £1,908         |
| 3. | Cricket Club                                             | £3,150         |
| 4. | Wonersh and Shamley Green PTA                            | £600           |
| 5. | Village Pump/Well                                        | Up to £5,000   |
|    | <b>TOTAL</b>                                             | <b>£11,172</b> |

The Treasurer will send cheques to each applicant under cover of a letter from the BVS.

**Action: Patrick Venning**

*Note: In view of concerns expressed subsequent to the committee meeting about the possible need for additional funding of works for the general benefit of the village in 2010, the Chairman spoke to the Treasurer of the cricket club, who agreed that the club would accept only £2,000 of its allocation of £3,150, the balance of £1,150 being added to the contingency reserve.*

#### **8. News letter**

It was agreed that a further Newsletter should be circulated before the village Christmas Party on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. Consequently, drafts/copy should be made available by the end of November if possible.

**Action: Jeannie Davies/Sheila Webster**

#### **9. Any Other Business**

##### **(a) Telephone Kiosk**

There are divided views in the village as to whether the kiosk which is currently outside St Martin's Church should be removed or re-sited. This is really a matter for the Parish Council but Nick Morris is keeping the BVS advised of developments.

##### **(b) Burglaries/ Neighbourhood Watch**

The Chairman and Nick Morris reported that discussions had taken place with the community police officer, Simon Mitchell, about what further steps could be taken in response to the burglaries which took place in the village earlier in the year. It was felt that the most important thing was that villagers continued to be informed of any further incidents and given any relevant information about known security risks through the village e-mail system. However it was agreed that Nick Morris should continue to liaise with Simon Mitchell.

#### **10. Dates for the Diary**

- 1). Village Christmas Party - **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December**
- 2) Next BVS committee meeting – **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**
- 3) Village Bar BQ – **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Richard Williams Secretary