

The Blackheath Village Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at “Winter Meadow” on Tuesday 30th June 2009

Present:

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

1. Apologies: None.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th April 2009 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Village Audit

The audit is now near completion and details of conclusions will be circulated to the village in due course. Sarah Henderson has secured from Waverley the sum of £5,000 to implement the findings of the audit. Much of the necessary work can be carried out by villagers themselves such as the creation or renewal of run-offs to minimise flooding. However, Waverley insist that they must themselves attend to the protection of the verges by the insertion of stone cladding. Therefore, some of these funds will be used in the near future to clad a section of the verge near the village hall.

(b) Trust Deed and Trustees

The Chairman and the Secretary reported that after further enquiries of the Charity Commission they had come to the conclusion that the BVS should be re-constituted in due course as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This is a new body which has been created especially in order to facilitate the day to day running of small charitable organisations such as the BVS and to give extra protection to committee members against personal liability. A written synopsis of the major features of the CIO was circulated by the Secretary and it was agreed in principle that the BVS would recommend to the village in due course that the BVS would be so re-constituted after this new body became available in April 2010.

The Secretary would communicate further with the Charity Commission in due course to ascertain what formal steps were necessary in order to dissolve the existing trust and replace it with the CIO

Action: Richard Williams

(c) Barnett Hill Planning Application

It was confirmed that the planning application has been approved primarily since Surrey Highways had lifted the objections which they had originally lodged on the grounds of excessive traffic usage in view of the proposals made

by the Sundial Group to provide transportation to and from Barnett Hill. Since permanent consent has now been given there can be no review of this decision.

(d) Fair Review

Dave Grisley and his team were congratulated and thanked for organising yet another very successful event despite the rain. Not only had a wonderful day been had by all but the Fair has yet again raised substantial funds for the BVS and local good causes. Dave Grisley reported that the organisers had been able to avoid some expenses this year and that the purchase of equipment would avoid the need for some hire payments in future. Dave also emphasised that it is important to secure the attendance of the local constabulary and that invitations would be sent to them again in future.

It was agreed that Alistair, Dave and Patrick should discuss the question of expenses incidental to fair organisers' meetings and report back with recommendations and also discuss ways of improving the procedures for dealing with expenses more promptly after each fair

Action: Dave/Alistair/Patrick

4. Treasurer's Report.

Patrick Venning had circulated in advance two reports dated 27th June which are attached hereto.

The Treasurer's first report confirmed that the BVS continues to be in good financial health and that subject to some outstanding debit items the Fair achieved a surplus of £9,250 notwithstanding the sum of £2,500 spent to purchase additional equipment. Consequently, the funds currently deposited by the BVS amount to £27,720.

In his second report the Treasurer outlined the sum which he recommended should be made available for distribution this year. This followed the format which had been adopted in prior years. The sum suggested for charitable distribution is calculated after taking account of sums which had already been earmarked for distribution in earlier years but which have not yet been distributed, normal/expected running costs and reserves and a reasonable contingency reserve. It was agreed on this basis that the sum which should be made available for distribution this year should be £8,500.

It was further agreed that the arrangements for the consideration of funding applications would remain as they were last year. Applications should be made by the 12th September to a sub-committee chaired by Richard Williams who would then report the recommendations of the sub-committee to the main BVS committee which would meet to consider the recommendations in early October.

5. Village Well

Paul Brodie reported that the necessary planning applications had now been approved and that the project could now move to the construction stage. Quotes received indicate that the likely construction cost will be £9-10,000 plus VAT (not including the £2,236 so far paid by the BVS for the preliminary

work on the project) and that once the project is started this sum will have to be committed. The committee were referred to the following extract of the minutes of the BVS committee meeting of the 8th October 2008:

“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”.

The committee saw no reason to amend that decision and it was agreed that the matter would be reviewed at the next committee meeting by which time the quantum of any competing funding applications would be known. In the meantime the sponsors of the project would investigate any other available funding sources.

Action: Paul Brodie

6. Burglaries/ Neighbourhood Watch

The recent spate of burglaries in the village has caused concern. Whilst some parts of the village operate their own Neighbourhood Watch scheme it was recognised that the best form of safeguard is a general state of watchfulness and the readiness of all villagers to look after their neighbours' interests particularly those of elderly or infirm neighbours.

It was mooted whether a CCTV system sited at the cross-roads would be beneficial. There are clearly strong views both for and against this suggestion and it was agreed that villagers would be asked to give their views in the next newsletter.

7. Any Other Business

(1) It was reported that the Chilworth Friary is considering whether or not to close. There is not much that the BVS can do about this but villagers should be made aware of the situation to enable those who feel strongly about it to make their feelings known to the Franciscans.

(2) Nick Morris confirmed that he has decided to stand down as parish councillor and invited anyone who has any interest to stand in that capacity to contact the parish clerk. The committee conveyed their appreciation of the sterling work and commitment that Nick had demonstrated over the many years that he had devoted to that post.

10. Dates for the Diary

- 1). Funding donations to be submitted by the 12th September
- 2) The Funding sub-committee to meet by the 20th September
- 2) Next BVS committee meeting – **Wednesday 7th October**

Richard Williams Secretary

