

The Blackheath Village Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at “The Old Post Office” on Tuesday 31st January 2012

Present:

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

Apologies: Nick Morris, Dave Grisley

1. Minutes

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 1st November 2011 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Compliance

NH reported that the website had now been updated with recent minutes.

4. Financial report

AB presented a financial report. The Society presently has net assets of £13,343.79. [*Al – do you have the rest of the figures?*]

5. Events

a) Christmas parties

The Christmas parties were again highly successful. AT reported that approximately 120 people attended the adults' party and a sum of approximately £900 had been raised for the chosen charity, Parkinsons.

b) Terry Fincher memorial photo competition

AT had spoken to Jayne Barlow about this and it was proposed that this take place later in the year. AT would liaise with Jayne about the date.

Action: AT

c) Diamond Jubilee celebration

HW reported that in the light of representations from some local residents, it was now proposed to hold the village celebration as a lunchtime street party on Blackheath Lane below the village hall instead of at the cricket pitch. There was also a proposal for a barn dance in the evening.

The committee approved these proposals and agreed that £750 would be allocated as a contribution towards the cost. HW/DG would continue to develop the plans with Jayne, liaising with the village hall and cricket club as necessary.

Action: HW/DG

6. May Fair

SB reported that preparations for the Fair were now well in hand, with the core team of SB, Peter Walshaw and James Collins now contacting stall-holders and arranging attractions. This year these would include 2 “Mr Punch” booths, a maypole and Morris dancers.

7. Pub

PB reported that forfeiture of the car-park had been successfully achieved and that he and AT would shortly be re-opening discussions with Wellington’s agents. There was a discussion of alternative options in the event that it proved impossible to reach agreement with Wellington.

Action: AT, PB

It was noted that the old Volunteer sign was lying abandoned and its condition was deteriorating. HW said he would retrieve this and store it safely.

Action: HW

8. Ranger

AT reported that Sarah Henderson had now lost the services of both her assistants and was badly overstretched. Moreover, Waverley’s budget for work in and around Blackheath this financial year had already been used up, so that there would now be no cash available to replace the cherry tree on the verge opposite the Old Post Office which had been felled last year (see item 9c below).

It was agreed that working parties would continue to be arranged to help Sarah with her work in and around the village. A working party had already been arranged to clear the rubbish around the pub car-park into a skip, and the cost of one of the 2 skips for that purpose had been met from BVS funds.

9. Village Plan and Village Projects

- a) SB and AT reported that the village plan was now in the final stages of preparation.
- b) SB reported that further quotations had been obtained on the proposal to repair and protect the verge and parking area below the village hall, and the quotation of approximately £6,500 from Lucas Groundworks remained the cheapest. SB will continue to progress this proposal with all concerned parties.

Action: SB

- c) It was agreed that the BVS would pay for the planting of a tree to replace the recently-felled cherry tree on the verge opposite the Old Post Office, to mark the diamond jubilee. The selection of an appropriate tree would be discussed between Sarah Henderson and the immediately neighbouring residents. A budget of up to £300 was agreed.

Action: AT

- d) AT reported that the planting work at the cross-roads which had been approved some time ago was now likely to proceed imminently.

10. Lynes Farm drainage update

AT reported that he had now been informed by Surrey Highways that a budget had been allocated to carry out the drainage works required to resolve this issue, and it was therefore hoped that the works would be carried out within the next few months.

11. Allotments

PB reported that only a handful of villagers had expressed interest in this, and it was felt that this was insufficient to justify taking the proposal forward at this stage.

12. Notice Board

PB reported that the new notice board for outside the village hall was nearly ready.

13. Abbey

HW reported that he and Henia had agreed to act as the main point of contact between the Abbey and the village institutions. He further reported that as a result of discussions with Abbot Paulinus, the Abbey had agreed to provide parking for the village fair on the usual terms, and also would like to have a stall at the fair to sell their produce. A welcome supper was to be arranged.

Action: HW

14. Dates for the Diary

Village Hall AGM: Friday, 30th March
Next meeting: Tuesday, 17th April 2012.

Nick Harrison
13/2/12