

## **Blackheath Village Society**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Present:** 25 attendees

#### **1. Apologies**

Alan Barlow, Paul Brodie, Julie Firth, Richard & Jill Morse, Graham & Leslie Hayward, Jeannie Davies

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

These were approved.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's reported on the following matters with which the Committee had been concerned over the past year:

##### **a) Village Fair:**

It was noted that despite the terrible weather, it had been possible to proceed with the fair which had recorded a respectable profit (as further reported in the Treasurer's Report). Thanks were due to all those involved, but particularly the organisers, Steve Brockwell, Peter Walshaw and James Collins, and to John Crittall, who had despite the rain permitted the use of his field for a car-park, for which the village was very grateful.

##### **b) Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:**

The Chairman thanked the organisers of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Hamish Whiteman, Jayne Barlow and Dave Grisley, for their tremendous efforts which enabled the party to proceed very successfully under marquees, despite heavy rain. It was reported that some 300 people attended the party. Separately, the Chairman also congratulated Jayne Barlow on her wonderful exhibition of royal photographs, which was also extremely well attended.

##### **c) Verge Project:**

The work to the restoration of the verge below the village hall with the installation of a new kerb was now almost complete. It was reported that the final cost of the works would be in the region of £10,000, of which £7,500 had been provided from within the village (£3,000 from the Village Society and £4,500 from the Village Hall), the balance being provided by Wonersh Parish Council. The Chairman thanked those responsible for organising this project and in particular Steve Brockwell.

##### **d) Village Vision:**

Following the departure of Sarah Henderson, after many years of working with the BVS on issues in and around the village, the Chairman report that the new ranger, David Oliver, was keen to become involved the village vision project. A first working party had already been arranged for 4 October and further working parties would be arranged, especially to do further work around the crossroads. It was understood that in the future it would be possible to arrange insurance at a modest premium for working parties of villagers to carry out work without the presence of the ranger. There was a discussion of particular concerns including the risk of creeping suburbanisation of the village and about inappropriate signposts in the village and on the common. The Chairman indicated that these concerns would be conveyed to David Oliver.

**e) Drainage:**

The Chairman reported that the ongoing problem with drainage of the road near Lynes Farm had still not been finally resolved, despite months of further chasing. He reported that the present position was that Surrey Highways had stated that they were prepared to do the necessary works and agreement in principle had been reached with landowners, Steve and Helen Drewitt, concerning the cost, however although the money had supposedly been set aside, a suitable engineer to check the proposed works had yet to be appointed.

Concerns were expressed about the continued delay and the Chairman promised to continue to exert pressure on Surrey Highways.

**f) The Villagers Pub:**

The Chairman reported that he and Paul Brodie had met with the freeholders' agents and discussions were ongoing concerning the making of possible offer to acquire the freehold. If the offer were accepted it was proposed that residents would be given the opportunity to invest in the venture. If the offer was not accepted then other options would then be considered.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented financial summaries which had been prepared showing the audited balance of funds as at 31 December 2011, the outcome of the 2012 Village Fair and the estimated balance of funds as at 30 June 2012 (copies attached).

As shown in the relevant summary, the 2012 Fair had generated net proceeds of £5,561, from which customary donations of £1,850 had been made, and out of which the costs of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of £1,505 had also been funded, leaving a sum of £2,206. This sum had been allocated to future village projects, and it was not proposed to invite applications for funding by other local organisations or good causes this year.

**5. Committee Business**

Chairman explained that under the terms of the current constitution, none of the existing committee was due for re-election this year and in the coming year the committee would therefore continue to 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)

**6. Any Other Business**

- a) Concern was expressed about the damage caused to the verge near the top car-park as a result of the works carried out by the National Trust. It was reported that the National Trust were proposing to carry out reinstatement work after the works were finally completed, which would be later this autumn.
- b) Nick Harrison gave an update on the progress of the Pavilion Project and reported that work was likely to commence later this month. He said that further information would shortly be circulated to the whole village about this.

- c) The date for this year's Christmas Party was discussed and it was agreed that it should take place on 16 December 2012.

*Meeting ended at 9pm*