

# The Blackheath Village Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at “The Old Post Office” on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Present:

Steve Brockwell	Penny Kirkwood
Paul Brodie	Nick Morris
Hamish Whiteman	Alistair Taylor (Chairman)
Peter Herbert	Julie Firth
Nick Harrison (Secretary) Part	

Apologies: Alan Barlow, Dave Grisley

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 were approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Compliance - Trust Deed

(a) Resignation letters have been received by NH from the three former Trustees (Paul Cope, Keith Macdonald and Nick Morris). AT to organise a supper to thank the Trustees.

(b) NH progressing the collation of all of the Society’s governing documents and important correspondence that will be kept by the secretary – a PDF version to be held on the Village web site.

**Action: NH**

### 4. Distribution of Funds

a) AT has written to all parties that made an application for funding to advise them of the sub-committee’s decisions. Thank you letters have been received from all organisations that have been allocated funding.

b) AB has advised that funds have now been taken off deposit and that he will raise the cheques and arrange to issue the donations forthwith

**Action: AB**

### 5. Financial Report

AB has advised that all accounts are up to date.

Invoice for fair insurance in the approx amount of £380 has been received – but not yet paid (**AB**)

Still to progress recovery of Tax Credits regarding the Well (**AB**)

Still to write to treasurer of BHVH advising that it will be necessary for them to collect tax rebates on Village Hall standing orders (AB)

Investment strategy for money on deposit to be considered by AB and advice to be circulated to committee members asap - Committee felt that monies should be in some form of bond earning the best rate of interest possible. (AB)

## 6. Previous BVS Events

### a) Christmas parties

It was agreed that the Christmas Parties were a success and should be continued with assuming the funds remain available. Approx 80 attended the Children's party and 125 the evening Drinks party. AT reported that the total costs were in the amount of £1,018 (£936 the previous year) but that £600 had been raised for the Guildford Drop in centre.

### b) Catherine's Pike's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – A cake and flowers were organised by PK and funded by the BVS in the aggregate amount of £130. PK to send invoices to AB for reimbursement (PK)

### c) Photo Competition – was not terribly well supported this year. It was agreed that it should be continued as it is a perfect way to ensure an ongoing supply of material for the Village Archive. Every newsletter to contain a reminder that photo's can be submitted at anytime of the year. (PB). Cost/prizes need reviewing as no budget has been allocated for ongoing funding. (AB)

### d) Fireworks – whilst not a BVS event, the Village fireworks were attended by over 100 people. The Total cost amounted to £385 and £310 was collected which left a shortfall of £75 which was funded by the BVS. The pricing structure of £5/person £15 for a family which includes a decent sausage in a bun and a beer or glass of wine was considered to be good value and correct. Only 5 more families were need to break even. Next year better co-ordination is required with the cottages to try and ensure that both bonfires are not on the same day which should increase numbers (SB)

### e) Newsletter – Nick H stepped in to prepare the newsletter with some assistance and input from others. NH was congratulated on producing such a good document. Next one due at the end of April (just after the Fair?). PB to produce that one (PB)

## 7. Forthcoming Events

### a) Royal Wedding – there had been talk of putting on a Village tea in the Village Hall, but the BHVH had now decided against that idea. There will be a Colts BBQ Evening that day at the CC and NH agreed that this might be dressed up as a Royal Wedding BBQ with bunting etc. All from Village could be invited along. (NH)

- b) May Fair – DG advised that he may not be around to help with the fair and asked (in his absence) that the committee consider whether it might be appropriate to drop the fair this year. A wide ranging debate was held, the conclusion drawn being that provided sufficient assistance can be obtained from ‘new blood’ to help with the organisation and the work load better shared out then the fair should go ahead. **AT/PB/DG/HW to get together within the next week to review.**
- c) BBQ – dates in May and September were considered. For various reasons a decision was made to keep with the Spring Bank Holiday date - 28<sup>th</sup> May. **HW and others to organise.**

## 8. Village Vision

- a) A draft document was circulated by AT or initial comment. **AT** to email to all committee members asap. Following BVS comment/review the document will be issued by email to the entire village for their comment/review.
- b) It was noted that the document sets out aspirations as to how the Village would like to see improvements/management of land over which the Village has no control. The document is therefore a tool for lobbying and will need buy-in from both the village and third party land owners and agencies such as WPC and WBC. Sarah Henderson had been invited to make an input to the draft but SH has advised that she does not have any spare capacity to give to the process until the end of March.
- c) Sub committee (possibly with outside members) will be formed to incorporate Village comment and seek to secure buy in from third parties. **PH, SB, NM &AT** advised that they were willing to sit on such a sub committee.
- d) The aim is to have a final version of the VV (that has been through consultation) to put in front of the AGM in June 2011. (**AT**)

## 9. Village Projects

- a) A modest pool of money is now held by the BVS to implement specific projects. Concluding the VV should help select & prioritise which projects should be taken forward.
- b) Budgets, timings and third party agreements/consents will need to be considered.

## 10. Resolutions

None

## 11. Village/Third Party Representations

- a) **Car Parking** – representations had again been received from Richard Williams regarding parking issues at the top of the Village. AT has written to SH. PB also feels strongly that the car park near the

Hallam's should be enlarged and signage used to direct visitors in that direction leaving the car park at the CC and top of the Village essentially as Village only car parks. Car parking features in the VV however it was agreed that a proposal be worked up quickly and separately that can be put to WBC. NM as WPC to assist (PB/NM/AT)

- b) **National Trust** – AT advised that he had been contacted by the NT. The NT intend to make a planning application to clear/thin trees in the vicinity of the War memorial/private road at the top of the Village. NT willing to do a walking tour of the area in spring to advise all that are interested of their plans. Note to be circulated to village (AT).
- c) **Drainage** – the drainage situation in the vicinity of Lynes Farm was discussed at length. It was noted that a stale mate seems to have occurred with the result that whilst there was talk of work being implemented by SCC there was no action. The result being that residents continue to suffer. It was agreed to step up the pressure on SCC. NM to write again in his capacity to our County Councillor. NH to investigate whether a legal responsibility issue can be raised with SCC. AT also to formally write to SCC as chair of BVS.
- d) **Best Kept Village** – NM advised that the village could enter. After discussion it was agreed that there was little merit and that an entry would not be made.
- e) **Settlement Boundary** – NM advised that WPC will be requesting residents make comment on WBC's emerging Core Strategy and Local Development Framework (the planning tool that will replace the now time expired Adopted Local Plan). The key issue relates to the fact that Blackheath does not have a 'Settlement Boundary' therefore any planning applications are governed by policies appertaining to Green Belt. If a 'Settlement Boundary' were created then a less onerous set of planning policies would apply in determining planning applications. This may make it easier to extend/alter existing properties but also potentially opens the door to new and/or infill development within the village. It was noted that whilst it is possible to promote a settlement boundary follow a specific line the actual line would be drawn by a third party planner and maybe different to one that the villagers may wish to see drawn – if indeed they wish to see one at all.

It was agreed that in the first instance the BVS would stay neutral on the issue but would issue a covering explanatory note and ask that any comments be copied to the BVS. NM/NH/AT

- f) **Village Web Site** – AT has met with Simon Jones. SJ has agreed to continue looking after the web site. SJ has made an initial update of material but will re-vamp the site over the next few weeks. The main alterations being:

- i. A password protected filing cabinet will be created so that all BVS correspondence (in and out) can be contained in a single point and be accessed by all committee members.
- ii. It will be possible for committee members to directly post minutes, etc on the web site.
- iii. Several email addresses will be set up so that village notices can be sent out directly from a BVS mail address and all committee members will be able to do this directly.
- iv. A new, rolling notice board will be set up so that notices/information can appear on the web site and a link can be issued to residents/interested parties.
- v. The Web hosting is changing – SJ to advise cost but thought that it will be circa £50 a year (AB to note)

## 12. Members Reports

**SB** – noted Village Hall AGM will be on 25<sup>th</sup> March – please support it. Might be an opportunity to air the VV.

**PB** – Still chasing proposal for bench in the well and A Harrison Townsend plaque (budgets to be obtained).

**JF** – residents pack are complete, waiting for folder from Burns & Webber - **PB** to chase Matthew.

**NH** – provided update on CC proposals. A revised smaller scheme has been lodged with the ECB for their approval following which it will be exhibited at the end of March. It is anticipated that a planning application will be made in the summer. Current thinking is that Tool store built during the winter 11/12 and pavilion during winter 12/13

**PK** – Thanked the BVS for the donation to the Care Team

**HW** – Advised that the last two Friary's were waiting on until the Benedictine Monks arrived. Thought to be March. It is understood that the Franciscan friars will retain the freehold. The Benedictines are a closed order but it will be possible to join them for mass. It is thought that they will create a market garden on the site of the car park and cricket pitch – which will have an impact on Fair parking. **HW** to consider how we may welcome them to the village.

**NM** – Advised that local elections will be occurring in May and that he will be stepping down at that point as our Parish Councillor but will stay active in Village Life. PB maybe persuaded to stand.

## 13. Dates for the Diary

Next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (unless a full committee meeting is needed prior to that to discuss the Fair).

Alistair Taylor