

BVS Minutes
Meeting held at Blackheath Cricket Club
Held on Tuesday 25th February 2014

Present; Christina Hartshorn (Acting Chairman), Hamish Whiteman (Acting Secretary), Paul Brodie, Steve Brockwell, Dave Grisley, Nick Harrison, Terry Powles, Penny Kirkwood, Hon Peter Herbert

1. *Apologies; Alan Barlow (Treasurer)*
2. *Minutes of Meeting held on 19th November 2013 and reconvened on 26th November 2013*

CH Confirmed that she had revised the minutes of these meetings, but had not had time to circulate them prior to this meeting. They would be sent out within the next two days. It was agreed that in future no individual, apart from committee members, would be referred to by name in committee minutes.

There was further discussion regarding whether the Village Vision document should be ratified by the Parish Council in order for it to carry any weight with Waverley BC. It was agreed that the Village Vision was intended to be a useful document to assist Villagers and the BVS in planning/shaping Village life and is specifically not intended to be a document negotiated with other parties, be they parish or borough councils. There was no willingness at the moment therefore to negotiate this document with WBC to incorporate it into their Management Plan for Blackheath.

Matters Arising;

- An email was circulated to the Village notifying Villagers that WBC would be sending a Consultation Plan around the village regarding its proposals for the Heath.
- WBC circulated a Consultation Plan regarding their proposals for the Heath.
- WBC have consulted with the Parish Council regarding their proposals for the Heath.
- PB circulated a note to the Village regarding the Christmas Party that took place in December and which was a great success.
- HW actioned all points relating to the Donations Sub-Committee.
- PB reported that the Pub continues to be listed as an Asset of Community Value and that the owner has dropped its challenge to this. No further progress with regard to the pub has been made.
- NH emailed particular residents of the Village offering for himself and CH to meet to discuss issues relating to WBC's/National Trust's proposals for tree felling on the Heath. The offer to meet was not taken up.
- Co-Option of the Parish Councillor. Various differing views were expressed with regard to the automatic co-option of the Parish Councillor

onto the BVS. It was agreed that more time was needed for consideration of this issue. **ACTION CH to contact Chair of the Parish Council with this decision.**

- CH wrote to Alistair Taylor thanking him for his hard work, diligence and effort over the years he was Chairman of the BVS.

3. *May Fair*

SB reported that preparations for the 40th anniversary of the Blackheath May Fair are progressing well. A party is planned for Saturday 10th May to be held at the Cricket Club to mark the anniversary and to thank all Villagers for their hard work.

Sponsorship has been received from Pewleys and potentially also from Barnet Hill.

Work for the 2014 Fair continues.

4. *BVS Donations 2014*

HW reported that the Donations Sub-Committee had met and reported the recommendations to the BVS Committee. As previously agreed the BVS has £7,000 generated from the 2013 May Fair available for distribution. Applications for funding were submitted to the BVS by 31st January for consideration.

Seven applications for funding were made which were from; Four Villages Day Centre, Bramley, St Martin's Church, Village Well Project, Application for a Plaque to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Movements to be sited on the Heath, The Children's Trust, Blackheath Cricket Club, Chilworth Infant School.

The Sub-Committee made recommendations for funding as follows;

- £300 for general funding to the Four Villages Day Centre
- £900 to St Martin's Church to fund the renovation of the organ pedals
- £1,000 (up to) to install seating in the Village Well
- £1,000 (up to) for the installation of a plaque to commemorate the D-Day Movements
- £500 to the Childrens Trust in specific response to the tragic plight of Edward Chandler who lives in Wonersh and is being treated by the Trust
- £2,000 to the Cricket Club to part fund the installation of new run-ups in the nets and repair works to the car park
- £1,300 to Chilworth Infant School to cover the cost of a visualiser, beebot robots and Hudl tablet computers required for the new ICT curriculum

A further recommendation was made to ring-fence £500 from the proceeds of the 2014 May Fair towards covering the cost of the World War 1 Centenary exhibition.

It was noted that the Village Hall did not submit an application for funding this year.

The recommendations of the Donations Sub-Committee were unanimously passed.

5. *World War 1 Centenary*

DG reported that Jayne Barlow and her team are working extremely hard in preparing for the WW1 Centenary. A similar exhibition to the recent Village Archive is planned to be held at the Village Hall to mark the occasion. In this regard Jayne has been in contact with people from around the world who have connections with Blackheath. The exhibition will be held for four days around Armistice Day, November 11th.

The BVS is very supportive of this project.

6. *Village Volunteers*

SB reported that a new ranger has been appointed by WBC, Ed Baker, and that he has now managed to resurrect the Village Volunteer Tasks project. He is in the process of agreeing tasks with Ed and dates for these tasks are also being agreed.

SB also hoped that it could be possible to site the Village Bonfire on the National Trust land this year as a consequence of clearing work by the Task Force on this land.

7. *Traffic Calming*

CH reported that the Parish Councillor, Peter Maggs, is leading a group who are once again interested in calming speed traffic through the Village. A Villager is proposing to have a stall at the Fair to raise awareness of traffic speed through the Village. It is also proposed to refurbish the wooden signs at the entrances to the Village.

PB informed the committee that when he was involved with traffic calming he instigated the large oak signs that are in place at the entrances to the Village. He also mentioned that it was proven that such signs have more impact if planting is placed behind such signs.

NH confirmed that the Cricket Club will be emailing all members and visitors coming to the club to be aware of their speed when driving through the Village.

Action NH

8. AOB

- Guildford Borough Local Plan – CH mentioned that this local plan is being redrafted and that she had made a brief submission on behalf of the Village, supporting the submissions of two Parish Councils (WPC and Shalford) stating that any new development on land around Blackheath would have a negative impact on the Village and would increase traffic movement through the Village.
- Website – SB mentioned that more use should be made of the Village Website to benefit Villagers. For example if a Villager had an item to sell or information to pass. SB said he would approach the village webmaster in this regard. **Action – SB**
- Donations – DG mentioned that Villagers should be made more aware of the donations made by the BVS on Villagers behalf. Any donations can only be made as a consequence of Villagers hard work, both before and on the day of the Village Fair. A note will be circulated to the Village informing Villagers about what donations are made, to whom and why. **Action - CH/HW**
- Donations Sub-Committee – A question was raised on behalf of a Villager as to the composition of the sub-committee and how members are appointed. CH confirmed that under the BVS constitution appointments to sub-committees are made by the BVS at its discretion. The membership of this sub-committee is intended to comprise a collection of individuals who a) represent the BVS and/or the May Fair b) are geographically spread throughout the Village c) have no particular allegiance to any Village Institution or party of vested interest. As previously reported to Villagers the Sub-Committee currently comprises; Hamish Whiteman (Chairman), Chris Curran, Mia Dunkley, Simone Dill and Dave Grisley.
- Cricket Club – NH confirmed that the Cricket Club has held a series of successful events including screening the Six Nations rugby matches. The club's intention is to continue to serve supper on Saturday evenings throughout the summer for members and Villagers. Work to improve the car park and the run-ups in the nets is planned for March 2014.
- Village Hall – TP informed the committee that the Village Hall AGM is on Friday 21st March and will be held in the Hall.
- Next BVS meeting will be held at 8pm on 15th April in the Cricket Club.

Minutes:

Hamish Whiteman (Acting Secretary)