

Blackheath Village Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2011

Present: 27 attendees

1. Apologies

Nick Harrison, Alan Barlow, Penny Kirkwood, Anita Morris, Dick & Jane Hume

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd June 2010

These were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Nick Harrison and Peter Herbert for their particular support over the past year. Also to the three Trustees who had stepped down following advice from the Charity Commission that they were no longer needed; to Nick Morris for his work on the Parish Council and to Nick's wife Anita for her support in his role. On behalf of residents, the Chairman welcomed Paul Brodie as the new Parish Councillor.

The Chairman explained that a number of initiatives had been undertaken during the year. The Care Team had received a donation from the BVS and were now holding regular and well attended coffee mornings for the senior residents. Simon Jones had taken over responsibility for the Village website, Julie Firth had nearly completed an information & welcome pack for new residents and Dick Hume was now the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. The Christmas party had been a great success with £600 raised as a donation to Guildford Community Action Group, who care for the homeless in our area. The Village BBQ had also been a great success with thanks particularly due to Hamish and Henia Whiteman. Although the Fair had not been held this year, it would definitely return next year. There would be more on this and the Village Vision later in the agenda. Finally, Jayne Barlow and Graham Hayward were congratulated on the village archive exhibition held in the Hall and subsequently displayed at Cranleigh Arts Centre.

4. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer Alan Barlow, the Chairman reminded the meeting that the accounts presented were a "snapshot" of the Society's accounts as at the end of the financial year December 2010. They also represented a period of 16 months (two sets of fair proceed donations) as it had been agreed at the 2009 AGM that the Society's financial year should be changed from September-August to January-December.

The accounts show that £8,000 were allocated from the proceeds of the 2010, £5,100 to charitable causes, £400 as a contribution to a new Parish notice board and £2,500 for Village projects.

The cash position of the BVS as of the date of the AGM is that there remains approximately £15,300 on deposit of which:

- Approximately £2,300 is held in trust for the War Memorial
- £3,000 has been specifically allocated for village project (£500 historic allocation for wild flower planting at crossroads and £2,500 allocated from 2010 fair for 'Village Vision' projects)
- £7,000 is required as a float for running the 2012 Fair
- £2,000 is set aside for Christmas parties, sundries and running costs
- So in practical terms the BVS has just £1000 as an unallocated reserve/contingency.

The Chairman explained that the accounts had been approved by both the external auditor and the BVS Committee.

The meeting approved the Annual Accounts.

5. Annual Village Fair.

The Chairman noted that the Fair remained the financial engine of the BVS and is the sole source of the Society's income. Whilst it was appropriate to have a year off in 2011 it is clear from the Treasurers Report that future Fairs are required to generate cash.

It was confirmed that the Fair will definitely take place next year on Monday 7th May 2012. Chairman reported that Peter Walshaw had agreed to take on the co-ordinator role and it was anticipated that he would be supported by the usual team. Residents were urged to support the Fair and assist where able.

6. Diamond Jubilee Celebration

This will be on Monday 4th June 2012 and will be along the lines of the village BBQ and will be held at the Cricket Club. The co-ordinators are Jayne Barlow, Hamish Whiteman and Dave Grisley on behalf of the BVH and BVS. Various ideas for a theme to the party are under discussion.

7. Village Vision/Village Management Plan

The Chairman presented the paper that had been tabled at the meeting. He emphasised that the details of individual projects contained within the plan are not set in stone but that he firmly believed it was vital that the Society took the initiative on defining local issues rather than having these imposed by external authorities. The aim being for residents to endorse the document so that the 'Vision' can be presented to Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils as a statement of residents needs and requirements in an attempt to ensure that resources and actions follow the requirements set out within the 'Vision'.

There was considerable discussion on the paper and the AGM overwhelmingly voted in favour of a motion to endorse the Vision and grant the BVS committee the authority and mandate to proceed as proposed.

It was agreed that Linda Poil and Colin Hayward should join the BVS working party on the Village Vision. Alistair Taylor indicated that at an appropriate point he would like to hand over and stand down from this working party because of his commitments as Chairman and elsewhere. Membership of the working party going forward will therefore be Steve Brockwell, Colin Hayward, Peter Herbert, Nick Morris and Linda Poil.

8. Drainage

The Chairman reported that he had recently been in further correspondence with the Area Highways Manager concerning the flooding on Blackheath Lane adjacent to Lynes Farm. SCC have now advised that the Manager had visited the site with a member of the County's legal team and that SCC's intentions were to 're-open the natural drainage pathways' – which in practical terms means re-opening the pipe onto the Drewitts land.

The Drewitts have consistently offered up to SCC both an area of their land for SCC to construct a soakaway, and a contribution towards the cost, but SCC have chosen not to take up this offer.

It is unclear at this stage as to whether the opening up of the natural drainage pathway will actually occur or whether the matter be resolved by some form of a legal determination. Either way, it would appear that SCC have finally resolved to pursue a course of action which in itself represents substantive progress.

9. Committee Business

Chairman explained that under the terms of the current constitution, David Grisley and Alistair Taylor were required to stand for re-election, having served a three-year term. They had indicated that they were prepared to continue. Nick Morris had indicated his willingness to stand for election in place of Paul Brodie who in turn was willing to be co-opted as the Womersley Parish Council representative on the Committee.

It was proposed, seconded and approved that David Grisley and Alistair Taylor should be re-elected; Nick Morris be elected and that Paul Brodie should be co-opted.

The Committee would therefore comprise the following:

Alan Barlow
Steve Brockwell
Julie Firth
David Grisley
Nick Harrison
Penny Kirkwood
Nick Morris
Alistair Taylor
Hamish Whiteman

Co-opted members

Peter Herbert (Lord of the Manor)
Paul Brodie (Wonersh Parish Councillor)

10. Any Other Business

David Allen reported on progress on the restoration and refurbishment of St Martin's Church. The redecoration and new lighting was complete and the restoration of the wall paintings was well-advanced. The restorers had temporarily left a number of small squares un-restored so that the improvements could be clearly seen. Residents were invited to visit the Church to see the work in progress. He also suggested that the two members of the restoration team might give a talk on their work at St Martin's and internationally. This idea was enthusiastically received by those present. The Chairman on behalf of the village thanked both David & Patricia Allen for the time, passion and investment that they have given, and continue to commit, to running and maintaining the church as without their dedication, it is doubtful whether the church would operate or survive as it has.

Hamish Whiteman and David Allen gave a brief update on the former Chilworth Friary which will be renamed Augustine Abbey Chilworth. No information was yet available on when the new owners would take up occupation.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all those who had attended the meeting and invited them to remain to further discuss points of interest over a glass of wine.

Meeting ended at 9.20pm